

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OCTOBER 6, 2000

Marshall Students, Alumni Make Homecoming Plans

A full schedule of festive activities in celebration of Homecoming 2000 is on tap for faculty, staff, and students, through the combined efforts of the MU Alumni Association, student affairs and student government, together with community leaders.

The week-long celebration kicks off Monday, October 16, with the MU community encouraged to wear various Marshall apparel on designated days. Monday is T-Shirt/Sweat Shirt Day with everybody urged to wear a favorite MU Herd shirt. Marco will be honored on Tuesday so Marco items will be the order of the day. Other events include, Wednesday, hat day; Thursday, Badge Day, and Friday, the wearing of the Green.

Creativity will count in the office decoration contest which will run through Homecoming week. University offices are requested to decorate using a Homecoming motif. Prizes will be awarded in three categories along with a grand prize. The categories include most original/creative; best in following the Homecoming theme; and most attractive. Organizers are offering hints on possible themes—MU's 100th Homecoming; Rock and Roll, befitting a rock and roll cafe; and anything having to do with Marshall's opponent in the homecoming game, the Kent State Golden Flashes.

Judging of the office decorations will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 17. If you want your office to be judged, call the Alumni Relations Office at Ext. 2901.

In addition, a blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross will be set up in the Don Morris Room of the

Student Center on October 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donors will be given special "I Bleed Green" badges and homecoming t-shirts.

A high-tech presentation by Bill Price, senior vice president of Amazon.com is scheduled for October 19 at 4 p.m. in the Don Morris Room. Seminar sponsors are the

H 2000 Homecoming G

Celebrating Success at the Thundering Herd Cafe

Lewis College of Business and the Huntington Chamber of Commerce.

The Herd/Kent State game will kick off at 3:30 p.m. on October 21.

For a complete list and details of all Homecoming 2000 activities including the Friday Night Evening With Friends Reception, the Saturday Alumni Run, and the Homecoming parade, contact the Alumni Web Page at www.marshall.edu/alumni, and click either of the two Homecoming 2000 links.

Angels Kick Off Glenwood Series

Marshall President Dan Angel and his wife, Pat, were the inaugural speakers for the Glenwood Series, a Sunday afternoon series of programs to be held at the historic West Side estate in Charleston which is owned by the Marshall University Graduate College Foundation.

The Angels presented "He Says...She Says" last Sunday, October 1. Future programs in the series are planned to run through April with a ticket price of \$10 each. Accommodations are available for up to 40 people.

Organizers of the series say the intent is to bring a "flavorful collection of programs" which will showcase the talents of artists and scholars, from both Marshall University and the community-at-large, while opening the estate to members of the public.

"We hope to tap into Marshall's resources and bring some programs to Charleston that perhaps haven't been here before," Cavendish Galyean, a member of the MUGC

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University Community Rallies to Help MU Bookstore Employee

David Smith, a longtime MU Bookstore employee, student, and volunteer firefighter, was involved in an accident following a routine fire alarm last month. His fire truck overturned and pinned him underneath, resulting in fractured vertebrae and a serious spinal cord injury. He remains in Cabell Huntington Hospital and the physician's report indicates that he will probably be permanently disabled.

The University Functions Committee has established a special account to assist Smith with his mounting expenses, and asks that members of the university community consider contributions to the fund. Checks may be made payable to the University Functions Committee, indicating "for David Smith," and sent to Mack Gillenwater, Department of Geography, Huntington Campus.

Associateship Program Provides Postdoctoral Awards

The National Research Council has announced the 2001 Postdoctoral and Senior Research Associateship Programs which will provide opportunities for Ph.D. Sc.D. or M.D. scientists and engineers of unusual promise and ability to perform research on problems largely of their own choosing, to be compatible with the research interest of the sponsoring laboratory, according to information received by the NRC.

The research will be conducted on behalf of over 120 research laboratories throughout the U.S. representing nearly all U.S. Government agencies with research facilities.

Approximately 350 new full-time Associateships will be awarded on a competitive basis in 2001 for research in chemistry, earth and atmospheric sciences; engineering, applied sciences and computer science; life and medical sciences; mathematics; space and planetary sciences; and physics.

