

KUDOS FOR COLA

A SHOUT OUT TO THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

STUDENT SUCCESS

The Thundering Word Speech & Debate team had an outstanding record under first year coach Dennis Taylor. The squad attended two national championship tournaments in April, finishing 10th in the nation in Division II at the National Forensics Association national championship tournament. Four students competed in the NFA tournament this year: **George Urling** (Senior, Cybersecurity), **Grace Stowers** (Sophomore, Political Science), **Matthew Lebo** (Senior, History), and **Gabe Corbin** (Junior, Biochemistry). Earlier in April, Urling tied for the national championship in Communication Analysis at the Pi Kappa Delta national tournament.



TYLER FARLEY

Tyler Farley, double major in International Affairs and Economics, has been named a Gilman Scholar. This US State Department scholarship program supports students

in study abroad programs and international internships. Students in the program gain professional skills, language abilities, and knowledge of the world needed for successful careers.

Alexis Campbell, History major, presented work at the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. Alexis' historical research traces three periods of Marshall College history, focusing on how the curriculum at the institutions was shaped by economic and political forces in the first century of Marshall's history.

**Congratulations to our
2024 COLA Graduates!**

FACULTY AWARDS



DR. ZELI RIVAS

with students in Modern Languages, as her work in global education at Marshall, earned her recognition as one of the best university professors in the state.



DR. LAURA MICHELE DIENER

The **Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award** went to **Dr. Laura Michele Diener**, History associate professor, for her innovating teaching in ancient and medieval history. The award rewards outstanding work in the classroom and in research.

Dr. Andrew Morelock, assistant professor of Political Science, and **Dr. Julie Snyder-Yuly**, assistant professor of Communication Studies, earned two of three **Pickens-Queen Teacher awards**. The Pickens-Queen award recognizes junior faculty members who exemplify outstanding teaching.



DR. MEGHAN HANCOCK

Dr. Meghan Hancock, assistant professor of English, was named the **Hedrick Faculty Teaching Fellow** for 2024-2025. Hedrick Fellows create a teaching/learning project, lead a faculty learning community, and train faculty members to assign and assess high-impact practices.

Dr. Zeli Rivas, professor of Japanese, was a **finalist for the West Virginia Teacher of the Year** award, sponsored by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia. Dr. Rivas' work

with students in Modern Languages, as her work in global education at Marshall, earned her recognition as one of the best university professors in the state.

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DONOR APPRECIATION

In 1972 **William J. Maier** established the Maier Writing Awards program to encourage and reward excellent writing for students at all levels, including in the first-year composition course. In 1979, Mr. Maier established the Maier Latin Cup award program to honor his high school Latin teacher and encourage the study of Latin. Mr. Maier's family and the Maier Foundation have funded cash awards for high school Latin students and Marshall University writing students for over 50 years. We are profoundly grateful to the Maier family for their support of West Virginia's students.

ALUMNI SUCCESS



BILL DODSON

Bill Dodson was honored with the College of Liberal Arts Award of Distinction for 2024 at the annual Alumni Awards banquet. Bill earned a BA in Sociology from Marshall

University in 1973 and an MPA from Ohio State. While at Marshall he worked to establish a Black Student Center and the Black United Students group.

He worked with community organizations while at Marshall, including the Special Olympics, Jaycees, and Kiwanis. After graduation he worked in personnel and affirmative action, promoting jobs for veterans and underprivileged youth. Throughout his career, he advanced community action, housing initiatives, and community block grant projects around Columbus, OH. Bill's community service also includes service on the boards of a dozen community service agencies.

Bill was instrumental in founding Rhema Christian Center, where he has served as VP and executive Director of the Dayspring Christian Community Development Corporation for the past 30 years.

Bill Dodson exemplifies the values of the College of Liberal Arts. His influence and advocacy have left an imprint on his family, his profession, his community, and his church.

**Send news about your lives
and your successes to
cola@marshall.edu**

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