

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JULY 28, 2000

Artists Series Announced for '00-'01

It's being called an Arts Odyssey with something on tap for everyone, running the gamut from a rock 'n' roll inventor and innovator, to opera in a grand style. And along the way, there will be an event to fit every taste, according to organizers of the 2000-01 Marshall Artist Series

The sixty-four year old series will open September 21 when rock and roll legend Little Richard takes the stage. After exploding onto the music scene in the mid-50's, the rock and roll superstar went on to establish a new musical form with hits such as "Long Tall Sally," "Tutti Frutti," and "Good Golly Miss Molly." The concert will be sponsored by the Chapman Printing Company.

An epic battle between good and evil will be brought to Huntington with "Jekyll & Hyde—the Broadway Musical" with its haunting music, scheduled for October 5.

"Steel Pier", which taps the nostalgia of the 1930's with its dreamy music and romantic tales will be performed October 25.

Just in time for the presidential elections, "Capitol Steps," a troupe which specializes in biting political humor, is set for November 1. It is being sponsored in part by Strictly Business Computer Systems.

"Christmas From the Heart," fresh from Broadway and featuring Kenny Rogers, will be performed December 12. The show will include both traditional and new music and features lavish sets, special lighting, a large choir, and a full cast of children. It is being sponsored by Bank One and Genesis Healthcare.

A live-action celebration featuring amazing illusions gathered from the four corners of the globe will be presented when "The Stars of Magic" featuring a cast of award-winning illusionists will appear for three performances on January 19-20.

A tribute to legendary showman, Cab Calloway, known as the "Hi De Ho" man, features his daughter, Chris Calloway on vocals, as well as the Hi-De-Ho orchestra and dancers.

Another beloved Broadway and Hollywood musical, "Annie," will be in Huntington March 7. Winner of seven Tony Awards, "Annie" features a cast of endearing urchins and some of Broadway's most memorable tunes.

A larger-than-life tale of love and betrayal during Egyptian times, "Aida," a lavish, full-scale operatic production, will be presented April 2. The opera is performed in Italian with projected English subtitles and is considered a modern-day link with ancient myths and Greek drama.

"Quartetto Gelato," hailed as one of the hottest classical groups to come out of Canada, has been performing in the U.S. since 1994. Like their Italian name, "the ice

cream quartet" offers a variety of flavor and colors to music lovers. They will be performing on April 26.

A perennial favorite, the International Film Festival, which includes award winning and critically acclaimed films from around the globe returns for both a fall and spring festival. The Fall International Film Festival runs October 13-19 and the Spring festival runs from February 9-15.

Most Artists Series performances are held in the Keith-Albee Theatre in downtown Huntington, with the exception of "Stars of Magic," which will be held in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, and the Kenny Rogers

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New Provost of MCTC Appointed

Dr. Vicki L. Riley is the new provost for the MU Community and Technical College, effective August 14, according to an announcement by President Dan Angel. She succeeds Dr. Robert B. Hayes, former MU president who has been serving as the interim provost for the MCTC since 1999.

Riley, a native of Lexington, Va., who has 16 years of experience in community and technical colleges, has served as provost at Fairmont State for the past five years. She spent 11 years in the Virginia system, including tenures at Dabney-Lancaster Community College and Blue Ridge Community College. She attended Berea College and earned degrees from James Madison University and the University of Virginia.

"Specifically she has thorough knowledge of West Virginia and its legislative efforts to develop a comprehensive community and technical college system," Angel said. "The Marshall University Community and Technical College is ready to move to the next level of service and Dr. Riley is the leader who can make it happen."

Dr. Sarah N. Denman, MU Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, headed the nationwide search.

"We are extremely pleased to have found such a strong candidate who can run a progressive community and technical college and fully appreciate the complexity of the state's education and economic climate," Denman said. "Dr. Riley has the credentials, experience and personality to attain the results our region needs—she is the right person."

