MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

PARENT AND FAMILY NEWSLETTE

October, 2019

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Marshall University Office of Parent and Family Services



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304/696-2284 <u>Michael Circle</u> Parent and Family

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Meet The Vice President For Student Affairs



Meet the new Vice President for Student Affairs. Some people call him Maurice. Maurice Cooley, also the associate VP of Intercultural Affairs, has taken on a new role of leadership at the University he has dedicated much of his career to serving.

"I have found [Cooley] to be an individual who cares deeply about Marshall University, the colleagues he works with and the students we serve," Marshall Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Jaime Taylor said in a release. "Through his actions he has earned the respect of his colleagues across campus and throughout the community."

A Vietnam veteran, Cooley spent three years in South Korea as a social work-psychology specialist, before returning to Marshall for his M.A. in Counseling. He became director of the Center for African American Students in 2003 and joined the above mentioned Intercultural Affairs office in 2014.

We in Student Affairs are excited to see where Cooley leads the division and how better served our students will be going forward.

Homecoming and Midterms From Michelle Biggs



Dear families,

October is here and the fall semester at Marshall is in full swing! Marshall's campus is beautiful this time of year and so many exciting things are happening, and we want to share them with you to encourage your student to take advantage of each opportunity.

October 21st starts our Homecoming activities and as you can see from this link it is a full week of fun and a chance for our students to show their school spirit! <u>https://www.marshall.edu/homecoming/events/</u>

Other than homecoming we have so many campus and community events our students can take part. We know student success takes place inside and outside the classroom and want our students to get involved! If they have questions about clubs, activities, or campus events they can visit the LEAD Center in the Memorial Student Center's Lower Level. There, our staff in Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student Activities, Leadership and Involvement and Volunteer Services can help them find what is right for them.

Our new Leadership, Engagement, Activities and Development Center was built on the idea that student success comes from all areas of growth, including involvement and community service. We have more than 150 student-run organizations and our Office of Community Engagement offers a plethora of opportunities to instill a sense of community in our students

Now we know that October brings fun with football games, Homecoming, and all the other activities on campus and around. But, October also brings midterms and this is the time our students need to practice time management and really use the resources Marshall offers. Whether it is tutoring, the Writing Center, or a session with our Student Advocacy Office, we can help our students succeed. This newsletter will help you learn more ways to help students be successful academically and we want you to pass this along to our students!

Remember Student Affairs is here to help our students navigate Marshall University and we are a resource for our students and you.

Go Herd! Michelle Biggs Academic Calendar

October 14, Monday 2nd 8 weeks courses begin

October 28, Monday

Students should schedule appointments with advisors to prepare for advance registration. (Required for students who have mandatory advising holds)

October 25, Friday

Last day to drop a full semester individual course

October 28, Monday

Recommended date to apply for May 2020 graduation

October 28, Monday – December 6, Friday Complete withdrawals only





Homecoming 2019 Schedule of Events

UNITY WALK, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21 - 4 P.M.

All students, teams, organizations, residence halls, faculty, staff and community members are invited to walk the campus perimeter and show their Marshall pride! The Marshall community will gather at 4 p.m. at the Rec Center.

Herd Madness, Tuesday, October 22 - 7 p.m.

Marshall athletics will host "Herd Madness" – a celebration of the start of basketball season– inside the Henderson Center. The annual evening of hoops is FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m., and those in attendance will see a showcase of the programs with team introductions, a 3-point competition, two-ball competition and dunk contest. The night will conclude with an autograph session.

Marshall Homecoming Parade, Thursday, October 24 <u>6:30 p.m</u>.

Join us in a celebration of Marshall University during the annual Homecoming Parade! Floats, marching bands and everything you love about parades will fill the air.

PEP RALLY AND BONFIRE, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 7:30P.M.

Immediately following parade

A new tradition! The Marshall Community is invited to enjoy a pep rally and bonfire following the parade with entertainment and activities featuring university coaches and team members! The Bon Fire will take place on Harless Field immediately following the homecoming parade.

PICNIC ON THE PLAZA. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 11:30 A.M.

Marshall's largest and most exciting on-campus Homecoming party returns to the Memorial Student Center Plaza! The Marshall University Alumni Association will be throwing a party with free food, drinks, music, games and lots of fun for students, faculty and alumni!

Towers is turning 50!, Friday, October 25 - 2 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the Towers residence halls turning 50! Enjoy cake, light refreshments, and the opportunity to see how the Towers you know and love has been updated over the last couple of years.

Homecoming Pride Gala, Friday, October 25 7:00 p.m.

