



MODELING CIVIL DISCOURSE
& ADVANCING CIVIC LITERACY
SINCE 1994

Drinko
Academy
at Marshall University





The Drinko Academy's first program development project was to rally Marshall alumni support for the construction of a new campus library and information center. John Drinko's hands-on leadership of the project resulted in the naming of the new library in his honor.

Cover photo: John Deaver Drinko Library Atrium.



The Drinko Academy fosters an informed, participatory, and inclusive civic culture. It supports Marshall University's curricular and co-curricular programming by encouraging initiatives that advance civic literacy and civil discourse. The Academy's activities exemplify how free speech, mutual respect, intellectual integrity, and creative expression enrich our country and our culture.



Drinko Academy Welcomes Third Executive Director

Dr. E. Del Chrol is an internationally renowned educator, and a scholar of Roman Social History. He earned a BA in Greek and Latin from Rutgers University in 1995, a MA in Greek and Latin from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1997 and a PhD in Classics from the University of Southern California in 2006. Dr. Chrol joined the Marshall faculty in the Fall of 2006. Since arriving he has earned the Pickens-Queen Teaching Award for Junior Faculty in 2008, the West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers' Association Outstanding Teacher of the Year (College level) in 2014, the Society for Classical Studies Award for Excellence in Teaching of Classics at the College Level in 2017, the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Teaching Award in 2022, and an *Ovatio* for service to the profession by the Classical Association of the Middle-West and South in 2026. He was Chair of Classics, then of Humanities, from 2011 to 2026, and became known for his unwavering devotion to growing his programs and providing opportunities for Marshall students at home and abroad. Dr. Chrol was also the Chair of the Council of Chairs from 2025 to 2026. His scholarly work has focused on the overlaps of public and private persuasion in first century BCE Rome, and presently, uses Game Theory to understand Roman love poetry and Ovid's *Ars Amatoria*. His publications are diverse, including rhetorical analysis of presidential campaign discourse, pedagogy, Star Wars, and most recently a chapter in the *Cambridge Companion to the Roman Imperial Court*. Dr. Chrol follows in the footsteps of Drs. Alan Gould and Montserrat Miller as the third Executive Director of the Drinko Academy since its founding 32 years ago.



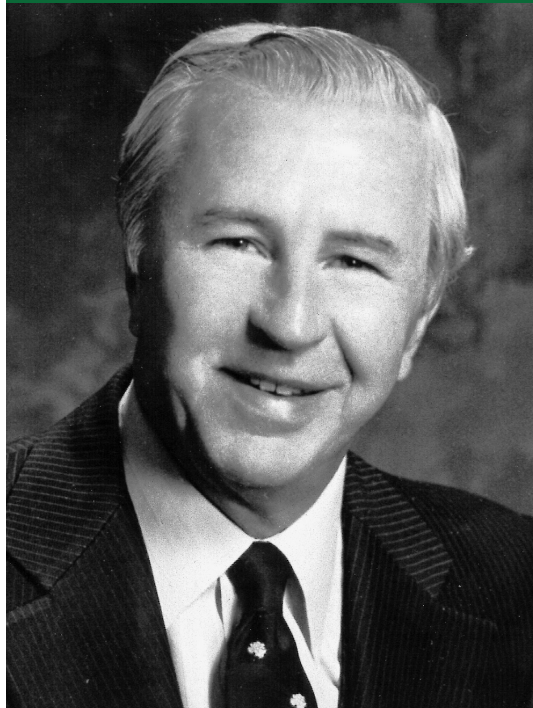
THE DRINKOS were the proud parents of four children: Elizabeth Lee Sullivan, John Randall Drinko, Deaver Drinko, and Dr. Lynn Drinko



JOHN AND LIBBY DRINKO played active and enthusiastic roles in the affairs of the Academy until their deaths.

The Drinko Academy

A MARSHALL TRADITION



The John Deaver Drinko Academy for American Political Institutions and Civic Culture was founded in April of 1994. In establishing the Academy, John and Elizabeth Drinko set forth two principal objectives. The first was to foster better public understanding of the writing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution in order to encourage greater levels of citizen participation in our democratic system of self-government. The second was to create a body of Distinguished Drinko Fellows composed of the most highly accomplished members of the Marshall University faculty. Because John Drinko repeatedly attributed his success in life to the excellent education he had received at Marshall, he conceptualized the Academy's Distinguished Drinko Fellows program as a way of repaying a debt to the institution.

Over the course of more than three decades, the Drinko Academy has established an impressive record of program support and development, special event organization, and scholarship and creative production. More recently, the Drinko Academy has focused on civic literacy and civil discourse initiatives, especially those that engage Marshall's students in activities and practices that advance the culture of democracy.

OUR MISSION

To support Marshall University programming that advances civic literacy and civil discourse and to celebrate free speech, intellectual integrity, and creative expression.

OUR VISION

Civic culture reinvigorated; exemplary faculty and student achievement rewarded.





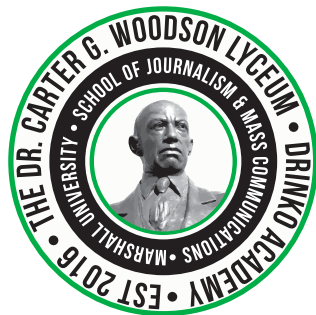
Marshall's National Society of ACTA Scholars, faculty allies, and Voter Friendly Campus staff gathered for a Holiday Party in December 2024.



Executive Director Dr. Montserrat Miller at the April 2024 Drinko Symposium celebrating the John Deaver Drinko Academy's 30th Anniversary.



Patricia Proctor, J.D., is the Founding Director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, established in 2011 to honor the Drinko Academy's first Distinguished Drinko Fellow.



The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum is the brainchild of Distinguished Drinko Fellow Professor Burnis Morris and Drinko Academy Founding Executive Director Dr. Alan B. Gould.

It was established by the Drinko Academy and the School of Journalism and Mass Communications in 2016.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum Director, Professor Burnis Morris, with U.S. Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden at a dinner in her honor in February of 2018, sponsored by the Drinko Academy.



SIMON PERRY
CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
DEMOCRACY

Program Support and Development

In fulfilling its mission, the John Deaver Drinko Academy has provided varied programmatic support and development, both on campus and beyond.

The Academy has played a vital role in numerous Marshall University fundraising campaigns, including those for the Drinko Library and the John Marshall Statue.

In 2001, it directed the widely hailed John Marshall Bicentennial Celebration, which commemorated the 200th anniversary of John Marshall's appointment as Chief Justice of the United States.

As part of the Bicentennial Celebration, the Drinko Academy organized and hosted an international conference titled *Defining the Nation: Exploring the Impact of the Marshall Court*. The Academy also collaborated with the Huntington Museum of Art to present *The Face of Justice: Portraits of John Marshall* exhibition and catalog. It published *The Great Chief Justice John Marshall: Secondary Education Teachers' Classroom Guide* for middle and high school students from West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. It co-produced a documentary film, *John Marshall: Citizen,*

Statesman, Jurist, with Motion Masters, Inc.; and it held a Continuing Legal Education program about the significance of the Marshall court, featuring prominent scholars and distinguished jurists from the state and federal benches.

In collaboration with its Distinguished Drinko Fellows, the Academy has also established a record of conceptualizing, fundraising for, and incubating vital Marshall University programs that have become fully independent initiatives. These include The Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps, and The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum.

The Drinko Academy's newest program development project is the Marshall chapter of the National Society of ACTA Scholars. Marshall's ACTA Scholars complete an expanded liberal arts curriculum in preparation for active citizenship at home and culturally informed engagement abroad. In addition to English composition, literature, and foreign language classes, ACTA Scholars complete courses in U.S. History and Political Science, in Economics, Mathematics, and Natural Sciences.



Marshall University ACTA Scholars President Nico Raffinengo and Marshall University Junior Lauren Wills at the 2024 Drinko Symposium Dinner.