Division of Continuing Education Announces August Classes

An array of classes, ranging from photography to grant proposal writing, will be offered this summer by the Division of Continuing Education and Economic Development, Marshall Community and Technical College. All classes will be held in Cabell Hall 101.

For shutterbugs, basic photography will be available on Thursdays, August 17-September 21 from 6-8 p.m. Advanced photography is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16-September 20, 6-8 p.m. Jan Witter will be the instructor for both classes. The fee is \$49 for each class.

Knitting will be taught by Joyce Clark on Tuesdays, August 22-September 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$69.

Grant Proposal Writing is slated for Mondays, August 14-28 from 5-8:30 p.m. (The August 28 class will run from 5 p.m to 8 p.m.) It will be taught by Dr. Howard R.D. Gordon. The fee is \$99.

Potential home buyers can sign up for the a one-day Home Buyers Seminar, taught by Max Ferguson on Saturday, August 12 from 10 a.m to noon. The cost is \$20.

Registrations can be mailed to the Division of Continuing Education and Economic Development, faxed to 696-3011; or e-mailed to www.marshall.edu/contedu/. For additional information, call ext. 6855 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Next Issue

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of August 11, 2000. Deadline is August 4. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to pdickson@marshall.edu.

Early Education Center Expands Preschool Enrollment

Marshall University's Early Education Center has expanded its preschool program making more enrollment spots available in the afternoon session for the fall semester.

Children who turn three by December 31 and have not yet attended kindergarten are eligible to enroll, according to Dr. Mary Jo Graham, advisor for the center. Designed to promote the development of the whole child, the program offers children a variety of art, music, literature, construction, drama and movement experiences.

The 14-week afternoon session begins Monday, August 21 and is conducted on Mondays through Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Each session follows a regular schedule that includes an indoor center time; an outdoor center time; group activities; nutritious snacks and walking field trips.

"The purpose of the Early Education Center is to provide children with a high quality child centered experience that promotes the development of social skills, communication abilities, thinking processes, feelings of competence and worth and self-management control," Graham said. "The program also provides MU students majoring in Early Childhood Education and Family and Consumer Sciences with the opportunity for observing the development of preschool children."

The Center is part of the Family and Consumer Sciences Department under the College of Education and Human Services. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Graham at ext. 3199.

We Are...Marshall!

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Send story ideas to Pat Dickson, Editor, *We Are...Marshall!*, 110 Administration Building, South Charleston Campus, or send by e-mail to pdickson@marshall.edu.



Card of Thanks

I'd like to thank Mack Gillenwater, the University Functions Committee, and the Marshall University Community for the flowers and cards they sent after my recent close encounter with the criminal kind.

The cards and flowers were deeply appreciated. Thank you.

Steve Shuklian

Profile: James Morris-Smith

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



*James
Morris-Smith*

Frisky Old Main squirrels occasionally pelted performers with walnuts, the bats sometimes divebombed earnest musicians in the midst of a recital, and a woman playing Dolly Levi once fell off the stage into the orchestra pit.

But it's all in a day's job, if you're James Morris-Smith, production manager for university theater and coordinator of campus events. Now ensconced in the comfortable Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, he

can look back with nostalgic fondness for Old Main, where campus theatrical events were held prior to the new state-of-the-art facility's opening in 1992. With the latest up-to-date technology on hand, the only glitch now is an occasional temporary loss of power.

Not that he's complaining. With a two-person staff and the help of student interns Morris-Smith's department is responsible for helping stage approximately 400 events a year, ranging from one-person lectures to full-blown theatrical productions. Along the way there are the university theatrical productions, special presidential functions, Fine Arts galas, the Honors Convocation, press conferences, luncheons, dinners and a whole gamut of university and community functions, including the annual Christmas tree festival.

"You name it, we have it," he says. "We're really proud that we're here for the university, but we're also here for the community. I always say the only time the building is dark is one month a year in August. Nothing much is going on then but otherwise we're open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day of the year."