The 2nd annual Homecoming Pride Gala will kick off Homecoming Weekend from 7 to 11:30 p.m., Friday, October 25 in the university's Don Morris Room. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Marshall University Student Scholarship for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. We invite you to join us in making a difference.

Homecoming 5K, Saturday, October 26 - 8:00 A.M.

Students, faculty, alumni and Marshall University supporters come together for a run on a run around campus with multiple age groups and prizes. Registration and additional information will be available at HerdAlum.com.

Alumni Tailgate, Saturday, October 26-11 A.M.

The Marshall Family Tailgate brings together the entire Marshall community, from students to alumni. Food, drinks, music and fun on the field beside Harless Dining Hall with a number of special guests all leading up to the big game! Special to this year, the MUAA will be recognizing the reunion classes during the tailgate festivities. Get your tickets today for just \$10 at HerdAlum.com.

Marshall University Homecoming Game Saturday, October 26 - 2:30 p.m.

Watch as the Thundering Herd battlesWestern Kentucky in a crucial Conference USA showdown.



To Withdraw Or Not To Withdraw

S tudents may confront an especially difficult course at any point in college. They may have seen it coming, or may be taken by surprise — often around midterms. There it is. A low grade. Or maybe more than one.

As a parent, you want to help. But, as with so many things on the college journey, your student needs to own the situation and decide how to approach the rest of the semester.

You can help your student make an informed choice.

Start by helping them keep things in perspective. Midterm grades come at the midpoint of the semester, but not necessarily at the midpoint in the work of the course. There may be more graded work in the second half of the semester than in the first which gives your student time to raise their grade.

Remember, too — if there is only one low grade, this is one course in one semester of a four-year college program, possibly a bump in the road rather than a crisis.

With this in mind, it's crucial that your student be realistic. Can they make sufficient changes to turn things around? Does the math support the idea that improvement in the second half of the semester will change the outcome of the class?

It isn't enough to want to do better or hope that things will improve. Your student needs a plan.

There are options.

Option #1 - Withdraw from the class.

Withdrawing is not the same thing as dropping a class early in the semester. When a student drops a class, it disappears from their schedule. After the "drop/add" period, a student may still have the option to Withdraw. Withdrawal usually means the course remains on the transcript with a "W" as a grade. It does not affect the student's GPA (grade point average).

Although students may be reluctant to have a "W" on their transcript, sometimes "W" stands for Wisdom. Withdrawing from one class may make success in other classes manageable and allow your student to end the semester with a strong GPA.

Each school has different rules for withdrawing from a class, and deadlines vary from the third to the 10th week of the semester. At some schools, students must be passing a course in order to withdraw. Your student needs to investigate. The decision to withdraw should not be made lightly, but it may be the right move.

Option #2 - Forge ahead with the class.

A second option is to remain in the class and commit to making a change in the second half of the semester. For

many students the difference can be using the support services offered by the college.

Most schools have academic support or tutoring centers and most tutoring services are free to students. Tutoring provides your student with individualized attention as well as extra structure and accountability for meetings and deadlines.

Some tutoring centers are staffed by peer tutors students with strengths in subject areas hired to work with other students. You may wonder if working with another student is as effective as working with a professional tutor, but peer tutoring has advantages. Peer tutors have often weathered similar struggles and can identify with your student's difficulties. Your student may be more comfortable with someone their own age; they speak the same language. Peer tutors can serve as role models and offer social as well as academic support.

What does your student need to know and who should they talk to?

Before your student decides, they should gather information from several sources:

1) Talk to the professor. What do they need to do to improve? What are the chances of passing? What is the best grade they can hope for?

2) Talk to their advisor. What is the deadline for withdrawing from a class? Is this still an option? What is the school's policy on retaking a failed course if the student decides to remain in the course but eventually fails? How might they make up credits? What happens if the student's final GPA is low?

3)Visit the tutoring center. How often can they meet with a tutor?

4) Talk to the Financial Aid Office. Will withdrawing from or failing a course affect financial aid? Talk to the Housing Office. Get information about credit minimums for housing.

5) Visit the Counseling Center for support if they are experiencing anxiety or stress.

TIME TO TAKE ACTION.

Your student has gathered the necessary information. They are comfortable with their decision and committed to making it work.

If they decide to withdraw, they should do so quickly and then turn attention and energy to remaining classes. If the deadline for withdrawing has passed, but your student has determined that they cannot pass the course, they will need to let the class go and work on other courses.

Writer Vicki Nelson has more than thirty-five years of experience in higher education as a professor, academic advisor and administrator. She also has weathered the college parenting experience successfully with three daughters. She began her website, College Parent Central, to help college parents achieve the delicate balance of support, guidance, appropriate involvement, and knowing when to get out of the way.