Postdoctoral awards are made for one or two years, renewable for a maximum of three years; senior applicants who have held the doctorate at least five years may request shorter periods. Annual stipends for recent Ph.D. recipients for the 2001 program year range from \$34,000 to \$55,000 depending upon the sponsoring laboratory, and will be appropriately higher for senior award recipients.

Advanced Computer Classes Slated

Several advanced technical classes are being offered this fall by the Computer Learning Center of the MU Community and Technical College and Strictly Business Learning Center of Huntington.

Systems Management Server 2.0 will be offered at the Strictly Business Learning Center October 23-25. Classes to be offered at the Marshall University Graduate College campus in South Charleston include Cold Fusion, October 24-25; Fundamentals of Visual Basic 6.0, November 13-17; and SQL Server Administration, November 13-17.

To register, or to obtain additional information, contact Dennis Michael at 1-888-529-0401, or e-mail him at Dmichael@sbc.com.

Applications submitted directly to the National Research Council are accepted on a continuous basis throughout the year. Those postmarked by January 15 will be reviewed in February; those received by April 15 will be reviewed in June, and those received by August 15 will be reviewed in October. Initial awards will be announced in March and April—July and November for the two later competitions—followed by awards to alternate candidates later.

Information on specific research opportunities and participating federal laboratories, as well as application materials may be obtained from the NRC web site at national-academies.org/rap. For assistance contact the National Research Council, Associateship Programs (TJ 2114/D2), 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418. The telephone number is 202-334-2760, e-mail, rap@nas.edu, or FAX 202-334-2759.

Town Hall Meeting Set for Oct. 17

Marshall's Town Hall on Higher Education is taking shape, according to organizers, with ten candidates to date indicating they will take part.

The event, at which candidates for state offices will answer questions about higher education issues, is scheduled for the Fine Arts Center on the Huntington campus on October 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. A moderator from outside the campus community will ask questions and limit candidates' response times.

The Town Hall, which is jointly sponsored by faculty, staff and student organizations, will allow each candidate a limited time to respond to each of several questions. The three groups are continuing to gather questions.

Organizers suggest that those attending from the South Charleston campus contact the parking office at ext. 6406 to secure parking passes.

Annual Wellness Walk is Oct. 18

The annual Wellness Walk is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18. Registration and walking on the Student Center Plaza can be done anytime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. T-shirts will be given to those who walk at least one mile. The event is sponsored by the Student Health Education Programs. For additional information, call ext. 4800.

Glenwood Series

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Foundation Board and one of the organizers of the series, said. "With this forum and this beautiful house to be utilized, we want the public to get to know and enjoy Glenwood as well as to learn about it."

Glenwood, a family home that housed members of the Laidley, Quarrier, and Summers families after it was built in 1852, has been carefully preserved to keep its mid-19th century appearance. The estate was bequeathed to the foundation by Lucy Quarrier following her death in 1985.

For additional information about the Glenwood Series, call 746-2038.

We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (212 Old Main) and South Charleston (110 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of October 20, 2000. Deadline is October 13.

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.



Profile: Patsy Stephenson

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Patsy Stephenson

It's not that Patsy Stephenson makes such a big fuss about holidays. They just seem to keep adding all kinds of activities to her already busy life.

For example, Stephenson, who is a library associate in the cataloging division of the Drinko Library, is getting ready for an October 28 performance with her Sweet Adelines barbershop chorus in their annual production,

this year with an early "I'll Be Home for Christmas" theme. There's the Chorus' Valentine fund raiser each February when the Sweet Adelines deliver singing telegrams to lucky recipients. Not to mention the possibility of once again helping to erect and decorate the 30-foot Christmas tree that graced the Drinko Library atrium last year. And somehow she'll find time this month, just a little before Halloween, to squeeze in a walk-a-thon with a team she organized to raise money for the Diabetes Association. Plus if anyone in the community wants a tour of the library on a weekend, she'll throw that one in as well, being an old hand at giving personalized guided tours.

If Stephenson's activities are enough to make the Energizer bunny seem sluggish, there's also an active 3 1/2 year old, Andrew Michael, to watch Barney videos with when she gets home. And Stephenson and her husband, David Michael, both MU graduates, are continuing the MU family tradition with their son who attends the MU daycare center. They love it when he proudly lisps, "We are....Marshall!"

