

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JULY 6, 2001

Bragin Accepts Science Dean Position

Dr. Joseph Bragin has been named dean of Marshall University's College of Science. Bragin, who will begin his tenure August 1, was formerly a professor of chemistry and associate dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences at California State University, Los Angeles.

Bragin comes to MU with an extensive background in research and professional development. He has written over \$5 million in successful proposals for faculty and curriculum development to programs such as Academic Research Infrastructure (National Science Foundation); Cooperative Education, and the Minority Science Im-

provement Program (U.S. Department of Education); Engineering and Computer Science Enhancement (California State University).

He has worked on more than 30 grant projects and published 35 papers in addition to presenting numerous seminar presentations.

Bragin received his undergraduate education at Brooklyn College and his doctorate in Physical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He and his wife Vicki, a chemist and chemical educator, have two grown children, Michael, an investment banker, and Naomi, a dancer, choreographer and dance educator in Oakland, California.

In addition to their on-going collaborations in science education and developing computer based instructional tools for science educators, the Bragins enjoy music, theater, travel and the visual arts.



"Only Marco Knows..."

All faculty and staff are invited to join President Dan Angel at the unveiling of the updated MU logo on Wednesday, August 8 at 10 a.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. A reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP to ext. 3183.

MU, Art Museum Present "Voice of the Prairie"

Marshall University and the Huntington Museum of Art will sponsor the Huntington Museum Repertory Theatre presentation of *The Voice of the Prairie* this July at the museum.

Set at the turn of the century, the play tells the story of adventurous childhood sweethearts who lose one another while traveling in a young nation. Through the seeming magic of a new invention—radio—they reconnect and share their childhood adventures with a captivated American audience.

Featuring MU students Don DiGiulio, Aimee Cox and Herschel Jeffrey, the show is directed by Jack Cirillo. Performances are scheduled at 8 p.m. on July 18-21, and July 24-28. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for seniors, MU faculty and staff (with ID), and museum members, and \$5 for students and children. MU students with ID can get in free.

Tickets go on sale July 11 at 9 a.m. and can be obtained by calling 696-ARTS. The seating is unreserved general seating.

Bursar's Office Recognized with State Technology Award

Employees of the bursar's office were among state employees recognized recently by Governor Bob Wise for providing improved services to citizens of the state while saving tax dollars in the process.

Ten teams and three individual winners received the Governor's Information Technology Awards. Each project received a plaque and a \$1,000 check, from the Governor.

Marshall was recognized for its strategic partnership with the West Virginia State Treasurers office in the Public Private Partnership/Electronic Commerce. Working with WVSTO, Marshall developed "24/7" e-services which offers varied services to students and their parents through admissions, registration, financial aid, residence services and bursar operations. Under this system, working with the State Treasurer's office, the university accepts secure credit card payments over the internet for student tuition, fees and residence services.

The university was recognized by the STO as the first institution of higher education in West Virginia to have the ability to accept secure tuition and fee payments on-line. Since December 1, 2000, 233 students have processed transactions totaling approximately \$233,000 in revenue.

In presenting the awards, Wise said, "The Governor's Information Technology Awards emphasize our pledge to making state government run more smoothly and efficiently for all our customers."

Smith Works Toward Recovery, Return

He's the same positive, upbeat person he always was. And although he gets around in a wheelchair these days, he's hardly slowed down a bit—in fact, he's brimming with plans for the future, mainly getting back to work in the bookstore, before the fall semester he hopes.

David Smith, who was injured in an accident last September while on duty as a volunteer fireman responding to a call, says he doesn't recall much of the accident which left him pinned within an overturned fire truck. The days immediately following when his life hung precariously in the balance are a blur also. He had an emergency tracheotomy to help him breath and suffered some scary respiratory problems. Smith's improvement proved to be slow but after several weeks in Cabell-Huntington Hospital he was transferred to the Health South Rehabilitation Center where he has undergone several months of intensive therapy.

Right now a big event in his life is his recent move into his own handicapped accessible apartment in downtown Huntington. He's continuing to exercise on his own now, which he says he doesn't mind because the exercises strengthen his upper body and help fend off the upper respiratory problems that have plagued him.

News of his accident touched off a torrent of support from students, staff and faculty. A fund to help with medical expenses was set up shortly after the accident and in addition to contributions, several get well posters were signed by hundreds of bookstore customers. Cards, notes, get well wishes of all sorts, poured in from the concerned Marshall family.

"I didn't know how many friends I had," Smith says of the outpouring of support. "Hearing from so many people, most I didn't even know, helped me keep a positive attitude."