Student Affairs Showcase Part Two

While many of our offices are in the Memorial Student Center, the Division of Student Affairs hosts a multitude of services and resources across Marshall University's campus. From counseling to being engaged in the community, Student Affairs has it all! Everything your student need outside of the classroom to help them succeed IN the class room and more is right at their fingertips through the offices of the Division of Student Affairs.

Read on to learn more about our services and how you can help our students get the most out of their college education.

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS – The Military & Veteran's Affairs Office's Mission Statement is: To ensure that our active duty military and veteran men and women have the services and resources needed to achieve their academic goals at Marshall. Services are offered for students now serving in the military or who are veterans. Assistance is available in applying for benefits, referrals to academic support services when needed, a veteran's lounge, and services through the Marshall Counseling Center. A lounge is available for veterans, active military, and dependents/spouses. The lounge has three computers, new recliners, a sofa, refrigerator, and televisions where students can play video games, watch TV, or sit quietly and read if they prefer.

Website: www.marshall.edu/military

Contact: Jonathan McCormick, mccormick33@mar-shall.edu,

or 304-696-5278, Office of the Registrar Lora Varney, VA Certification Specialist, 304-696-2254 Location: Gullickson Hall Room 211 Hours: 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.



OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICE – Services are available for all students with disabilities at the University, whether they are full- or part-time students. Students are required to provide documentation of the disability. The program staff will work with students to individualize the type and level of services provided.

Website: www.marshall.edu/disability Contact: Stephanie Ballou, 304-696-2467 Location: Prichard Hall, Room 117 Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT – Marshall University expects all members of its community to act in respectful and responsible ways towards one another. MU is committed to providing programs, activities and an educational environment free from discrimination and harassment of any kind. The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities reflects these expectations and standards. This code and student judicial system are founded on principles of fairness and due process. The form to file a general complaint against a student or student organization can be found on the above website. If you have an emergency, call MUPD, 911, or 3041-696-HELP.

Website: www.marshall.edu/student-conduct Contact: Lisa Martin, martil@marshall.edu, 304-696-2495

Location: Memorial Student Center, Suite 2W29A Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES – The Office of Student Activities is the point of contact for all students who wish to be involved. Student Activities envisions an active, engaged student community that develops leaders, builds strong friendships, embraces service to others, and exemplifies a respect for diversity.

Website: www.marshall.edu/student-activities Contact: Dakota Maddox, d.maddox@Marshall.edu, 304-696-2262 Location: Memorial Student Center Lower Level The Lead Center

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tips to Tackle Midterm Stress

1. Encourage them to start now! Students need to develop a study plan and outline for their exams with key points and deadlines. This can also help alleviate stress so they are not cramming the night before.

2. Find their perfect study space. Some students like music or some need total silence. Students can reserve study rooms in the Drinko Library to help them have a quiet place to study. Also, step away from the cell phone! We all know how distracting cell phones can be. Encourage your student to turn it off when they are studying and really need to focus.

3. Connect with professors. Students should visit professors during office hours to get tips and assistance on anything they are not understanding.

4. Study groups, tutoring, and more! Students really need to take advantage of the resources we have available for their academic success.

5. Take a break. Rest, eating healthy, and getting exercise is extremely important during midterms. Students might want to stress eat, but eating "brain food" snacks and having regular meals will produce better results. Also, stepping away from studying, taking a walk, using the Rec Center, taking a break with friends can help students come back to studying with a fresh perspective.

These are just a few tips to help your student ace their midterms. Anytime a student needs assistance or just wants information they can contact our Student Advocate and Success Specialist at miller138@marshall.edu for more tips.

5 Ways to Get the Most Out of Academic Advising

1. Schedule an appointment. Students should have had their advising appointment before the end of October.

2. Show up a few minutes early. Advisors are very busy during advising season and showing up a few minutes early shows respect and can also help students get the most of their time.

3. Do research. Students can go into their myMU to look at classes to add or go to www. marshall.edu/registrar to see the classes available for Spring 2019.

4. Be prepared. Come with a list of classes to discuss with their advisor. Utilize Degree Works which has a check list

5. Ask questions! We want our students to get the most of their education and advising appointments. Students should ask questions about the classes they will be taking to make sure they are successful.



Tutoring Center Hours Monday-Thursday: 8am-7pm Friday: 8am-5pm

Library Hours Drinko Study Center: Monday-Thursday-24 Hours Friday-until 6pm Saturday-10am-6pm Sunday-Opens at 1pm

Excused Absences Now ONLINE!