Delegate Sean Hornbuckle competes in the 2023 Media Quoits Challenge.



Political commentator George F. Will was among the national figures who spoke at the Jean Edward Smith Memorial Symposium on September 1, 2021.



2022 Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation platform party members, Assistant Dean of the Honors College Cara Bailey, Assistant Provost Cicero M. Fain, III, Drinko Academy Executive Director Montserrat Miller, Provost Avi Mukherjee (not pictured: Honors College Dean Brian Hoey).



Judge Albert Diaz, Chief Judge Roger L. Gregory, and Judge Stephanie D. Thacker at the March 2023 United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit oral arguments session at Marshall University.

Special Events and Awards

As a means of recognizing engaged citizenship and distinguished service, the Drinko Academy regularly confers awards upon individuals from the campus and the community. Recipients have come from government, business, philanthropy, religion, education, and the arts. The academy also organizes a range of special events and programs throughout the academic year.

Since 2004, the Drinko Academy has spearheaded the university's annual U.S. Constitution Celebration, designed to advance civic literacy, model civil discourse, and reinforce respect for the rule of law. The Constitution Celebration also helps build and maintain Marshall's positive and lively campus culture.

As part of the Constitution Celebration, the academy organizes Marshall University's Quoits Tournaments. A ring toss game popular in the era of Chief Justice John Marshall, quoits games on Buskirk Field bring faculty, staff, students, alumni, representatives of the media, community members, and civic leaders together in an activity specifically designed to promote civility and friendship across political divides.

Working with the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, the Office of the President, and community partners from the legal profession, the Drinko Academy presents Marshall University's Court on Campus program. In addition to the periodic sessions of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, the program has featured oral arguments before the United States Court of Appeals for

the Fourth Circuit in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

Special events programming is ongoing. Since 2020, the Drinko Academy has been working in collaboration with the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, the Office of the President, University Libraries, and other units on campus to provide Marshall students with more a robust sequence of special programs designed to elevate civic literacy, model civil discourse, and build the culture of democracy among our students. Events such as the

September 2023 First Amendment Forum and the October 2024 Candidate Forum have been paired with Amicus Curiae Lecture series presentations, voter registration/ voter education drives, and U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day celebrations. Both the Drinko Academy and the Simon Perry Center have contributed to the planning that has resulted in Marshall's designation as the only Voter Friendly Campus in the state of West Virginia.

In 2025 and 2026, the Drinko Academy partnered with the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum to organize an academic symposium celebrating the centennial of Negro History Week/Black History Month. Featuring scholars from thirteen institutions of higher education, the centennial symposium involved an examination of U.S. and global Black history and culture from various disciplinary and methodological perspectives.

Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia oral arguments session at Marshall University Sept. 23, 2025.



Scholarship, Creative Expression, and Community Projects

The Drinko Academy supports a wide range of scholarship, creative endeavors, and community projects. In addition to books written by Drinko Fellows, authors whose scholarly and creative works have been published through the assistance of the academy include A. E. Stringer, Barbara Becker-Cottrill, Carlos Bozzoli, Sam Clagg, Jack L. Dickenson, Edna Smith Duckworth, Carrie Eldridge, Wade Gilley, and Frank S. Riddel.

The Drinko Academy has helped to advance community projects of various kinds. Drinko Fellow Dr. Mack Gillenwater, a geographer, completed ten historic preservation surveys for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. Carrie Eldridge's book, *Cabell County's Empire for Freedom*, remains the definitive source for information about the historic 1849 manumission of Sampson Sanders' slaves. Carlos Bozzoli's *Cabell County Architectural Guide*, available online through Marshall Digital Scholar, includes walking tours of Huntington, Guyandotte, Green Bottom, Barboursville, and Milton.

Recent Drinko Fellow appointees have continued the tradition of combining scholarship and creative expression with community engagement.

Drinko Fellow James B. Becker, M.D., chose training primary care physicians to recognize and effectively treat addiction as the focus of his project. He worked to establish a new

fellowship program for family physicians at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, which serves as an example of the innovative efforts being made from Appalachia to treat this vexing national problem.

Drinko Fellow Sandra Reed, MFA, provided exhibition and other professional opportunities for herself, her students, and alumni, including a training program for art alums to become Teaching Artists in area senior centers. The project aims to improve the health outcomes of older adults through multi-session visual-arts workshops, as measured by standardized, clinically relevant assessment tools.

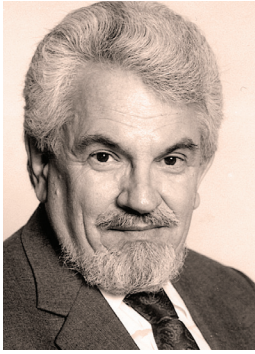


Executive Director Dr. Montserrat Miller at the 2025 Symposium recognizing Drinko Fellows Dr. Ed Bingham, a Faculty Distinguished Service Award winner, and Dr. Rachael Peckham, who was named West Virginia Professor of the Year in 2024.



December 2024 Drinko Fellows Luncheon – Pictured left to right on the back row: Jim Becker, Rachael Peckham, Jeff Powell, Montserrat Miller, Wendell Dobbs, Vicki Stroehrer, Eric Lassiter. Left to right on the front row: Sandra Reed, Burnis Morris, Mary Beth Reynolds, Shirley Lumpkin, Bob Alexander, Marcia Harrison-Pitaniello, Edwina Pendarvis, Maria Carmen Riddel.

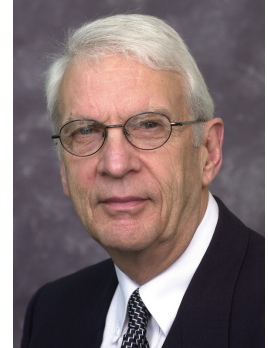
Dr. Simon Perry (1994-1996)



Dr. Simon Perry earned an A.B. in Political Science and History from Berea College in 1954, an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1955, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Michigan State University in 1961. He joined the faculty at Marshall University as an Associate Professor in the fall of 1962 and retired from active duty in the spring of 2010 as Professor Emeritus, making his 48-year tenure as a faculty member the longest in the history of the institution. Among numerous noteworthy honors, Dr. Perry was the recipient of the Marshall University Distinguished Faculty Award, two separate Governors presented him with the prestigious Distinguished West Virginian Award, and in 2010, he won the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching Award. In order to honor his tremendous impact on the lives of generations of Marshall students, the Drinko Academy and the College of Liberal Arts joined together to establish the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy in 2011. That year, Dr. Perry also delivered the inaugural lecture of the Marshall University Robert C. Byrd Forum on Civic Responsibility. His address, entitled “The Founding Fathers and Religion,” was later extended into a highly acclaimed article. In the fall of 2013, Dr. Perry published his most recent book, entitled *Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson: By Their Deeds You Shall Know Them*. Dr. Perry passed away on January 27, 2023.

Dr. Mack Gillenwater (1995-1997)

Dr. Mack Gillenwater earned an A.B. in Geography from Marshall in 1957 and an M.A. in Geography from Marshall in 1958. Before joining the Marshall University faculty in 1968, he taught at Pembroke State College, East Carolina University, and Shawnee State College. In 1972, he earned a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In the course of his career at Marshall, he participated in faculty exchange programs with the Universidad Antonio de Nebrija in Madrid, Spain, and at Beijing Normal University in China. Dr. Gillenwater was instrumental in the establishment of the Coalways and Coal Mining Heritage projects. He coordinated a comprehensive study of historic preservation and tourism in the greater Huntington metropolitan area including Ashland, Kentucky, and Ironton, Ohio, and he completed ten historic preservation surveys for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. In 1998, he was selected by the West Virginia Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Affairs to participate in a Fulbright- Hays Group Study Project in Brazil. In October 2013, Dr. Gillenwater was recognized with the Beacon of the Coalfields, Nick J. Rahall II Outstanding Achievement Award presented by the Coal Heritage Highway Authority and the National Coal Heritage Area to honor his efforts in preserving and interpreting West Virginia coal history. He retired from Marshall as Professor Emeritus. Dr. Gillenwater passed away on December 12, 2017.