And Smith credits that positive attitude as being a big factor in his rehabilitation. "I have made exceptional progress...I'm working hard to build up my

upper body strength which is essential for me to transfer from the wheelchair to other types of seating, such as in a car, a chair, or bed."

His voice, once weakened from being on a respirator, is much stronger now. "At first I wasn't breathing entirely on my own and for a while I had trouble getting three or four words out in a single breath." Now the words spill out, strong and confident.

Smith is particularly grateful for the support he received from his bookstore co-workers. Bookstore manager Mike Campbell and his wife, along with Dr. Mack Gillenwater, were particularly supportive, he says. "They visited me regularly, and they set up the fund for medical expenses. Others also came to see me regularly and they all offered words of encouragement which helped keep me going."

And the feelings from his friends are mutual. "David has been a real inspiration to us all, the way he has handled the situation," Campbell says admiringly.

These days he may have physical limitations, but he's always been the person with a listening ear, the one that people instinctively feel they can go to in order to mull over their problems as well as to ask for some well thought out advice. That's still the same, he says firmly. "I'm glad people still feel they can come to me and talk about their problems. I'm here for them and that hasn't changed at all."

Smith is getting out a lot more these days. He's been back on campus for a couple of visits and he's gone to the mall, among other places. Right now he's concentrating on getting back to the bookstore and to classes as soon as possible. After all, he's been taking courses at Marshall for 30 years, and so far he's earned four degrees, an associate degree, a B.A. Regents degree, and two master's degrees, one in Adult Education and another in Safety Management. And even with all those strings of letters after his name, he has no intention of stopping now. "I just like to take classes, I really enjoy them and I'm looking forward to enrolling in some soon," he says confidently.

"I really want everyone to know how much I appreciate all that was done for me," he says. "I'm grateful for the prayers, contributions, visits, cards, and all the get well wishes. I know they helped get me to where I am today."

We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (110 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of July 27, 2001. Deadline is July 20.

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.



Card of Thanks

On behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank everyone at Marshall, and particularly the facility scheduling staff at the Memorial Student Center and the classified staff, for all their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, and cards, on the death of my mother, Wilda Gibson.

Greg Gibson

Profile: Sandra Clements

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Sandra Clements

She has a rich rolling laugh, a laugh that puts people at ease and makes them feel comfortable just talking with her. Even in a telephone conversation it bubbles up as Sandra Clements enthusiastically recounts her work as a coordinator of Disabled Student Services, (DSS), work for which her whole life seems to have been pointing her.

And her warm manner comes in handy while meeting students who have disabilities and who in many cases are apprehensive or hesitant about asking for help. It's Clements' job to work with them to determine the services they need to be successful in the university. And she can't think of anything else she'd rather be doing.

Students with a wide array of disabilities come to her office, and she and her staff arrange whatever help is needed, from tutoring, to note taking, to extended test time, to numerous other services that will help them become successful MU students and graduates.

But students must first request these services. "In order for a student to receive services, they must tell us they have a disability and the services are determined by the nature of a disability. We have students with every type of disability, hearing or visual impairment, learning disability, psychological problems, medical problems, depression, we cover all of these and if the students can document them, the university provides services to them," she says.

And although her department identified almost 750 students during the fall semester, there is some frustration for Clements because of the students who haven't requested help. "That's probably only a quarter of the students who are eligible for services. Many come here from high school where they had never been diagnosed, and others who had special services in high school don't want to be singled out when they come to Marshall. However, students with learning disabilities will soon surface after the first semester or two because they actually do need that extra help."

Clements and her staff work hard to put students at ease. "We try to be sensitive to their needs. Our job here is help students ease into a transition phase." Sometimes to work with

(continued on page 4)

Summer Thesis Awards Given by Graduate College

Fourteen master's-level students have been awarded summer 2001 thesis research awards, according to Dr. Leonard Deutsch, dean of the Graduate College. These \$500 scholarships are designed to provide financial support to help students complete their theses, Deutsch said.

The recipients and their advisors are:

Charles Crow Family Award: Sherrine Ibrahim for "Regulation of Gene Expression in Gravistimulated Pea Stems." Advisor: Dr. Jagan Valluri, Biological Sciences.

Rachel Steward Memorial Award: Mary E. Cassell for "Cyber-Sociology: Building Blocks for On-Line Communities in Cyberspace." Advisor: Dr. Richard Garnett, Sociology.

Lamina Queen Award: Ariana Breisch for "The Distribution and Natural History of the Genus *Clemmys* in West Virginia." Advisor: Dr. Thomas K. Pauley, Biological Sciences.

Jarrett-Maszal Award: Fani Lougklou for "Attachment and Memory: Does Attachment Experience Influence Eyewitness Testimony?" Advisor: Dr. Marc A. Lindberg, Psychology.