"The daycare is excellent," she says "We were delighted when the university started a center. And one of the best things about it is that it's multicultural. He gets a chance to interact with people from different countries and ethnic groups and he is learning so much from being with them."

A native of Proctorville, Ohio, Stephenson, the second of five children, has two sisters who work in the library—Jenny Holderby in the circulation department and Ella Zirkle in acquisitions. Her own library career began as a work-study student in 1979, which led to a full time position in 1982. She steadily took classes which culminated in an associate degree; and last year, her husband, who is general manager of the Ashland Plaza Hotel, finished his degree in business with an emphasis in management and marketing.

Stephenson's musical prowess started back in high school when she was named to the Ohio all-state chorus and spent three weeks performing at the Ohio State Fair. For the past six years she has

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Faculty/Staff Achievements

Denecia Merrit-Damron, Information Technology Division Director, and Robert Scott Nicholas, MCSE Instructor with the Community and Technical College, are participating in the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Workshop, which is being held October 5-8 in Los Angeles, California. The workshop is designed to seek guidance from emerging technology such as information technology, electronics engineering technology, telecommunications, and mechanical/manufacturing engineering technology on the design of modern and effective programs in the mathematical sciences.

Dr. Ashok Vaseashta, assistant professor of Physics and Physical Science, made an invited presentation, "Diamond Thin Films: Novel Electronic Material" in "Materials for Information Technology in the New Millennium, 11th International School on Condensed Matter Physics, in Varna, Bulgaria. The conference was organized by the Institute of Solid State Physics, Sofia, Bulgaria, and the Electronic Materials Centre and Department of Chemistry, University of Wales, Swansea, U.K. Dr. Vaseashta also was awarded a NATO Fellowship this summer to attend a summer school on "Condensed Matter Physics" in the Czech Republic.

Alumni Elect New Officers

A new slate of officers and five new members of the board of directors are now in place to lead the MU Alumni Association during the 2000-2001 year, according to Samuel H. Stanley, assistant vice president for Alumni Relations and Alumni Affairs.

Jeffrey A. Porter has been selected as president for a two-year term, effective July 1, 2000. The Huntington native is a 1977 graduate of Marshall with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. A Certified Public Accountant, Porter is also owner and president of Porter & Associates. He has served on the board since 1994 most recently as the first vice president. He was elected to the second full term in 1999. His wife Sharon, a 1978 graduate of MU, is a registered nurse and adjunct professor at Marshall.

"We are very pleased and excited with the selection of Jeff as president and have full confidence in his leadership skills and abilities" Stanley said.

Other Marshall graduates who have been elected officers by the board for one-year terms are Martha Hill, a 1975 graduate from Charleston, first vice president; Selby Litton, 1973, from Huntington, second vice president; Debbie Lewis, 1982, from Huntington, treasurer; and Jack Blevins, 1964, from Huntington, secretary.

Outgoing president George Lambros, a 1977 graduate of Marshall, will continue on the MUAA board as immediate past president.

New board members elected by active alumni to serve a three-year term, effective July 1, 2000, are Mike Graybeal, a 1974 graduate from Huntington; Olive Hager, 1957, from Hamlin; Jim Conrad, 1958, from Sidney, Ohio; Jim Summers, 1970, from Atlanta; and Anne Mullarky, 1952, of Huntington.

This is Mullarky's second term on the board while Hager has served the past year as the College of Education's representative.

Patsy Stephenson

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sung lead with the River Magic chapter of the Sweet Adelines. The group performs everywhere she says, for reunions, nursing homes, parties, and at Camden Park. (Their October 28 show will be presented at 8 p.m. and tickets can be purchased from her.)

For a while, a few years ago, Stephenson worked two full-time jobs, at the library and a second shift with her husband at the Huntington Ramada Inn. While the schedule was grueling, it had its advantages, she says.

"Everyone should work in the food industry for a learning experience," she believes. "Working in the food industry helped me come out of my shell...I learned how food is supposed to look and how to decorate tables so they are both tasteful and beautiful." A special experience she and her husband shared was working on the catering crew for the annual fall steam train excursion from Huntington to Hinton.

"We worked on weekends and it was so much fun," she remembers. We helped with breakfast, lunch, and there were very big dinners. It was a truly wonderful experience."