Dr. William Denman (1996-1998)



Dr. Bill Denman earned a B.A. in Speech and Drama from California State University, Los Angeles in 1962 and an M.A. in Speech and Drama from California State University, Los Angeles in 1966. He joined the Marshall Department of Speech in 1965 and earned his Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Public Address from Ohio University in 1974. In 2003, Dr. Denman received the College of Liberal Arts 2002-2003 Distinguished Service Award for his years of dedication to the University, which included duties as the Director of the Society of Yeager Scholars, Chair of the Department of Communication Studies, and Interim Director of the Integrated Science and Technology Program in the College of Science. Dr. Denman's scholarship has focused on the role of rhetoric, as a human activity, in the shaping of societies. His publications have dealt with the need for argument to be more heavily featured in the teaching of public speaking as a means of empowering citizens. In addition, he has focused on the ways in which citizens worked, prior to World War II, to influence public opinion on American entry into the war in Europe. In October 2010, Dr. Denman received the Sid Bell Memorial Award granted by the West Virginia American Civil Liberties Union. Bill was instrumental in organizing the West Virginia affiliate of the ACLU in the late 1960s, and in recognition of his forty years of service and four terms as President, the William Denman Youth Activist Scholarship was named in his honor. He retired from Marshall as Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Montserrat Miller (1996-1999)

Dr. Montserrat Miller earned a B.A. in International Affairs from Marshall in 1983 and an M.A. in History from Marshall in 1988. She earned a second M.A. in History from Carnegie Mellon University in 1990 and a Ph.D. in History from the same institution in 1994.

Dr. Miller joined the Marshall faculty in 1996 as a Distinguished Drinko Fellow. After conducting an internal review of the Honors and John Marshall Scholars Programs for the Office of the President, she served as Coordinator of the University's highly successful celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the appointment of John Marshall as Chief Justice of the United States. Dr. Miller received a Pickens-Queen Teaching Award in 1998; the Student Activities and Greek Affairs Outstanding Advisor award in 1999; College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher awards in 2007 and 2009; the Dr. Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award for 2006-2007; and the West Virginia Faculty Merit Foundation's Edward H. Greene West Virginia Professor of the Year award in 2008. Her research has been funded by the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Program, the American Association of University Women, The National Endowment for the Humanities, the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Culture and United States' Universities, the West Virginia Humanities Council and by Marshall University. Dr. Miller's work has been published in Catalan, Spanish, and English. Her book, *Feeding Barcelona, 1714-1975: Public Market Halls, Social Networks, and Consumer Culture* (Louisiana State University Press, 2015), was awarded the Best First Book Prize by Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honorary Society. She was appointed to succeed Dr. Alan Gould as Executive Director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy in December of 2017. Dr. Miller received Marshall University's Distinguished Service Award in 2020, the Carolyn B. Hunter Faculty Service Award in 2021, a Living the Dream Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission in 2023, and she received a Women of Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025.



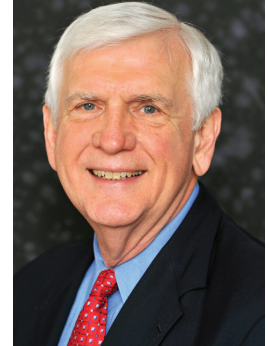
Dr. Shirley Lumpkin (1997-1999)



Dr. Shirley Lumpkin earned a B.A. in English from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1965, an M.A. in English from Johns Hopkins University in 1966, and a Ph.D. in English from McGill University in 1983. A Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship and Woodrow Wilson Scholarship recipient, Dr. Lumpkin served as a member of the Marshall faculty in the Department of English from 1983 until her retirement as Professor Emerita in 2013. She served as Director of the University's Writing Across the Curriculum Program and worked to support the Marshall Writing Project and similar discipline-based activities in the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Education and Human Services, and the Department of English. Dr. Lumpkin served as co-director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia and was active in Marshall's shared governance through her service on the Faculty Senate. She has published extensively on American literature and African American writers. She is especially interested in exploring the writing of contemporary women in Appalachia, which challenges every stereotype and many generalizations about women, writing, and the region. As a Distinguished Drinko Fellow, she directed a study entitled *Re-Membering, Re-Weaving, Re-Visioning 'Other' Ways: Contemporary Women Writing in Appalachia*. Among many accolades, Dr. Lumpkin was named the West Virginia Legislature's Outstanding Professor in 1990. She received the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award the same year and was the recipient of the Marshall University Distinguished Service Award in 2010.

Dr. Kenneth P. Ambrose (1998-2000)

Dr. Ken Ambrose earned a B.A. in Sociology from West Virginia Wesleyan in 1962, an M. Div. in Theology from Duke in 1963, an M.A. in Sociology from Marshall University in 1970, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from The Ohio State University in 1978. He joined the Marshall faculty in 1975 and served as Chair of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology from 1983 until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 2010. He also served as Interim Dean of the Graduate College in 1984. A highly regarded member of the Marshall community, Dr. Ambrose is known for his outstanding teaching and interesting research, especially his descriptive study of the snake handling cults of Southern Appalachia. In 1999, he and his son and co-presenter, the late Dr. Paul W. Ambrose, gave a Drinko Symposium presentation entitled "Health Care Challenges in Rural America." The presentation was a prophetic and masterful study of the coming health care issues facing Appalachians, especially those relating to the growing problem of obesity. To highlight the health challenges, Drs. Ken and Paul Ambrose enlisted the services of the former Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. C. Everett Koop, to speak on the seriousness of the crisis at the 1998 Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation. Ken and his wife Sharon continue to work on various projects including the PATH (Paul Ambrose Trail for Health) and the Paul Ambrose Scholarship and annual symposium in Washington, D.C., and continue to support Marshall medical students.



Dr. Robert P. Alexander (1999-2001)



Dr. Bob Alexander, an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, entered Marshall in 1953 and served as Student Body President. He earned a B.A. in History and Business Principles from Marshall in 1957, an M.A. in Educational Administration from Marshall in 1960, and a Ph.D. in Business Administration Education from Ohio University in 1969. He was employed at Marshall for 44 years until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 2003. Over the course of his career at Marshall, he served as the first Director of Placement, as Director of the M.B.A. program, as Chair of the Department of Management, and as Dean of the College of Business. In 1991, he was granted the title of Distinguished Professor of Management in the Elizabeth McDowell Lewis College of Business. In 1993, he traveled under a CIBER grant to Japan, Hong Kong, China and Singapore to study economic development. He served for sixteen years on the Huntington City Council, including one term as Mayor. He is a former President of the Marshall Alumni Association and of the West Virginia Municipal League; and he was the First Vice President of the Tri-State Airport Authority. Among numerous honors, Dr. Alexander is the recipient of the M.U. Alumni Association's Community Service Award, the American Legion Civic Improvement Award, and the WV Municipal League's Outstanding Service Award. He was twice selected as the Teacher of the Year in his college and was elected to the Lewis College of Business Hall of Fame, to the City of Huntington Wall of Fame, and the Milton High School Hall of Fame. He was an exchange professor at Universidad Antioio de Nebrija in Madrid, Spain, and was selected for the Faculty Service Award in 1998. Dr. Alexander is a member of Beta Sigma Gamma and was chosen as the West Virginia Tree Farmer of the Year in 1990. He continues his 20 years of service on the West Virginia legislative interim committee of the Forest Management Review Commission and owns and operates a 300-acre farm in Mason County and a 10-acre orchard in Putnam County.

