

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • SEPTEMBER 22, 2000

Employees of the Month Get "Prize Patrol" Treatment

There were balloons, dignitaries, cheering co-workers, personalized plaques, nice prizes, exploding flashbulbs and all the hoopla you'd expect for prize winning employees.

And surprises—lots of surprises. Tami Fletcher, who works for Dean Charles McKown in the School of Medicine, didn't know she had just been named Employee of the Month for August. And she certainly never expected the news to be delivered in person to her office by President Dan Angel, Keith Spears, Assistant to the President, Jim Stephens, Director of Human Resources, Judy Blevins, Training and Specialist in Human Resources, and Rick Haye, campus photographer, along with a host of co-workers and well-wishers who were tipped off in advance to the well-kept secret.

About the ceremony Fletcher says, "It added an extra personal touch, and I hope they will continue doing it the way they did. Afterwards it was almost like you had won

the Publishers Clearinghouse sweepstakes. I was so surprised. I thought they were coming to see Dr. McKeon...I thought he was getting some type of award."

In addition, Barbara Hayes, last month's winner, received a visit from the "prize patrol" as well. She had been told that her "plaque and check are in the mail." But because she was the first winner in the new fiscal year, it was decided that she would be feted as well.

"I was really surprised," Hayes said. "I saw people gathering in the hall and knew something was going on but I didn't know what it was. Having the president and (continued on page 4) co-workers surprise you with balloons was touching and just made me feel special."

The prize patrol type ceremony was the brainchild of Jim Stephens and came about, he says, as way to add some

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Tami Fletcher is August's Winner

Tami K. Fletcher, administrative secretary senior in the Dean's Office, School of Medicine, has been selected as Marshall University's Employee of the Month for August, according to Bill Burdette, chairman of the Employee of the Month Selection Committee.



Tami Fletcher received the Employee of the Month award via a surprise visit from President Angel.

Fletcher, who lives in South Point, Ohio, has been employed with the university for 10 years. She was nominated by Linda S. Holmes, director of Development and Alumni Affairs, School of Medicine.

In her nomination, Holmes wrote, "...Tami has always been a shining star on the administrative floor. She has an infectious personality and is always upbeat, no matter what the day holds.....the best way to describe Tami is she is a team

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Celebrity Series Underway

Celebrities in the world of education will come to the Huntington campus this fall as part of the Marshall Celebrity Series, which was announced by President Angel in his State of the University address.

The intent of the series—to be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the fall semester—is to bring to Huntington a broad range of people who are making a difference in higher education to interact with the Marshall community.

All sessions will take place from 2-4 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Lloyd Jackson, Chair, WV Senate Education Committee, opened the series on September 21. Other featured speakers include George Hammond, Director, The WV Economic Outlook Project of the WVU College of Business & Economics, September 26; Pat Callan, President, The

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Date for Town Hall Meeting Announced

An old fashioned "Town Hall on Higher Education" meeting for MU faculty, staff and students is scheduled on the Huntington campus, October 17 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Organizers of the event say candidates for the West Virginia House Delegates and Senate, as well as for the office of governor, have been invited to come and share their views on issues as well as to answer frequently asked questions. Further details will be announced in the October 6 issue of *We Are Marshall* newsletter.

The event is being organized by the Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and the Student Government Association. Each group will have a representative to whom written inquiries about concerns or issues can be sent. The representatives are Joe Wyatt, Department of Psychology; Ken Reffeitt, Library; and Bill Walker, SGA Office, MSC. Comments should be submitted to them no later than October 7th.

The issues presented to the candidates by the moderator will be determined by the concerns judged to be most important to the respondents.

Staff Council Minutes Online

An important meeting involving members of the UM Classified Staff Council and Jim Stephens, Director of Human Resources, took place in July, according to Nina Barrett, staff council president.

Stephens discussed a number of issues and concerns with council members and was queried on a number of topics, including PIQ's, job postings, yearly evaluation, interim reclassifications, grievances, mandatory safety training, in addition to other matters.

The meeting was fully reported in the July 20, 2000, minutes, according to Barrett, and they are posted on the classified staff web site, www.Marshall.edu/Staff_Council/July_2000min.html. She urges staff and any other interested persons to read them. Anyone without access to the website can contact Mary Black at the staff council office, ext. 2222, and she will provide a print copy of the minutes.

We Are...Marshall!

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

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.



Simpson Honored by Women's Basketball Hall

Marshall University's Women's Basketball coach Juliene Simpson was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame this summer for her outstanding contributions to the sport of women's basketball.



Coach Juliene Simpson

Simpson was a pioneer in the sport, both as a player and as a head coach. She was a four-time AAU All-American at John F. Kennedy College and was selected to play on America's first national teams in the 1970's At the Pan Am Games in 1975, she co-captained the U.S. team that captured the gold medal. In 1976 she led the United States women's olympic basketball team to a silver medal at the Olympic Games in Montreal.