As our Chief of Police on campus, Jim Terry, always says, "We are a microcosm of s ociety," a statement truly depicting life on all higher education campuses. The truth of this statement extends to many aspects of living on college grounds, including illness! We all get sick and when

that happens, all we truly want is to lay in bed, binge watch Parks and Recreation and eat/drink hot soup.

While that is "all well and good", it is important to know that if students miss class due to illness or other medical emergency, they must provide a doctor's note to their professors to be excused from class. Students can visit Marshall Student Health at Cabell Huntington Hospital or their preferred healthcare provider, as long as they have documentation.

Now here is the good part: Even though they had to leave the safety and comfort of their dorm/apartment/home to go to the doctor, they do not have to burden themselves with visiting the professor or Student Affairs the same day! As a matter of fact, we'd kinda prefer them not ;)

Requests for University Excused Absence may be made using our online form at www.marshall.edu/student-affairs! There, they can tell us why they we absent and even upload a photo of their doctor's note or any other documentation they may need to be reviewed! If students have only

missed one or two meetings of the same class in a week, they can wait until the next time they are in class and give the documentation to their professor. If they miss three meetings (or a whole week of class), they must turn it in online to the Office of Student Affairs using the URL above.



For more on the Excused Absence Policy, please visit www.marshall. edu/catalog.

Residence Hall Care Packages

A little encouragement can go a long way and with Care Packages through Our Campus Market, you can help your student through the gifts of food, stress relief and love.

Parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts and uncles can all send a care package to their student by visiting marshall.edu/parents and clicking the Care Package Program link to the right. If your student lives on campus, you will be sent a letter that you can personalize and send back along with the care package of your choice. Packages range from Energy Kits, Stress Busters, gluten free and nut-allergy assortments and more!

"Our students can get lonely sometimes and hearing from a loved one at home or receiving a care package can show them they have the support needed to succeed," Resident Life Specialist Tracey Eggleston said. "It really brightens their day to get a little love from home and some encouragement from the sender."

All of the proceeds from these care packages are put back into the residence hall leadership programs, and give our students a chance to go to leadership conferences and create larger-scale programs for residence hall tenants.

"And it's easy," Eggleston said. "It takes out the need to do the shopping and go to the post office. Simply fill out the card, stamp it and send it back. We'll handle the rest."

For more on our care package programs, visit www.marshall.edu/parents.



Office of Study Abroad



GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) has arrived at Marshall University! GEAR UP is a competitive federal grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Education that seeks to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education programs from targeted areas.

This program serves 2019 high school graduates throughout their first year at Marshall University if they graduated from one of eighteen high schools whose students met the criteria for services. If your student graduated from Van, Meadow Bridge, Midland Trail, Oak Hill, Valley, Hannan, Point Pleasant, Wahama, Bluefield, Montcalm, Mingo Central, Tug Valley, Nicholas County, Richwood, Summers County, Wirt County, Webster County, or Westside high school they will automatically be eligible and offered services through the GEAR UP program.

Services from the GEAR UP program will be provided during freshman first-year transitions to ensure that students are building a supportive foundation for success during their college transition. Students will be asked to meet with our GEAR UP Director to complete an Individual Success Plan (ISP), check-in at midterms for referrals to on and off campus resources, attend workshops with information about popular topics that students struggle with, and GEAR UP even provides some services and engagement activities for parents!

As we begin the 2019-2020 academic year, we ask that you reach out to your student if they are GEAR UP eligible and encourage them to participate in this program. We hope that parents will lead the way by becoming engaged with and supportive of their student's educational experience.

For questions about this program, contact Jennifer Henning Director of GEAR UP at henning@marshall.edu or by phone at (304) 696-5727.

Japan, England, France, Spain...All of these and mroe ar within your child's reach through the Office of Study Abroad!



<u>Eligibility</u>

You must complete your first two semesters of university to participate in a study abroad program.

You must have at least a 2.50 overall/cumulative GPA as well as at least 2.50 GPA earned at Marshall University (if a transfer student).

Students on academic or disciplinary probation or suspension are not eligible for study abroad. Arrange to speak with your academic advisor to find out how study abroad fits into your academic program at Marshall.

Make an appointment to meet with the Office of Study Abroad or stop by the office, Old Main 102. Office hours are 8am to 4pm, Monday – Friday.

It is also highly recommended that you meet with the Financial Aid Office to discuss how your aid can be applied to your study abroad program and so you can plan to search for scholarships.