Dr. Beverly Twitchell Marchant (2000-2002)

Dr. Beverly Twitchell Marchant earned an A.B. in Art History from Randolph Macon Woman's College in 1968, an M.A. in Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1973, and a Ph.D. in Art History from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1983. She began her professional career as a Researcher and Curator of Education at the Valentine Museum in Richmond, Virginia. While in Richmond, she also served as a Research Assistant for the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Dr. Twitchell Marchant joined the faculty of Marshall University in 1972 as an Instructor of Art and, among many other duties, was the founding Director of the University's Birke Art Gallery and Director of the University Honors Program. In 1985, Dr. Twitchell Marchant joined the faculty at Virginia Tech; and in 1990, she joined the Department of Fine Arts at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, where she served as chair. In 1994, Beverly returned to Marshall where she remained an outstanding instructor and an energetic researcher until her retirement in 2010 as a Professor Emerita. In recent years, she has turned her attention and considerable talents to the study of Native American art, especially that of the Ledger Drawings of Brule Sioux. Her book, *Bertoia: the Metalsmith*, was published in spring 2019, by Phaidon Press. Harry Bertoia sculpted the *Marshall University Memorial Fountain*.



Dr. Edwina Pendarvis (2001-2003)



Dr. Edwina Pendarvis earned a B. A. in English from the University of South Florida in 1967, an M.A. in Gifted Education from the University of South Florida in 1971, and an Ed.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1983. She joined the Marshall faculty in 1979 and became a nationally-recognized authority on gifted education, serving as the College of Education and Professional Development's Coordinator of the Gifted Graduate Education Program. She also served as Acting Director of the John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence, which houses the Yeager Scholars and Honors Program, for a year before her retirement as Professor Emerita from Marshall. Dr. Pendarvis served as a contributing editor of *Roeper Review: A Journal on Gifted Education*. She received the award for Outstanding Service to Gifted Youth from the West Virginia Association for Gifted and Talented. Additionally, Dr. Pendarvis is a recognized and highly regarded author of Appalachian poetry and prose who has won numerous awards for her work. She served as a member of

the Board of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation and as editor of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. She wrote a series of biographies of winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature in dual-language editions published by Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press in 2010 and 2011. In 2013, she was awarded the Pearl S. Buck Award by the West Virginia Education Association. In 2015, Blair Mountain Press published her collection of poetry, entitled *Ghost Dance Poems*. In 2016, she co-edited *Appalachian Murders and Mysteries* with James Gifford, which was published by the Jesse Stuart Foundation, and co-authored a book with Craig and Aimee Howley entitled *Out of Our Minds: Turning the Tide of Anti-Intellectualism in American Schools*, published by Prufrock Press. Her book *Another World: Ballet Lessons from Appalachia*, was published by the Jesse Stuart Foundation in 2023. Her publications in 2024 and 2025 include three articles for West Virginia's *Goldenseal* magazine, one on Johnny Fullen, Matewan, WV's first Black mayor; one on Phyllis Moore, dedicated promoter of West Virginia literature; and another on a group of women--Black and white-- the "Piecemakers," who for many years have met on Sunday afternoons to work on quilting projects.

Dr. Michael Little (2002-2004)

Dr. Mike Little earned an A.B. in Zoology from Marshall in 1967, an M.S. in Biology from Marshall in 1973, and a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Louisville in 1983. He joined the Marshall faculty in the Department of Biology in 1973 and had a rich and varied career. He served as an Aquatic Biologist Research Associate with the Water Resource Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. Working with departmental faculty and students, he directed the development of a virtual Appalachian community, which integrates science and math instruction in a web-delivered series of activities. He also worked with a group of undergraduate and graduate students to sequence a portion of the mitochondrial genome in a rare Appalachian fish, the Cheat Minnow. His research has also involved the use of GIS and digital technology to map the relationship between stream structure and distribution of Appalachian fishes. In 1997, Dr. Little was the recipient of the National Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology presented at the Ninth International Conference on College Teaching and Learning at Jacksonville, Florida. He was named a Distinguished John Deaver Drinko Fellow in 2002 and became Chair of the Department of Integrated Science and Technology at Marshall in 2004. Dr. Little retired as Professor Emeritus in 2012.



Dr. W. Edwin Bingham (2003-2005)



Dr. Edwin Bingham earned a B.M. in Multiple Wood Instruments from the University of Tennessee in 1976, an M.M. in Saxophone Performance from the Juilliard School in 1978, and a D.M.A in Multiple Wood Instruments from the University of Kentucky in 1988. He joined the faculty at Marshall in 1990, held the rank of Professor of Saxophone, and also taught music theory. He directed the Marshall University Jazz Ensemble and the Marshall Wind Symphony, coordinated two annual jazz festivals on campus, and is a founding member of Marshall’s faculty jazz ensemble. Bingham served as Director of Jazz Studies where he established the Jazz Studies degree program and helped design the Jomie Jazz Center. As a saxophonist, he has performed with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, the Huntington Symphony, the West Virginia Symphony, the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Festival Band and Orchestra, the Ohio Valley Symphony and the Lexington Philharmonic. In other genres, Bingham has performed with an extensive roster of jazz and popular artists such as Landau Eugene Murphy, Gregory Porter, Frankie Valli, the Temptations, Peter Duchin, Dizzy Gillespie, Claire Fischer and Louie Bellson.

Ed Bingham is a multi-instrumentalist who performs on saxophone, flute, bassoon and clarinet. He is an active recitalist in solo and chamber music settings. Tryptych, a trio comprised of saxophone (Bingham), clarinet (Ann Bingham) and percussion (Steve Hall), has concertized across the country and produced a CD recording featuring commissioned works for this combination of instruments. Bingham led the large and successful saxophone studio at Marshall for many years. His students have won concerto competitions and the Belle and Lynam Jackson award—two of the most prestigious competitions in the School of Music. Graduates of the Marshall saxophone studio are enjoying successful careers in the Glenn Miller Orchestra, military bands, free-lance engagements, and in collegiate and secondary school teaching. Bingham’s Drinko Academy research explored the creative process in music. His travels to Cuba and Brazil provided his students an international perspective to music study. He retired as Professor Emeritus in 2025.

Dr. Mary Elizabeth (Mary Beth) Reynolds (2004 – 2006)

Dr. Mary Beth Reynolds holds a B.A. (University of Kentucky), an M.A. (Marshall University), and a Ph.D. (Ohio University) – all in the field of communication sciences and disorders, a.k.a. speech-language pathology. Dr. Reynolds is currently Professor and Associate Provost Emerita, having retired from Marshall University in August 2025 after serving the university for nearly thirty years – first as a faculty member in the Department of Communication Disorders and then in a succession of administrative roles focusing on assessment and accreditation. During her time on the Marshall faculty, Dr. Reynolds and her students conducted research focusing on synthesized speech intelligibility and comprehension, the relationship between language and literacy, and language development in children from rural Appalachia. These studies were published in the *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, and *Contemporary Issues in Communication Science and Disorders*. During her years in administration, Dr. Reynolds served as a member of the Steering Committee for Marshall’s first Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Quality Initiative, working with Marshall’s faculty and administrators to test the Lumina Foundation’s Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP). During the three years before her retirement, she worked with Marshall colleagues on the university’s second HLC Quality Initiative, *Building a Stronger and More Inclusive Marshall Community*. She was the university’s accreditation liaison officer to the HLC from 2013 until her retirement. Dr. Reynolds and her Marshall University colleagues presented the outcomes of Marshall’s assessment and accreditation initiatives at professional meetings of the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), the Assessment Institute, and the Higher Learning Commission. Dr. Reynolds chaired the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission’s Assessment Council, served on Marshall’s Communication Disorders Advocacy Council and Marshall’s Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Advisory Board. Dr. Reynolds is a charter member and past president of Marshall’s chapter of the Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi, continues to serve as a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission, and is an active member of St. John’s Episcopal Church.