Following her stellar playing career, Simpson broke into the college coaching ranks in 1977 at Amarillo Junior College at the age of 24. Her team posted a 17-6 record and participated in the NJCAA Tournament.

Simpson spent one season as head coach at Cincinnati before taking over as head coach at Arizona State where she stayed from 1979-87. In two years she established a NCAA Top 20 program and led the team to the "Sweet Sixteen" in the 1982 and 1983 NCAA Tournaments. The Sun Devils were the 1981 NIT runner-up under Simpson, who is the winningest coach in Arizona State women's basketball history.

She later coached at Whitworth College and Bucknell University, before coming to Marshall in 1997.

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National Center for Public Policy in Higher Education, San Jose, California, October 3; Dennis Jones, President, NCHEMS (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems), Boulder, Colorado, October 5; Bob Atwell, President Emeritus, American Council on Education, Sarasota, Florida, October 10; Mark Musick, President, Southern Regional Education Board, Atlanta, GA, October 12; Constantine Curris, President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C., October 17; John Hoblitzell, Chair, WV Higher Education Policy Commission, October 19; James Rogers, Executive Director, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, Decatur, Georgia, October 24.

Bob Zemsky, Professor and Director, Institute for Research on Higher Education, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, November 2; George Baker, Joseph D. Moore Distinguished Professor, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, November 9; Governor Gaston Caperton, President, The College Board, New York City, November 14.

Profile: Martha Pierson

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Martha Pierson

Some people see summer as a dreamy laid back time, filled with backyard barbecues, fun filled days around the pool or a leisurely beach vacation. But don't say summer relaxation to Martha Pierson, program coordinator of the Computer Learning Center. Her recent summers would make a beehive look lazy.

Take for example this past July. In one weekend of whirlwind activity, she helped stage weddings for her two daughters, one on Saturday evening, the other on Sunday afternoon. There were two different wedding parties, color themes, flowers and food selections.

Pierson's explanation is practical and considerate, as always. "Both daughters were planning to be married only a couple of months apart and because several out-of-town guests wanted to attend both, we wanted to make it as easy for them as possible so they wouldn't have to return for a second trip. The girls didn't want a double wedding, so we did the next best thing which was to have two back-to-back. And it worked!"

She survived the weddings—just don't ask her about the summer of 1999. In one unforgettable period, she was expecting the imminent birth of two grandchildren, set to undergo major surgery, and preparing for a move into a new home. The babies were born six days apart, she entered the hospital two days after the birth of the second one, and still managed to move a few weeks later.

Juggling hectic schedules while remaining calm and organized comes naturally to Pierson. After all, she's had plenty of practice being flexible and adapting to change during her 21-year tenure at the graduate college as programs merged and her duties shifted. After four years working at West Virginia State College, she came to what was then known as the College of Graduate Studies—or COGS, its popular acronym—taking a position in the Social Work department, which was then a joint program with WVU. After the program was transferred permanently to WVU, she began work as secretary to the Dean of Behavioral Studies at COGS and remained there until the program was combined with the Education division.

But Pierson handled all the changes with her usual aplomb and so began her odyssey in the professional development and continuing education fields, which remain her favorite, she says. She can count on one hand all the name changes her unit has undergone but it would take all the digits on the other one to include the graduate college's often changing name as well.

For starters, in 1990, Pierson began working with the newly formed Professional Development

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Faculty/Staff Achievements

Michael J. McCarthy, assistant dean for Information Technology at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, presented a paper on "Technology in Support of a Rural Health Education Program" in August at the World Rural Health Conference in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He was also an invited speaker the following week for sessions on Internet resources for physicians at the West Virginia State Medical Association's Health Care Summit 2000 at The Greenbrier.

Dr. Lawrence R. Schmitz, associate professor of Chemistry, has published a paper, Trishomoaromatic Dianions of 1,3,5-Triboracyclohexanes" in *Angewandte Chemie (Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2000, 39, 1276)*. Co-authors of the paper are Professor Walter Siebert, Dr. Hans Pritzkow, and Wolfgang Loesslein of the University of Heidelberg, and Prof. Paul Schleyer of the University of Georgia.

Schmitz also attended the 220th national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington, D.C. in August. He presented a talk, "Atoms and Molecules and Nonclassical Carbocations" to the organic division and a poster entitled "Atoms in Molecules (AIM) Studies of Nonclassical Carbocations" to the Computer in Chemistry division and a Sci-Mix session. Teresa Dean, a MU chemistry major, was a co-author of both papers.

Tami Fletcher

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player that always gives 110%. Many evenings...she will remain to make sure a deadline is met. Although Tami does not directly answer to me, she has always been there to offer assistance when I have requested it or needed it. This is just an affirmation of her being a team player and her willingness to be available to help make the School of Medicine run like a well-oiled engine."



Tami Fletcher admires the plaque she received as Employee of the Month for August.