Her catering skills and her creativity are on display when she pitches in to help out with the parties and receptions that the library occasionally hosts. And then there was that 30-foot Christmas tree.

Last year Ashland Oil donated the tree and all the trimmings to the library. Stephenson says they were delighted by the generous gift but didn't realize it would be arriving in more than 100 crates. Library and computing staff members plowed through the 68 boxes the tree came in plus an additional 40 boxes of trimmings. Special scaffolding had to be built by the building and grounds crew and the top of the gigantic tree—six feet in height itself—had to be trimmed from the fourth floor.

"It was absolutely gorgeous when it was done," Stephenson relates. "Each bough was wrapped with strings of lights." She's not sure the tree will once again grace the atrium, but if it does, she'll be there to pitch in and help.

She has seen a multitude of changes take place during her tenure in the library. Chief among them is the automation of library files. "Automation has made a difference in everybody's jobs. When I first started in cataloging we filed cards in this great big cabinet....Thank goodness we don't have to file those anymore! There were a lot of pluses that came with automation and the elimination of filing was one of them. Students are coming out of high school with good computer skills and they have the knowledge of how to work in the library." And she's an enthusiastic tour guide when she shows students around the library as part of their University 101 orientation.

Right now she's putting the finishing touches on her walk to raise money to fight diabetes. Although not a diabetic herself, she has several family members and friends who are, and the money raised she hopes will go toward finding a cure for the disease that has come to be known as the "silent killer."

"I want to raise money because it is a killer disease. Raising money to fight this disease is a passion with me."

And she speaks glowingly of her Marshall experience. "After spending 21 years at the university I have seen the campus grow and prosper, seen people coming together to help each other, and I feel I have become a part of this great community of which we all can be proud."

'Steel Pier' Arrives Oct. 25

Steel Pier, the new musical that follows contestants in an Atlantic City marathon dance contest during the summer of 1933, comes to the Keith-Albee Theatre on October 25 beginning at 8 p.m.

With music from the prize-winning composers of *Cabaret* and *Chicago*, the show that celebrates the ceaseless dancing to 1930's tunes has been nominated for 11 Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

Period dances that will be featured include the Charleston, Linda, Castle Walk, Turkey Trot, Black Bottom, Sugar, Susie Q, Rumba, Castle Polka, Shimmy and the Waltz.

Tickets are currently on sale and may be obtained by calling the ticket office in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center at 696-6656. Prices are \$36, \$38, and \$40 plus tax. Half-price tickets are available for youth 17 and under. Groups of 10 or more receive a 10 percent group discount.

Tickets are also available by calling Ticketmaster at (304) 523-5757 in Huntington, or (304) 342-5757 in Charleston. They can also be ordered online at www.ticketmaster.com and at Kroger, Waves Music, Budget Tapes and Records, National Record Mart or Disc Jockey Records.

Steel Pier is sponsored by the Marshall Artists Series, WOWK-TV and Sunny 92.7.

Honorary Degree Nominations Sought

The University Functions Committee is asking faculty, staff, students and the general public for nominations of individuals to be considered as honorary degree recipients at commencement ceremonies in May 2001, according to Susan Jackson, chair of the committee.

The committee is also soliciting suggestions for the commencement speaker.

The deadline for nominations for both is Wednesday, November 1, 2000. They should be sent to Jackson in the Art Department or e-mailed to her at jacksons@marshall.edu.

Nominations for the individuals to receive an honorary degree should include the name of the individual, the reasons why this person should be considered, and the phone number, address, or other information where the person can be reached.

According to the announcement from the committee, honorary degree nominees should include the following qualifications: Persons who have made or could be expected to make significant contributions to Marshall University, monetary or otherwise or persons sufficiently outstanding that they clearly deserve such recognition. In addition, nominations should be made for persons who can be expected to attend commencement in order to receive the degree.

Suggestions for the commencement speaker should include the name, title, and affiliation(s) of the individual; a brief biography; reasons for considering this individual as commencement speaker; and the phone number, address or other means of contacting the individual.

Excused Absences

Absences have been excused by the university for these students on the dates noted:

September 22, 23, and 24, Robert Harper, Vince Payne, and Jared Smalley.