Professor Jean Edward Smith (2004-2006)



Professor Jean Edward Smith earned an A.B. degree from Princeton University in 1954 and a Ph.D. in Public Law and Government from Columbia University in 1964. He served for over thirty years on the faculty of the University of Toronto and, on numerous occasions, was appointed as a visiting professor at such noteworthy institutions as Dartmouth College, Princeton and Columbia universities, the University of Virginia and the Free University of Berlin. In the fall of 1999, Jean joined the Marshall faculty as the John Marshall Professor of Political Science. Professor Smith has to his credit a list of scholarly publications and presentations, including the authorship of 14 books. His biography of John Marshall is considered by most American historians as the definitive work on the life of the Great Chief Justice. After coming to Marshall, he produced three additionally outstanding biographies: his biography of Ulysses S. Grant was a finalist for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in Biography; a biography of FDR won the coveted Francis Parkman Award in 2008; and

his highly acclaimed biography of Dwight Eisenhower was published in 2012. Professor Smith is also the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Marshall University. After twelve years at Marshall, Jean joined the history department at Columbia University as Senior Scholar in Residence and then became a visiting professor at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. His biography of George W. Bush was published in July 2016, after which he returned to Marshall as the John Marshall Professor of Political Science Emeritus. In that capacity, he wrote *The Liberation of Paris: How Eisenhower, de Gaulle, and von Choltitz Saved the City of Light*, published by Simon & Schuster in 2019. Professor Smith passed away on September 1, 2019.

Dr. Charles C. (Chuck) Somerville (2005-2007)

Dr. Chuck Somerville earned a B.S. in Microbiology from Penn State University in 1978 and a Ph.D. in Marine Microbiology from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1989. He worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Biological Station in Roscoff, France, where he studied the evolution of photosynthetic organelles in marine algae. From northern France, he moved to the EPA Environmental Research Laboratory in Gulf Breeze, Florida, where he studied the biodegradation of chlorinated solvents, and later to the US Air Force Environics Lab at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida, where he worked on the biodegradation and bioremediation of explosives. Dr. Somerville joined the faculty at Marshall in 1997, where he studied the biodegradation of chlorinated solvents in mixed wastes, and microbial community dynamics in large river systems. He served as Head of the Division of Biological Sciences from 2005 to 2009 and Dean of the College of Science from 2009-2022. In 2011, he was elected as a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London. Dr.



Somerville has served on the Board of Directors for the West Virginia NASA Space Grant Consortium (2009-2016), on the West Virginia Science & Research Council (2010-2018), and on the Steering Committee for America's Watershed Initiative (2013-2018). Dr. Somerville was selected as a member of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board (EAB), and served on the EAB from 2015 to 2021. He has been a member of the Steering Committee for the Ohio River Basin Alliance (ORBA) since 2010. He has served as the Marshall University Trustee to the Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research & Education (ORBCRE) since 1998 and served as ORBCRE Executive Director from 2022 to 2024 when it merged with ORBA. Dr. Somerville is currently serving as the Vice Chair of the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board. He retired from Marshall as Professor Emeritus in 2022.

Dr. Linda Spatig (2006-2008)



Dr. Linda Spatig earned a B.S. in Educational Foundations from Barton College in 1971, an M.Ed. in Elementary Education from Western Washington State University in 1974, and a Ed.D. in Educational Foundations from the University of Houston in 1987. She joined the Marshall faculty in 1987. In 2016, she retired as a Professor Emerita of Educational Foundations and Leadership in the College of Education and Professional Development. During her thirty years at Marshall, Dr. Spatig worked closely with the education doctoral programs in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership housed on the South Charleston campus. She served the university in many capacities including work with the Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Board, the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council, and as Co-director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia. She is a past president of the Appalachian Studies Association and served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. Her scholarship focuses on social context of education issues including social class, race, gender, and sexuality, especially as these are experienced in the Appalachian region. Her collaborative ethnography, co-authored with Layne Amerikaner, is titled *Thinking Outside the Girl Box: Teaming up with Resilient Youth in Appalachia*. The book was published by Ohio University Press in 2014. Upon retirement, Spatig moved to Shepherdstown, West Virginia, where she is active in community organizations including the Nourishing Literacy Giving Circle, Shepherdstown Area Independent Living (SAIL), and Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Dr. Wendell Dobbs (2007-2009)

Dr. Wendell Dobbs earned a B.M. in Music Performance from Memphis State University in 1976, an M.M. in Music Performance from Catholic University in 1978, and a D.M.A. in Music Performance (Flute) from Catholic University in 1983. During his master's and doctoral studies, his principal teacher was Bernard Goldberg. During a seven-year stint as flutist in the United States Army Band (Pershing's Own), in Washington, D.C., he received two Certificates of Achievement for contributions as soloist and principal flutist of the United States Army Chamber Orchestra. He joined the Marshall University faculty in 1985 as Professor of Music (flute) after two years in Paris as a French Government Scholar studying with Michel Debost and Alain Marion. At Marshall, he received the Pan Hellenic Society's Teacher of the Year award in 1993. He was named a Distinguished Drinko Fellow in 2007 and founded the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps as his fellowship project. Dr. Dobbs served as Interim Dean for the College of Arts and Media from 2018 to 2023. He performs regularly in a variety of settings ranging from the Huntington Symphony Orchestra and the Ohio Valley Symphony (principal flute in both) to the Violauta Duo with his colleague, guitarist Dr. Júlio Ribeiro Alves. He premiered several works as soloist with the Huntington Symphony Orchestra, including Dr. Paul W. Whear's Celtic Concerto. For many years, he and his wife and colleague, Prof. Linda Dobbs, spun jigs and reels in the Irish band, Blackbirds and Thrushes. He provided the music for the John Deaver Drinko Academy's highly successful documentary on the life of John Marshall and produced a CD recording devoted to music from John Marshall's era entitled *Rallying Around Our Liberty*. Marshall University awarded Dr. Dobbs a Distinguished Service Award for 2023-2024.



Dr. María Carmen Riddel (2008-2010)



Dr. María Carmen Riddel earned a B.A. in Spanish Education from Marshall in 1975, an M.A. in Spanish and Latin American Literature from the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, in 1977, and a Ph.D. in Twentieth Century Spanish Peninsular Literature from The Ohio State University in 1988. She joined the Marshall faculty in 1983 and served as the supervisor of the departmental Study Abroad Programs in France and Spain, as the faculty advisor and Director of the Summer Language and Culture Program in Madrid, and as Chair of the Department of Modern Languages. She was the recipient of the Dr. Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award in 2010, and in 2011, she was one of five state-wide finalists for the prestigious Edward H. Greene Professor of the Year Award given by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia. Dr. Riddel is the author of *La Escritura Femenina en la Posguerra Española: Análisis de Novelas Escogidas de Carmen Martín Gaité, Ana María Matute y Elena Quiroga* (Peter Lang Publishing, 1995). She has also translated two books, including Gabriel Tortella's *The Origins of the Twenty-First Century: An Essay on Contemporary Social and Economic History* (Routledge, 2010), as well as various articles and documents. She also frequently serves as an interpreter for law enforcement and medical agencies in the area. Following her retirement in 2011 as Professor Emerita, she participated in numerous medical missions in Ecuador.

Dr. Eldon Larsen (2009-2011)

Dr. Eldon Larsen earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young University in 1977, an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young in 1978, and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 1983. He joined the faculty at Marshall in 1999 and retired in 2019 as a Professor of Engineering Emeritus in the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences. He served two years as Chair of Marshall University's Faculty Senate and nine years as Chair of the Graduate Council. He has also served on numerous committees at all levels within the University. He served as the Coordinator of the Master of Science in Engineering program, in which he taught engineering management courses. While a member of the Marshall faculty, Dr. Larsen has produced over 60 scholarly publications, has delivered over 80 presentations at national conferences and other venues, and has chaired at least 38 sessions at national professional meetings. He received the Marshall University Distinguished Artist and Scholar Award and twice received the university's Outstanding Graduate Advisor of the Year Award. He was the 2017- 2018 recipient of Marshall University's Dr. Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award. In 2019 he received Marshall University's Distinguished Service Award. While serving at Marshall University, Dr. Larsen also served for six years as bishop of his local church congregation of approximately 600 people. Before joining Marshall, Dr. Larsen received the Union Carbide Corporation Chairman's Award and other awards. He is coauthor of two patents. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. And, he is an Eagle Scout. He is now retired.