Holmes went on to say that during her tenure in the School of Medicine, "I have witnessed Tami doing what we all joke about at the bottom of the job description—'and all other duties as assigned.' She is

always the first person to pitch in to get the job done, make someone else's job easier for them. Tami is, without question, ambassador of goodwill for the third floor at the Medical Center. Tami has a storehouse of knowledge about the School of Medicine, the faculty and staff, and she knows how necessary it is to answer or solve just about every problem or question. She is truly a fountain of information and an asset to the School of Medicine and its employees."

The nomination concludes, "It has been a true pleasure to work with such a dedicated, talented and loyal individual. Tami is a special individual with so many positive qualities and a very worthy candidate for the Employee of the Month."

In a just-instituted special ceremony, Fletcher received a plaque and \$100 and will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.

Martha Pierson

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Center (PDC) located in the State Capitol complex, a consortium involving COGS and two other colleges which acted as a business incubator and housed three separate companies, providing support services to them. Her multi-faceted duties suited Pierson just fine. "We provided clerical support for all three companies and dealt with their individual customers. Some of the clients were major corporations and it was an opportunity for me to meet people from all over the country, both by phone and also in person."

And it's probably no accident that one of her favorite clients was a well-known upscale chocolate manufacturer that would, from time to time, send samples of their chocolates to the employees. They were always happy to taste-test them for the company.

After the dissolution of the consortium in 1992, COGS, by now the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, assumed responsibility for the PDC which continued to offer computer courses along with other continuing education classes. Eventually they moved to South Charleston when the new graduate college facility opened in 1995 where her program, after the merger with Marshall University, eventually became known as the Computer Learning Center, a part of Continuing Education under the Community and Technical College.

Along with her ever-changing professional duties, she has diligently tried to carve out time to represent graduate college classified staff on a number of councils and committees. Prior to the merger she served as the WVGC staff council president for two years and has continued to represent the group on the Marshall Staff Council, where she currently serves as the second vice president.

And Pierson has high praise for the MU Council for accommodating her needs and those of the South Charleston staff needs. Because of the distance and time constraints she isn't always able to travel to Huntington for meetings, so whenever possible teleconferencing has been arranged so that she and other MUGC staff can be part of the meetings. In fact, the October meeting will be via teleconference and the November meeting will be held in South Charleston.

She makes it to Huntington as often as possible, however, because she likes the face-to-face interaction with other council members. "I've gotten to know a lot of people in Huntington and I enjoy being able to sit down and discuss issues and share concerns on a one-on-one basis."

These days she's spending a lot of time on grandmother duties, with seven grandchildren ranging in age from 14 months to 9 years old, and two more expected in the coming months. she can, for a change, do what grandparents everywhere do--just enjoy them without the responsibility. "I love my grandkids, they come first with me...but I have other interests," she notes.

And one of those interests is Karoke An enthusiastic sing-along performer, she likes nothing better than to go out occasionally with a group of friends and belt out some oldies.

So now with babies to spoil, her daughters married in festive ceremonies, and comfortably settled into her new home, she's glad the past two summers have come and gone., and she can finally kick back and relax a little. But just don't ask her what she expects to be doing next summer.

School of Medicine Dedication Set for Sept. 29

A dedication ceremony for the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine will take place September 29 at 11 a.m. with Senator Jay Rockefeller as the featured speaker. The ceremony will be in the atrium of the MU Medical Center and all members of the Marshall community are invited to attend, according to Beverly McCoy, public relations director for the School of Medicine.

The dedication follows President Dan Angel's May 8 announcement that the school was being renamed to honor Mrs. Edwards, who has offered substantial financial support for medical school scholarships, MU athletics, the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, and Marshall's jazz studies.

Mrs. Edwards is contributing \$2 million to the School of Medicine to begin the planning, design and development of the Joan C. Edwards Children's Cancer Pavilion. She has made provisions for an additional \$16 million to come to Marshall to construct and operate the center, which is to be built on the Cabell Huntington Hospital campus.

The ceremony is being held during the Alumni Homecoming Weekend of the School of Medicine. Other activities include the Albert C. Esposito, M.D. Memorial Lecture at 7:30 p.m., September 28, as well as other continuing medical education activities on Sept. 28 and 29. Reunion activities are scheduled for September 30. The Esposito lecturer will be Dr. Morton F. Goldberg, director of the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute at Johns Hopkins University..

Prize Patrol

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excitement to the monthly announcement of the Employee of the Month Award, which in the past had the winner being notified by supervisors or by telephone.

"I have tremendous affection for the Employee of the Month program and for all the people who have been chosen. Past recipients represent a 'hall of fame' of exceptional people who have done a lot for the university. Our recognition process, however, was beginning to need a shot in the arm," Stephens says. "We were tossing the issue around, and I suggested the idea of descending on the recipient like the 'prize patrol' in the television commercials."

He adds that, "When we can have some fun and at the same time say a special 'thank you' to some hard-working people, that's time well spent. I hope the university community will continue to nominate others for this recognition."

Next Issue

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of October 6, 2000. Deadline is September 29. 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.