Morris-Smith, a resident of Eleanor, is Marshall to the core. He received his degree in theater here and has been employed by the university for 15 years, becoming director in 1988. A dancer for 15 years, he also learned scenic design and lighting along with myriad other theatrical skills. After performing with the Huntington Dance Theater, he finally hung up his dancing shoes a few years ago, because, he says, "I got tired of being sore all the time!" Now he runs 15 miles a week.

He and the staff willingly serve as goodwill ambassadors to visiting artists and lecturers. "When people come to Marshall for lectures or whatever, we are the first people they meet and we want them to go away with a good experience--and I think 99 percent of people leaving an event have good things to say about us."

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Summer Thesis Awards Announced

Eleven master's-level students were awarded \$500 summer thesis research awards. These scholarships are designed to provide financial support to help students complete their theses. The recipients for summer 2000 are:

Scott and Elizabeth Appell Sheets Award: Victoria Allen was the recipient of this award for her thesis, "Gender Relationships at the Ravenswood Aluminum Plant, Ravenswood, WV." She is advised by Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, professor in the Sociology department.

Jeff and Pam Wilson Award: Jamie Blake received this award for "The Effects of Fish Predators on the Macrobenthos of a Small Stream." Dr. Donald Tarter, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, is her advisor.

Charles Crow Family Award: William Burch received this award for "Parents' Criteria for Choosing Child Care and Their Ability to Distinguish Quality in Child Care Programs." He is advised by Dr. Mary Jo Graham, professor in the Family and Consumer Science department.

Dianna Lynn Carte Reed Award: Megan Cox received this award for "An Analysis of Black Out-Migration from WV in the Context of Racial Discrimination in Employment in the Coal Industry: 1935-1955." She is advised by Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, professor in the Sociology department.

Lamina and Bernie Queen Award: Eric Carter was the recipient of this award for his thesis "The Influence of the Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism on Intercollegiate Athletics: A Two Case Study." Dr. Richard Garnett, professor in the Sociology Department, is his advisor.

John E. and Janett C. Casto Award: Robin Dolin received this award for "Natural Succession of benthic population in constructed sediment ponds and ditches in southwestern WV." She is advised by Dr. Donald Tarter, professor in the Biological Sciences department.

Rachel Stewart Memorial Award: Bruce Gowings is researching "The Effectiveness of Controlled Surface Artifact Collection Techniques for Detecting and Identifying Archeological Sites." Dr. Nicholas Freiden, Sociology/Anthropology, is his advisor.

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Artists Series from Page 1

Christmas show which will take place at the Huntington Civic Center. The International Film Festival will be held at the Cinema Theatre, in downtown Huntington.

For ticketing information, call the Marshall Artists Series box office at 696-6656. Box office hours are Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

James Morris-Smith

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The guest rosters of visiting performers is a virtual who-who's list of notables. And for most of them he has fond memories along with some special favorites.

"(Actor) William Windom was here for Artist Series several times and he was wonderful. He always remembered my name and even dropped me notes from time to time. Naomi Judd was so friendly and down to earth. She insisted on posing for pictures with all the staff members and signed autographs." Luckily she didn't notice that the color of the love seat they had placed her in for photographs clashed with her hair, he remembers.

Folk singer Judy Collins was another favorite for Morris-Smith. "I grew up listening to her music so I was awestruck at meeting her. But here again, she was really comfortable to deal with. Mrs. Underwood is always a joy to be around also. She always stops and talks with us, she's very friendly and kind." And although Helena Hale, who brought her one-woman show to Marshall, may not be a household word, she earned stars from him for being one of the "kindest, most gracious women in the world."

There have been, of course, some difficult visitors but he says keeping a sense of humor, using a light touch and being patient has sent almost everyone away happy.