Dr. Dan K. Evans (2010-2012)



Dr. Dan Evans earned a B.S. in Chemistry and Biology from Murray State University in 1961, an M.S. in Botany from Southern Illinois University in 1972, and a Ph.D. in Botany from Southern Illinois University in 1976. He joined the faculty at Marshall in 1974 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology. Dr. Evan's research interests include the restoration of wetlands and riparian habitat, rare and endangered plant species, medicinal plants and the ethnobotany of Ecuador. He served for many years as Curator of the Marshall University Herbarium. Additionally, during his tenure at Marshall, he directed the Master's Theses of 24 graduate students. Dr. Evans provided scores of significant studies for, among others, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, American Electric Power, the Ohio Power Company and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. Among numerous awards and honors, Dr. Evans is a National Science Fellow and the recipient of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society's Bartholomew Award for Service to Botany. His membership in professional organizations includes the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, the Society of Herbarium Curators (Past President), the Herb Research Foundation, the South American Explorers Club and the West Virginia Academy of Science. He retired from Marshall as Professor Emeritus and passed away on January 23, 2022.

Professor Burnis R. Morris (2011-2013)

Professor Burnis R. Morris earned a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Mississippi in 1973 and an M.P.A. in Public Administration from the University of Dayton in 1977. Professor Morris joined the Marshall University Journalism & Mass Communications faculty in 2003 as the Carter G. Woodson Professor and co-founded The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum (with the late Alan Gould) in 2016. Since 2023, Morris and Marshall President Brad Smith have been co-chairing the Negro History Week/Black History Month Centennial Committee, which includes raising external funding and planning major events such as free online Black History courses with Dr. Julia Spears and a symposium with Dr. Montserrat Miller, as well as other programs. Morris was selected as a Distinguished Drinko Fellow, the Senior Faculty Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award winner and a West Virginia History Hero. He was named in the first group of John Marshall Summer Scholars, and he was recognized as a "National Trailblazer of Diversity" by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. He is also a former Freedom Forum First Amendment Center professional scholar at Vanderbilt University. Morris's work has been supported by grants from the West Virginia Humanities Council for Black History institutes (five) and Knight Foundation (three) to create a national training program for journalists covering nonprofit organizations, and he created high school journalism workshops (2009-2019) that were supported by the Huntington *Herald-Dispatch*. Morris is the author of *Carter G. Woodson: History, the Black Press, and Public Relations (2017)*. and numerous articles and essays such as "Dr. Carter G. Woodson: A Century of Making Black Lives Matter," published in a public history volume called *Radical Roots: Public History and Social Justice (2021)*. Before academe, Morris served in a variety of capacities at several newspapers owned by Cox Enterprises in Dayton, Atlanta, Austin, and West Palm Beach. He began his career as a *New York Times* intern and was the first Black student at the University of Mississippi named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.



Dr. F. Robin O’Keefe (2012-2014)



Dr. F. Robin O’Keefe received his Bachelor’s degree in honors Biology from Stanford University in 1992, and his Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Chicago in 2000. He has held a faculty position at Marshall University since 2006, where he has taught over two thousand undergraduates in courses ranging from human anatomy to comparative zoology and earth history. Dr. O’Keefe has successfully mentored 19 Master’s degrees, with two in progress. O’Keefe has published widely in journals including *Science*, *Nature*, *PNAS*, *Systematic Biology*, and numerous other journals. An acknowledged expert on marine reptiles from the age of dinosaurs, O’Keefe was awarded the 2013 Drinko Distinguished Research Fellowship for his work on plesiosaur reproduction. O’Keefe has also published on the anatomy and relationships of Permian reptiles from Africa, as well as a series of papers on the evolutionary biology of Rancho La Brea carnivores. Doctor O’Keefe has done paleontological field work in the Caribbean, Madagascar, Niger, China, Europe, and throughout the American West, with current digs in the Cretaceous of Wyoming and Montana.

Dr. Jeffrey Powell (2013-2015)

Dr. Jeff Powell earned an A.B. in Psychology from Ohio University in 1981, an M.A in Psychology from Duquesne in 1984, an M.A. in Philosophy from Loyola of Chicago in 1989 and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from DePaul University in 1994. He has been a member of the Marshall faculty in the Department of Philosophy within the College of Liberal Arts since 1996 and presently holds the rank of Professor. He has organized three major conferences at Marshall; two concerning postmodernism in 1998 and 1999, and the international Heidegger Circle meeting in 2000. He is also responsible for bringing renowned philosopher, John Sallis, formerly the Frederick J. Adelman S.J. Professor of Philosophy at Boston College, to the Marshall campus in April of 2017. Jeff has published numerous scholarly articles on a wide range of figures from the history of philosophy, but especially on the thought of Martin Heidegger. He has published *Heidegger and Language* (Indiana University Press, 2013), translated Heidegger’s *Die Geschichte des Seyns (The History of Beyng)* for the Indiana University Press (with Will McNeill of DePaul University), and he edited a collection published in 2018 by SUNY Press, entitled *Aesthetic Imagination and Imaginative Freedom: Friedrich Schiller and Philosophy*. He is currently working on two book manuscripts, one concerning Heidegger’s contribution to aesthetic inquiry, and another concerning aesthetics and politics in Heidegger and Walter Benjamin. He is editor of *Heidegger’s Ontological Project: On Being and Time* (Indiana University Press, 2025). In addition, he is editor of *Space, Time, Language: The Movement of the Transcendental*, which will also be published in the fall of 2026 with Indiana University Press.



Dr. Marcia Harrison-Pitaniello (2014-2016)



Dr. Marcia Harrison-Pitaniello earned a B.S. in Botany from the University of Vermont in 1977, an M.S. in Biology from the University of Michigan in 1978, and a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Michigan in 1983. She joined the Marshall faculty in 1986 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. Her research includes plant hormone physiology with a particular interest in enhancing undergraduate research. In her career at Marshall, she mentored over 35 student researchers in plant biology and in mathematical biology projects. As Professor Emerita, she is currently engaged in educational outreach as a continuation of a grant from the American Society of Plant Biologists. This project resulted in interactive exhibits and games to educate and stimulate public interest in plant biology. At Marshall, Dr. Harrison-Pitaniello oversaw Marshall’s Chapter of the WV NASA Space Grant Consortium, awarding student scholarships, travel grants, and faculty research enhancement grants. She was also the Public Relations

Officer for the MU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, and Communications Director for the West Virginia Academy of Science. In 2012, she became a BEN (BioSciEduNet) Scholar, sponsored by the National Science Digital Library. BEN Scholars are given support to promote the use of digital libraries and inquiry-based learning in biology lecture and laboratory courses. As a BEN Scholar, Dr. Harrison-Pitaniello published an education article about imaging plant growth along with developing educational videos. In addition, she was the Principal Investigator of the NSF-funded MU-ADVANCE Program (2006-2012), an innovative networking effort between female STEM faculty working with administrative partners to develop university-level best practices for recruitment, new faculty orientation, and faculty retention. She was the director of the WV State Science and Engineering Fair from 2000-2007. Her honors include the Marshall Women of Color Award, MU Distinguished Service Award, and Dr. Carolyn Hunter Distinguished Faculty Service Award.

