

“When I found out that I was receiving scholarships, I felt joy and relief. I remember feeling so proud that all my hard work had paid off. It felt as if it really meant something since I had something to show for it,” said Brianne Covington. “Scholarships mean opportunity. Without my scholarships, I simply wouldn’t be where I am today.”

The recipient of the Promise, Presidential and Intercultural scholarships and the HSTA tuition waver, Brianne will graduate in the spring of 2021 with a psychology degree and minors in criminal justice and French. After graduation, Brianne intends to apply to graduate school and then pursue her doctorate in psychology.

“Once I have completed my schooling, I would like to become a police psychologist, which is a relatively new field that I feel is highly important, especially considering the current state of the American justice system,” said Brianne, who feels there is too much emphasis on the physical aspects over the social aspects of police officer’s daily duties. “I want to be the person who can bridge that gap and give officers the tools that they need to understand themselves as individuals and how they can most efficiently assist all members of the public.”

Originally hoping to pursue law school, Brianne realized her family would not be able to financially assist that dream unless she received aid. When she went with a “more affordable plan,” she realized that she will still be able to advocate for others and is passionate about “educating others about the importance of mental health and promote awareness and understanding.”

Brianne’s favorite thing about Marshall is the diversity. She loves that there are people from many different parts of the country and world who are all united on Marshall’s Huntington campus. Visiting Huntington when she was a high school freshman for the HSTA’s Fun with Science Institute, Brianne recalls campus being arm and welcoming, and she immediately knew she would be a Daughter of Marshall.



## Fun Facts

**Name:** Brianne Covington

**Class of 2021**

**Hometown:** Martinsburg, West Virginia

**Major:** Psychology with minors in Criminal Justice and French

**Favorite color:** It changes from day to day, but it is most frequently pink.

**Textbooks or eBooks:** I prefer e-books because they’re more affordable and easier to work with. However, I don’t think I have the right tools to fully benefit from them, so I usually purchase traditional textbooks.

**Favorite place in Huntington:** Kustom Kreams

“Marshall is an epicenter for knowledge, growth and change in Huntington and the surrounding community. It’s beautiful to see how students come into Marshall to learn and become knowledgeable just to go back out into the community and share that knowledge,” Brianne said.

The Martinsburg, West Virginia, native’s favorite place on campus is Buskirk field. On nice days, Brianne enjoys doing her homework on a picnic blanket underneath the shade trees. Her favorite opportunity presented at Marshall is the one to become a professional.

“Before attending Marshall, I was confident in my ability to excel academically, but I couldn’t see myself as a professional and an expert in my craft. I have had so many opportunities to lead and collaborate with others through being an RA in Buskirk Hall, a member of the Society of Black Scholars and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. I feel confident in my ability to move on after Marshall and become the best person I can and excel in the professional world,” she said.

Staying active in other organizations on campus, Brianne has taken on leadership positions that has allowed her to grow personally and professionally. She serves as the Director of Membership of the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) on campus, an advisory council member of the Society of Black Scholars, vice president of the French Club, the vice president, secretary and membership chair of the Eta Zeta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and recently accepted the West Virginia Undergraduate Cluster Coordination position within the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Facing the challenge of balancing her time and learning to say no, Brianne realizes the importance of self-care and has a goal of trying to take time for herself this year. During the Spring 2020 semester when Marshall’s classes went virtual, Brianne found that she learns best in a classroom setting.

“I have always enjoyed going to class and getting the facetime with my professors and peers. Learning at home is challenging because for me, home is a place of rest. This makes getting work done at home difficult. It makes me feel restless, like I do not have a place to escape the daily stressors that come with college life. This is especially true for me since I live on campus,” she said.

As one who embodies and values empathy and compassion, Brianne hopes to create lasting memories at Marshall. She is most thankful for the confidence she has discovered on her educational journey and is thankful for alumni who give back.

“I believe alumni should give back because so much was given to them initially. It’s only right to invest in the institution that invested in you.”