He's feels fortunate that he's always been able to work in a field he loves. After graduation from Marshall, he spent time in Denver, Colorado, worked with several theater companies and toured one season with Theater West Virginia, doing technical work on their productions of *Soldering* and *Sleuth*. An opportunity to see big time show business up close came in 1988 when West Virginia native David Selby, who was gaining celebrity as an actor in Hollywood, arranged for him to serve a three-month internship at Lorimar Studios and MGM Studios.

"The most exciting thing I've ever done was to go to work everyday at the studio and pass through the MGM gates and my name was on the list to be admitted. Here I was, walking down Judy Garland Boulevard and seeing all kinds of places I had seen in movies and television. That was one of the most special times in my life, something that I never thought would happen, my name being on a VIP list at MGM!"

Currently Morris-Smith and the staff are responsible for three performing arts spaces—the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse which seats 543, the Frances Booth Experimental Theater which seats 250, and the Evelyn Smith Recital Hall, along with duties at the Cam Henderson Center and football stadium. And their job is to make sure that every event, from miniscule to mammoth, runs smoothly and uneventfully.

"The center serves as a nucleus for campus events and the secret is scheduling, scheduling, scheduling, and details, detail, details," he notes. That's not always as easy as it sounds and that's why they are always ready to handle emergencies, sometimes with unorthodox methods. Such as, he says, the time 14 members of the cast of *Carnival* got stuck in an elevator just a minute before the curtain was to go up. After alerting the orchestra to keep playing something—he suggested elevator music—and frantic to get them out, he seized a nearby coathanger and plunged it into the elevator keyhole, only wondering at that moment if elevator keyholes are electrified. Fortu-

nately it wasn't, the door popped open, and a grateful cast was able to make an only slightly delayed debut.

Now about those pesky squirrels and bats who apparently sometimes cast themselves as theater critics. "Old Main had a history of bats coming out during a show, dive bombing people on stage. We would stop the show and chase them back to the belfry. The squirrels in the attic sometimes just decided to drop walnuts which certainly caused a commotion for the performers."

And how about the mature actress playing the lead in *Hello Dolly*, who misjudged the stage and fell into the orchestra pit, right on top of the piano?

"We were waiting for her to make an exit and she just disappeared. Nobody knew where she was except for the piano player," he remembers. "Fortunately she wasn't hurt at all and being a real trouper she got right back on stage and finished the show as though nothing had happened." "Incidents like that are why he still has a sentimental attachment to Old Main. "I can go over there and still feel right at home."

Right now he and the crew are getting ready for the upcoming academic year. There will be among other things, the four productions of the Marshall University Theater, numerous lectures, visiting artists, fund-raising events, recitals, theatrical offerings in the playhouse, and of course, *The Nutcracker* in December.

But don't try to give him the lion's share of credit for successfully pulling off these events. "I have a big job to do but I work with some of the most phenomenal people around. They are extremely supportive and they make all the things happen so we can do our jobs here. Sometimes people thank me but I tell them there are at maybe 15 other people who are responsible for putting things together. We just take pride when everything backstage is hooked up, clean, and working!"

Thesis Awards

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Northwestern Mutual Life Award: Jamie Haga was the recipient of this award for "The relationship of estrogen and substance P in spatial working memory." Dr. Steven Mewaldt, professor in the Psychology department, is her advisor.

Jarrett-Maszta Award: Terry Tomasek was the recipient of the award for "Site specific Impact study of a Valley Fill in the Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community." Dr. Donald Tarter, professor in the Biological Sciences department, is her advisor.

Lois Bennett Shin Award: Linda Trollinger received this award for "Constructing, Fragmenting and Reconstructing Identity: Reclaiming Native American Heritage." She is advised by Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, professor in the Sociology department.

James and Rebecca Hoskins Goodwin Award: Sumeeta Patnaik received this award for "The Middle English Pearl and the Dream Vision as an exploration of Christian Consciousness." She is advised by Dr. Gwentyth Hood, professor in the English department.