Dr. Rachael Peckham (2017-2019)

Dr. Rachael Peckham earned a B.A. degree in English from Hope College in 2002, an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Georgia College and State University in 2004 and a Ph.D. in creative writing from Ohio University in 2009. She is the author of *Alight: Flights of Prose* (Uncollected Press) and the forthcoming titles *Muck Fire: Prose Poems and Other Cultivations* (Compass Press) and *Flight 932: The 1970 Marshall Plane Crash and the Story of an American Town* (University Press of Kentucky), co-authored with Dr. Joel Peckham. *Flight 932* grew out of Dr. Peckham’s 2017 Drinko fellowship project, a long-form literary journalism essay titled “The Outer Marker: A Kaleidoscopic Rendering of the 1970 Marshall Plane Crash.” Her articles, essays, and poems have received numerous awards and distinctions, including two honorable mentions in the *Best American Essays* series, the ½ K Prize at *Indiana Review*, the *Orison Anthology* Nonfiction Award, and the Special Feature Literary Nonfiction Award at *Crab Orchard Review*. Since joining the creative writing program at Marshall University in 2009, Dr. Peckham has been awarded a Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award for junior faculty, a Pickens-Queen Teaching Award, a Hedrick Teaching Fellowship, the Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award, a Notable Alumni Award from Ohio University, and, most recently, the 2024 West Virginia Professor of the Year, sponsored by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia.



Dr. James B. Becker (2019-2021)



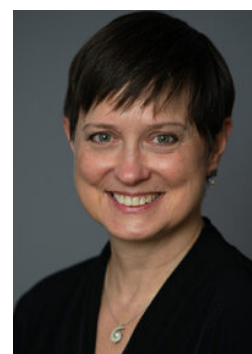
Dr. James B. Becker earned an R.B.A. from Marshall University in 1987 and an M.D. from the Marshall University School of Medicine in 1993. He served as Vice Dean for Government Affairs, Health Care Policy and External Affairs at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall and Medical Director of the Bureau for Medical Services the WV DHHR. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Health at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine where he maintains a family medicine practice and teaches. After completing his residency in family practice, he did a one-year fellowship in primary care occupational medicine. He is a Certified Diplomate of the American Board of Preventive Medicine. Prior to his medical school training, Dr. Becker worked for 15 years as a research and clinical toxicologist. He has devoted a significant part of his clinical activities to addiction medicine and clinical toxicology. Dr. Becker was the Medical Director for the WV Workers' Compensation Commission

from 2003 until 2007 and was part of the team leading the workers' compensation reform effort that arose from Senate Bill 2013. After the privatization of WV Workers' Compensation, Dr. Becker remained medical director at the Offices of the Insurance Commissioner, where he oversaw the management of the workers' compensation legacy claims and participated in the implementation of changes related to the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Becker was recognized as WV Family Physician of the Year in 2013.

Professor Sandra Reed (2021-2023)

Sandra J. Reed, Professor of Art, earned the BFA in Painting and Drawing from Drake University as a National Alumni Scholar and the MFA in Painting from The George Washington University as the first Morris Louis Fellow in Painting. Following twenty-one years at the Savannah College of Art & Design

as a faculty member and administrator, Professor Reed joined Marshall University in 2014. After serving as Director of the School of Art & Design during its first years in the downtown Visual Arts Center, she has avidly focused on teaching within the School of Art & Design and the Honors College, collaborative projects, personal creative work, academic conference presentations, and service roles. The following highlights a selection of recent activities. Reed delights in an expansive teaching portfolio that includes drawing and design, professional practice, and capstone courses, as well as Honors and Yeager seminars. She has facilitated several ambitious projects culminating in the exhibition of student work at museums, galleries, and project spaces. Last year, she hosted Becky Borlan as a Joan C. Edwards Distinguished Professor in the Arts. Within Marshall, Reed convenes the College of Arts and Media Personnel Committee and is a member of the Faculty Senate Academic Planning committee, among others. She is an ardent supporter of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum as seen in coordination of the 2026 Black History Centennial Poster Competition for College Students and presentation of a research paper at the American Milestone Symposium. With funding from the Huntington Foundation, she concluded a three-year interdisciplinary art and aging study with Dr. Masa Toyama in January. They are invited co-keynote speakers for the 2026 College of Health Professions Research Day. She was a session chair and presenter at SECAC last October. She has been a member of the West Virginia Creative Network subcommittee since it was established in 2024 and served on the 2025 Creative Entrepreneur Fellows selection committee. In coordination with RenewAll, she initiated and presented a one-day public art symposium in 2025. She recently concluded a decade of service on the Mayor's Arts Council and the Huntington Area Convention and Visitors Bureau board. Reed maintains an art studio in Huntington and regularly exhibits her paintings and drawings. Her works are held in numerous collections including the LaGrange Museum of Art, the Telfair Academy, and the United States Navy Memorial. She has presented four solo exhibitions over the past five years, including *Refuge* at the Esther Allen Greer Museum in Rio Grande, Ohio from March 16 to April 3, 2026.



Dr. Habiba Chirchir (2022-2024)



Dr. Habiba Chirchir earned a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Nairobi in 2005, an M.A. in Anthropology (skeletal biology track) from New York University in 2008, and a Ph.D. in Human Paleobiology from George Washington University in 2013. She completed her postdoctoral research in 2015 at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, where she continues to serve as a research associate. She completed her postdoctoral research in 2015 at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, where she continues to serve as a research associate. Dr. Chirchir is a biological anthropologist and anatomist currently serving as a professor at The Ohio State University. Her research focuses on understanding how behavior and evolutionary processes shape bone morphology, with particular emphasis on the human fossil record. Her work has explored why modern humans exhibit lower bone density compared to our ancestors and other primates. While earlier hypotheses suggested these changes emerged around the time of *Homo erectus*, her research using CT imaging of fossil material revealed

that significant reductions in bone density occurred much later, coinciding with the transition from foraging and hunting to agriculture and sedentary lifestyles. This work has led to new interpretations of skeletal gracility, including the role of reduced physical activity as well as alternative evolutionary explanations. To test these ideas, she incorporates comparative analyses of living mammalian analogs, including primates, canids, and felids. Her research has important implications for understanding modern bone health, particularly the elevated risk of osteoporosis and related diseases in humans. Her research has been supported by funding from the Leakey Foundation, NASA, and the American Association for Anatomy. Mentorship remains a central component of Dr. Chirchir's work. She continues to actively mentor undergraduate and graduate students in research, fostering their development in biology and biological anthropology. In addition to her research, she is a dedicated educator, teaching courses in human anatomy, and evolution. A committed STEM advocate, Dr. Chirchir integrates her research and teaching to expand access to science education. She has developed curricular materials to support high school biology teachers in Kenya in teaching evolution and has led training initiatives for high school anatomy teachers and students in West Virginia, with a focus on increasing participation among underrepresented groups in STEM. She plans to continue and expand these outreach efforts among high school communities in central Ohio.

Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter (2023-2025)

Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter received his PhD in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1995.

He is Professor of Humanities and Anthropology and Director of the Graduate Humanities Program at Marshall University. Before accepting his current position at Marshall in 2005, he taught anthropology at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where he was also a Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry Fellow. He has published widely in the fields of anthropology, ethnography, and cultural studies. His books include *The Power of Kiowa Song*, *Invitation to Anthropology*, *The Other Side of Middletown*, *The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography*, *Doing Ethnography Today*, and, most recently, *I'm Afraid of that Water: A Collaborative Ethnography of a West Virginia Water Crisis*, which received a Weatherford Award for best books about Appalachia. He founded the *Journal of Collaborative Anthropologies* in 2008 and served as editor until 2013. Lassiter is a recipient of the prestigious Margaret Mead Award and is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar. He has consulted for a variety of organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution, United States National Park Service, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Irish Research Council, and the United Kingdom's National Centre for Research Methods. He has delivered invited lectures throughout the US and abroad, including at Princeton University, Dartmouth College, University of Michigan, University of British Columbia, University of Edinburgh, University of Nottingham, and Lund University, among many others. In 2023, Lassiter received an honorary doctorate from Malmö University (Sweden), along with his wife and colleague Elizabeth Campbell, awarded for their writings on collaborative ethnography, a research approach that engages researchers and local community participants in reciprocal processes of community-based scholarship.



