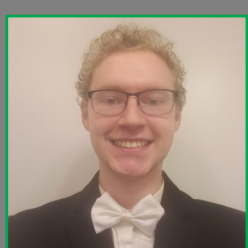


MSFS PROGRAM NEWS

Marshall University Masters of Forensic Science Newsletter

Nicely Scholarship Recipients 2021



Jacob Bennett

2 Students Chosen as Nicely Scholarship Winners for 2021

In February 2012, the Paul H. and Dixie O. Nicely Scholarship was established by Tamela J. White to honor her father and mother and the significant impact they had in the area. This scholarship is awarded to two students annually who must be from West Virginia or a qualified Metro area with high academic performance and financial need. This award money is to be used by the recipients for tuition, books, presentations, and/or projects sponsored by the Forensic Science Graduate program.

The two recipients named for the 2021 award are Jacob Bennett and Shelby Morgan, soon to be graduates of the Class of 2022.



Shelby Morgan

“When I found out I was chosen to receive the Nicely Scholarship I was both surprised and very grateful. The Marshall University School of Forensic Science has always been my dream school, and I worked very hard from a young age to be where I am now. I am honored to have been recognized in this way by a school I feel so passionately about” said Shelby Morgan. Originally from Hurricane, Shelby graduated from Marshall with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Forensic Chemistry with minors in Criminal Justice and Biological Sciences.

The other recipient, Jacob Bennett, spent most of his life in Shady Spring, WV and received his 2 Bachelor’s of Science at Marshall in Digital Forensics/Information Assurance and Biotechnology. Bennet commented, “I was aware of the Nicely Scholarship but had no idea that I qualified. With the current state of college tuition, it was a relief to receive help.” He will be graduating from the MS Forensic Science program in April with emphases in Digital Forensics, DNA Analysis, Crime Scene Investigation, and Forensic Chemistry. Bennett is still looking for opportunities and to build his skillset in either Digital or DNA Forensics. “I’m exceedingly grateful for the assistance from the Nicely family. Without their help, my life would be a good bit more stressful.”

“When I found out I was chosen to receive the Nicely Scholarship I was both surprised and very grateful...”

-Shelby Morgan

UPCOMING EVENTS

College of Science Research Expo	College of Science	April 8	9-11am
MU Research & Creativity Symposium	Main Campus	April 20	TBD
Open House	FSC	April 29	3-5pm
MU Graduation Ceremony	Mnt. Health Arena	April 30	9am
Hooding Ceremony	Don Morris Room	April 30	5-7pm

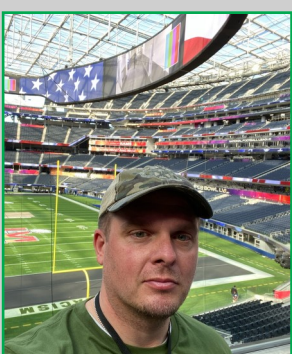
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - JASON BERTY

Jason Berty is a proud and very accomplished graduate of the MS Forensic Science program. Berty graduated with the Class of 2000. Berty is from Southwestern Pennsylvania and attended Wheeling Jesuit University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a minor in Chemistry (a topic that interested him since high school).



“While at MU, I worked on some fire investigations with the Huntington Fire Marshal, some crime scene/death investigations (with the Medical Examiners Office), and interned with the ATF as part of my graduate studies.” While most students are aiming to have a career working in a lab, Berty sought after a career in the field, becoming a Special Agent with The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in 2001.

Berty has had a very exciting career. “I have been stationed in the Louisville Field Division, Charleston WV Field Office, for my entire 20+ year career, which has seen me take on many challenges and types of investigations, to include: outlaw motorcycle gangs, firearms and drug offenders, alcohol and tobacco trafficking cases, arson investigations, and the coup de gras being explosive related events. I became a Certified Explosives Specialist (CES), an ATF collateral duty, in addition to my regular Special Agent duties, that gave me hundreds of hours of additional training in the explosives field, focusing on safe handling, storage, use, transportation, post-blast investigations, and everyone’s favorite, demolition operations. After a few years as a CES, I took on my next challenge and attended the FBI’s Hazardous Devices School and upon graduation, became a full-fledged bomb technician. As 1 of only 50 ATF Special Agent / Certified Explosive Specialist Bomb Technicians in the country, I now primarily focus my attention on ATF’s explosive related missions and am afforded the opportunity to travel the country teaching, training, and protecting the public at numerous high-profile events.” To get a glimpse of his field work, you can see Berty working in his bomb suit and on-duty at the 2022 Superbowl.



When asked, Berty wanted to give the following advice to all current and future students of the MS Forensic Science program at Marshall. “If I can give any advice to current and future alums, I would say, “Set your sights high, and don’t settle for anything less than your dreams!” My dad was a police officer and arson investigator, which got me started in this field, but I never wanted to settle, I always wanted to do more with what God has blessed me with. I am currently working on my PhD in Forensic Science from Oklahoma State University and recently joined ATF’s National Response Team (NRT)(which responds to high-profile fires and explosions like the Austin Bombing Campaign); all while traveling the country, seeing and doing all sorts of crazy things, meeting ordinary people and world leaders, and all because I always wanted more, so I never stopped seeking it!”

What’s New With You?

We would love to share , where you are and what you’re doing or any special events. Send us your info and pictures to: forensics@marshall.edu