



ISSUE ONE | FEBRUARY 2024



**Congrats class of 2023!**



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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

**RICHARD G. JONES, JR., PH.D.**

**Professor and Chair**

Now in my eighth month at Marshall, I'm settled in and excited to be part of a new community and work with amazing students and colleagues. I'm originally from North Carolina (born and raised just 5 hours from Huntington), and came to Marshall after 13 years at Eastern Illinois University. It feels like a homecoming of sorts to be back in the Appalachian Mountains, which were a formative part of my young life. Academically, I look forward to continuing my scholarship in the areas of interpersonal communication, communication pedagogy, and culture/identity.

One of my strategic priorities for this year was to improve our external communication, and this is a product of that effort. You can expect a newsletter every semester with updates and news. Please reach out anytime! Thanks, Rich



Contact me anytime:

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**GO HERD!**



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# Strategic Planning Underway

As the landscape of higher education is changing, CMM is strategizing for success.

We are working to align ourselves with the “**Marshall For All, Marshall Forever**” strategic vision of the University and the recently shared strategic plan of Academic Affairs. Being adaptable and agile as a department will help us maintain the foundation of our discipline and make innovative curricular changes that highlight our continued relevance. Our strategic plan isn’t complete, but we want to share some of our progress and welcome any feedback.

**Draft Mission Statement:** To shape the communication leaders of tomorrow by empowering students for success through effective and ethical communication.

**Draft Values:**

- Communication Competence
- Ethical Communication
- Academic Excellence
- Connecting Theory & Practice
- Critical Thinking & Inquiry
- Creativity & Collaboration

# ALUMNI, LET YOUR VOICE BE HERD!

We want to know how you’re doing and what you’re up to.

Please send us any news, announcements, or updates so we can share!

[jonesri@marshall.edu](mailto:jonesri@marshall.edu)

## Priorities Identified

- Enhancing curriculum
- Strengthening partnerships
- Increasing enrollment

## Scholarships Awarded for 23-24

- Ida Burks Wilson Broh - John-Ryan W. Rodriguez
- John Womack Memorial Scholarship, Christopher M. Wilson
- The Downey Family Scholarship, Madaline R. Bailey
- Dr. Dorothy R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship
  - Kristen N. Calvert
  - John-Ryan W. Rodriguez
  - Justin G. Tackett
  - Alyssa E. Tygart
  - Christopher M. Wilson

## JOHN MARSHALL LEADERSHIP FELLOWS



Congratulations to **Dr. Clinton Brown** (center) who was selected as a member of this year's John Marshall Leadership Fellows cohort. Pictured are: First Lady of Marshall, Alys Smith; Chair of Communication Studies, Dr. Rich Jones; assistant professors, Dr. Clinton Brown and Dr. Julie Snyder Yuly; and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dr. Robert Bookwalter at the reception for the John Marshall Leadership Fellows induction program. Dr. Bookwalter and Dr. Snyder-Yuly serve as two of the facilitators of the fellows program. Dr. Jill Cornelius Underhill was inducted in 2020.



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# COMMUNICATION RESEARCH IN ACTION!



## FALL 2023 WAS A BUSY SEMESTER FOR FACULTY AND STUDENT CMM SCHOLARS

Communication Studies was well represented at the 2023 **National Communication Association Annual Convention** in National Harbor, MD. This year's theme, Freedom, encouraged participants to think about human communication's role in our understanding of what it means to be free.

- Undergraduate student **Abigail Cunningham** presented her research "Freedom and False Consciousness in Don't Worry Darling" during a scholar-to-scholar poster presentation session.
- Graduate student **Jack Cross** represented the Marshall University Thundering Word.
- **Dr. Molly Mao** participated and networked with organizational communication and health communication scholars.
- **Dr. Stephen Underhill** presented his research during the "The Past as Future: Freeing Public Address through Rhetorical History" panel.
- **Dr. Jill Underhill** served as the Chair of the Disabilities Issues Caucus, and presented her work during the "Freedom from Restrictions: Addressing Accommodations in the Introductory Communication Course and Beyond" panel.
- Assistant Professor **Dr. Clinton Brown** recently presented his research titled, "Type II Diabetic Patient Exercise and Diet Adherence: A National Sample Comparing Rural and Urbana Communities" at the **International Conference on Communication in Healthcare** in San Juan Puerto Rico in October 2023. This conference brings together leading academic researchers, healthcare practitioners, and global policy makers to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns in the field of Communication in Healthcare.



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# NEWS FROM THE THUNDERING WORD

## International Travel to Tokyo

The 2023 team, pictured below with the Marshall flag, traveled to **Tokyo** for the International Forensics Association Tournament. The travel was supported by the College of Liberal Arts (thank you Dean Bookwalter) and private donations to the Marshall University Foundation.

George Urling, from Midkiff, WV, earned 2nd place in Visual Communication and Grace Stowers of Huntington earned 1st place in Audio Communication.



The Department and Thundering Word team send a big thank you to **Dennis Taylor** for stepping into the role of Head Coach and the Director of Forensics. Dennis, a long time fixture in and supporter of the Team, has done an amazing job. A big thanks as well to Nancy Jackson (Assistant Director) and Jack Cross (Graduate Assistant).



## "THE WINNINGIST TEAM AT MARSHALL"

### IN MEMORIAM



The passing of Clara Adkins in May of 2023 was a deep loss for the entire speech and debate community. Clara, a graduate of Marshall, became the Director of the Thundering Word in 2016 and led the team to WV state championships, nationals, and more. She is dearly missed.

### LIFE ON THE ROAD

The team has been very active! Here are just some of the highlights from Fall 2023:

- Lincoln-Douglas at Western Kentucky
- James Madison Swing
- George Mason Swing
- West Chester University Mystic
- Bradley University Norton
- Illinois State University Red Bird
- Bowling Green State University Falcon



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