Dr. Vicki Stroehler (2024-2026)



Dr. Vicki Stroehler earned her Ph.D. in Musicology with a specialization in music theory from the University of North Texas in 1994. She is a professor of music and serves as the Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Media. She serves as faculty advisor for the Marshall chapter of the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity. Stroehler has a long and impressive record of community outreach and engagement in her field. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in music history at Marshall. A recipient of the 2018 C.B. Oldman Prize that is awarded by the International Association of Music Libraries and Documentation Centres of the United Kingdom and Ireland, Stroehler also received Marshall's Distinguished Scholars and Artists Award in 2023. Stroehler's work on Benjamin Britten illuminates the way in which art music addresses the plight of the individual who is forced to confront war, nationalism, and other perils of modernity. According to Stroehler, Britten imbued remarkable "humanness in his music, expressing with it the very qualities that make us all human, from our innocence to our arrogance to our passion and our coldness." Stroehler has edited three books about Britten, including *Benjamin Britten Studies: Essays in an Inexplicit Art and Benjamin Britten in Context*, both along with Justin Vickers (Illinois State University), as well as *My Beloved Man: The Letters of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears*, with Nicholas Clark and Jude Brimmer (Britten Pears Arts Archive). She has been commissioned by Cambridge University Press to develop *The Cambridge History of Opera in Britain and Ireland* with co-editors Michael Burden (Oxford University) and Justin Vickers. Her most recent work, which will be published in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society* in early 2027, explores Britten's Englishness as an experience of temporality that is inseparable from place and specifically, landscape as expressed in his songs. She will present the results of her fellowship work at the University's 2026 Drinko Symposium.

Dr. Christopher M. White (2025-2027)



Dr. Christopher M. White earned his Ph.D. in History with a double major in Latin America and U.S. Foreign Policy from the University of Kansas in 2005. His road to higher education began in the U.S. Marines (1994-98), where he earned the GI Bill. He then earned his B.A. in Spanish Education, followed by an M.A. in Latin American Studies, then a Ph.D. in Latin American and U.S. Foreign Policy History. He has been a Professor of History at Marshall since 2006. Dr. White has taught Latin American history, U.S. history, world history, food history, conspiracies in U.S. history, and courses on the War on Drugs and the Global South. He led six educational trips to Latin America between 2007 and 2011, and he has also led the History Department's "Food Past/Food Present" series since its inception in 2019. He received the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism's Outstanding Community Contributor Award, the Marshall University Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award, and a Marshall International Innovation Grant. Dr. White has authored four books, including *Creating a Third World: Mexico, Cuba, and the United States during the Castro Era*, *The History of El Salvador*, *A Global History of the Developing World*, and *The War on Drugs in the Americas*. He is co-editor, with Kevin Barksdale, of *Appalachian Epidemics: From Smallpox to COVID-19* (2024), and the co-editor of *Concealed West Virginia: An Interdisciplinary Study of Campus Carry* (to be released with WVU Press in late 2026). He is also under contract to write a second edition of his *The History of El Salvador*, and he is consulting with the University of Nebraska Press about his ongoing book project on the US-Mexico border. He was recently given a scholarship to study Jewish history and culture in Poland this summer, funded by Classrooms without Borders. He will present the results of his fellowship work at the University's 2027 Drinko Symposium.



Drinko Fellow Dr. Rachael Peckham discussing contemporary literature with creative writing students in 2024.



Paleontologist and Drinko Fellow, Dr. Robin O'Keefe, received his Drinko Medallion in 2013.



Marshall's Fife & Drum Corps was founded by Drinko Fellow Dr. Wendell Dobbs in 2007.



Drinko Fellow Dr. Wendell Dobbs received a Marshall University Distinguished Service Award for 2023-2024. Pictured left to right: Faculty Senate President Dr. Shawn Schulenberg, Dr. Wendell Dobbs, Marshall President Brad Smith, and Associate Provost Dr. Carl Mummert.



Marshall University Quois Pit Cover on Buskirk Field.



Michael Valentine throwing a Quoit at the 2021 Media Quois Challenge.



2025 Open Quois Tournament Champions Kyle Arthur and Cody Mills.



Quois Pitmaster Dr. Clayton Brooks with 2025 Presidential Quois Match winners Kyle Arthur and Cody Mills, Chief Counsel Toney Stroud and President Brad Smith.



2025 Open Quois Tournament Champions Kyle Arthur and Cody Mills with Professor Emeritus of History Dr. Dan Holbrook and Dean Mike Prewitt.



Neely Seams as Women's Suffrage leader Alice Paul



Students participating in a 2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial Driving for Democracy event.



Drinko Fellow Professor Sandra Reed supporting the Facing Hunger Food Bank by purchasing Empty Bowls created by Marshall Art students, faculty, alumni, and other area artists.



Former State Senator Marie Redd speaking to a standing-room-only audience for her 2025 Carter G. Woodson Lecture on the Burlington 37, from whom she is descended.



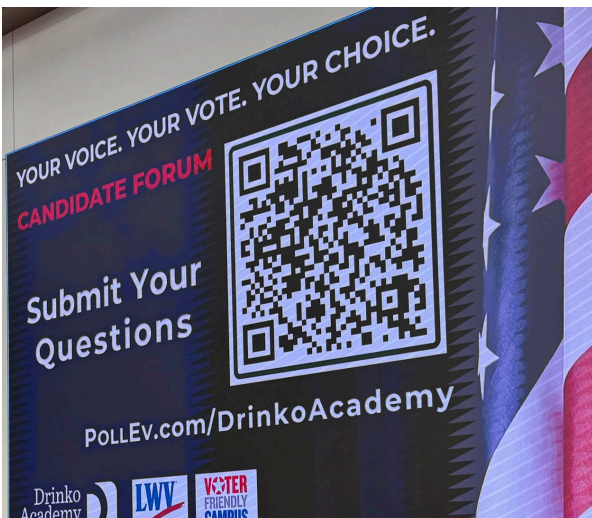
Former State Senator Marie Redd and Drinko Fellow Professor Burnis Morris at the 2025 Carter G. Woodson Lecture.



ACTA Scholars and Voter Friendly Campus Staff Members Reagan Clagg and Quinlin Sollars working Marshall's 2024 Week of Welcome "WOW" Carnival.



Voter Friendly Campus table at our October 2024 Candidate Forum featuring candidates for Mayor of Huntington and Governor of West Virginia.



2024 National Voter Registration Day celebration on the Memorial Student Center Plaza.



ACTA Scholars and Voter Friendly Campus Staff Members Michael Borsuk and Blayde Pinnell at National Voter Registration Day in September 2024.



28th Distinguished Drinko Fellow Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter presenting at the 2025 Drinko Symposium.



Kimberly Drinko Walters and Ursula Drinko exploring a photo display celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the John Deaver Drinko Academy at the 2024 Drinko Symposium.



Drinko Fellow and Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum Director Professor Burnis Morris at the 2026 American Milestone Symposium Luncheon.



30th Distinguished Drinko Fellow Dr. Christopher M. White with Drinko Academy Executive Director Dr. Montserrat Miller at the 2025 Drinko Symposium.



Award-winning Marshall faculty members honored at the 2025 Drinko Symposium.



Drinko Fellows Dr. Mary Beth Reynolds and Dr. Vicki Stroehrer at the 2025 Symposium.

Special thanks to Drinko Academy Program
Coordinator, **Dr. Jennifer Robinette**, Drinko
Academy Student Engagement Coordinator,
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Designer **Steven Schmidt**.



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For more information on the Drinko Academy:

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If you would like to support the Drinko Academy's work at Marshall, please contact the
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