If you do not have your passport, you should apply for it well in advance. It can take 6 to 8 weeks to receive your passport. For more information and to apply for a passport you can go to the website here. You can submit your application to any US Post Office.

Application deadlines vary by program. It is important for you to check with your program and know your deadline. It is your responsibility to submit your application and materials on time. In most instances, applications are accepted after deadlines provided space is still available.

Athletic Schedules



Football

Oct 18 - @ Florida Atlantic, Boca Raton - 6:30 pm Oct 26 - vs Western Kentucky, Huntington - 2:30 pm Nov 2 - @ Rice, Houston - 3:30 pm Nov 15 - vs LA Tech, Huntington - 7:00 pm Nov 23 - @ UNCC, Charlotte - 3:30 pm Nov 30 - vs Florida International, Huntington - Noon

Men's Soccer

Oct 18 - @ San Diego State, San Diego - 10:00 pm Oct 22 - @ Wright State, Dayton - 7:00 pm Oct 26 - @ Florida Atlantic, Boca Raton - 7:00 pm Oct 29 - @ Oakland, Rochester, MI - 7:00 pm Nov 3 - vs University of Kentucky, Huntington - 3:00 pm Nov 8 - @ Florida International, Miami, 7:00 pm

Women's Soccer

Oct 18 - @ Rice, Houston - 7:00 pm Oct 20 - @ North Texas, Denton - Noon Oct 27 - @ LA Tech, Ruston - Noon Nov 1 - vs Western Kentucky, Huntington- 7:00 pm

VISIT WWW.HERDZONE.COM FOR MORE ON MARSHALL UNIVERSITY THUNDERING HERD ATHLETICS

Men's Basketball

Oct 22 - Herd Madness, Huntington - 7:00 pm Oct 29 - vs Glenville State, Huntington - 6:00 pm Nov 2 - vs Rio Grande, Huntington - 1:00 pm Nov 7 - vs Robert Morris, Huntington - 7:00 pm Nov 10 - vs Toledo, Huntington - 2:00 pm Nov 15 - @ Notre Dame, South Bend - 7:00 pm

Wommen's Basketball

Nov 5 - vs Kentucky Christian, Huntington - 6:00 pm Nov 9 - vs Norfolk State, Huntington - 1:00 pm Nov 13 - @ Ohio Univeristy, Athens - TBA Nov 19 - vs Coppin State, Huntington - 11:00 am Nov 21 - vs Morgan State, Huntington - 5:00 pm Nov 24 - @ University of Evansville, IN - 2:00 pm



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY What is Student Advocacy and Success?

Staff within the Office of Advocacy and Success are committed to helping you and your student navigate Marshall University. We care, we advocate, and we can refer students to campus and community partners. We want to help students succeed in class and life. We encourage students to maximize their educational experience, and we prepare them for involvement in the larger community and life beyond college. Additionally, we aim to empower students to overcome obstacles and to assist in resolving issues.

Location and Contact Information

Room 2W31 Memorial Student Center 304-696-2284 advocacy@marshall.edu

How can the Office of Advocacy and Success help students and families?

Simply, we want students to feel encouraged to self-ad vocate, to aim for success, and to follow through with their pursuit of a degree. We'll work with you and your family, as well as campus and community partners, faculty, and staff to assist in meeting and achieving personal, academic, and professional goals by:

- Providing support and guidance for academic and personal success
- Connect students with appropriate campus and community resources
- Serve as a connection & liaison to professors
- Assist with short-term & long-term goal setting
- Helping with steps for academic appeals
- Assisting with process of appealing Student Conduct decisions
- Providing accountability plans to ensure academic success
- Serving as the contact and process University Excused Absences
- Process medical withdrawals
- Provide programming to help with transitioning to college and throughout the collegiate experience
- Primary contact for commuter & transfer students for campus & community resources
- Work with families to support the student and family throughout the collegiate experience
- Primary contact for parent and family services programs

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MARSHALL UNIVERSITY **Division of Student Affairs**

Division of Student Affairs	304-696-6422
LEAD Center	304-696-6776
Military and Veterans Affairs	304-696-5278
MU Wellness	304-696-4800
Fraternity and Sorority Life	304-696-6775
Advocacy and Success	304-696-2284
Student Conduct	304-696-2495
Community Engagement	304-696-3546
Disability Services	304-696-2467
Student Activities	304-696-2262
Student Counseling Center	304-696-3111
Student Health Services	304-691-1100
Student Involvement & Leadership	304-696-2283
Women and Gender Programs	304-696-3112

Join our Facebook "Marshall University Parents" group today!

marshall.edu/parents | 304-696-6833