Scott and Elizabeth Appell Sheets Award: Melissa Mullins for "Rosanna Alexander Blake: A Southern 'New Woman.'" Advisor: Dr. Donna Spindel, History.

John E. and Janett C. Casto Award: Kimberly Bayne for "The Natural History and Ecology of the Eastern Cricket Frog, *Acris C. Crepitans*, in West Virginia." Advisor: Dr. Thomas Pauley, Biological Sciences.

Alexis Bennett for "A Survey of Antibiotic Resistant and Toxicogenic Bacteria in the Ohio River." Advisor: Charles Somerville, Biological Sciences.

Jamie Blake for "Benthic insect community structure and valley fills in West Virginia." Advisor: Dr. Donald Tarter, Biological Sciences.

Martella Henson for "Identity Formation, Coping Strategies and Presentation of Self in the Lives of Gay and Lesbian Parents." Advisor: Dr. Richard Garnett, Sociology.

Zulma Hernandez for "School-Based Reproductive Health Programs for Young Adults, Aguablanca-District (Cali-Columbia)." Advisor: Dr. Howard Gordon, Adult and Technical Education.

Michelle Meese for "Influence of Terminology on the Efficacy of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing in the Treatment of Test Anxiety." Advisor: Dr. Pam Mulder, Psychology.

(continued on page 4)

Card of Thanks

My family and I want to express our appreciation and thanks to the Marshall family for all the cards, notes, flowers, and expressions of concern at the recent death of my mother.

Sarah Denman

Sandra Clements

from Page 3

students, she stays late and if an individual is having a particularly difficult transition period, she gives them her home phone number.

"My family is out of the house now. My children are grown so I can spend time here if needed. The important thing is that the students know there is someone who cares about them and is their advocate."

She's always had a strong interest in helping people and in the helping professions.

A Huntington native, she earned a B.A. and a M.A. both in counseling from Marshall, worked for the Head Start program and later served six years as a field coordinator for Save The Children. Most people, she says, don't realize that Save the Children serves the needs of West Virginians as well those in other countries. Part of her job was finding local children for sponsorship in Cabell, Wayne, Mason, Lincoln and McDowell counties. Children in the program are eligible for monetary aid along with community services.

The rewards of working with that agency were great, she recalls.

"My job was to take photos and develop bios of eligible children and they were then sent to sponsors. The sponsors could then send cards, letters, money and gifts beyond their monthly obligation. I would deliver the packages and sometimes help the parents and children write a note of thanks. I really enjoyed doing that. It was like being Santa Claus. Every time I appeared somebody knew they were going to get a package," she remembers fondly.

In 1990 Clements accepted a job working for Dr. Betty Cleckley, vice president for Multicultural Affairs and International Programs, and after a few months transferred to her current office. She was intrigued by the opportunity to work with people who have special needs.

"What motivates me is to work with people who are disadvantaged, and to make them understand that they do have power and they can make a difference and change the way things are. There are two groups that tug at my heart, children, because they are often victims in our society....and their formative years are very important. They need to develop that sense of self and that they are somebody. 'I can do something. I can help other people, I can give something back to the community.' And women are the other group. Being a single mother when my children were growing up, there were many times if it had not been for the support of my family, if I hadn't had parents who helped me, I'm not sure where I would be today," she notes.

She has three children: daughter Lesley, who received a B.A. in psychology and a M.A. in counseling from Marshall and is working at Northern Illinois University; Bradford, a graduate of Virginia Tech who works in the engineering department at Marathon Oil; and son Jacques, who has cerebral palsy and is now and then a student at Green Acres.

"Having a child with a disability, and having worked through the system in the public school district helped me become an advocate for my child, and this experience now helps me to be an advocate for others," she believes.

She's seen the number of students requesting services increase significantly over the past 10 years. More and more students with disabilities are staying on in college to get degrees and they're getting jobs. Clements is very proud of their accomplishments.

"When I came here in 1990, the first three years a couple of students graduated and maybe one of them went out into the job market. But we are seeing those numbers increasing. They are finding employment. It may take a little longer but we are now finding employers who will hire people with disabilities."

She is careful to delineate the services offered by DSS from the very successful HELP program. "The HELP program is designed specifically for students with learning disabilities, so they serve people with dyslexia, those with problems with written expression or reading comprehension or those with traumatic brain injuries. Our office offers services to anyone with any type of disability—for example those with congenital conditions, those who have been involved in accidents and veterans who sustained injuries in service," she explains.

So what does Clements do for recreation outside the office? The question draws that hearty laugh. For one thing, she serves on a number of boards and committees, all having to do with helping others. She has served on or is a current member of the boards of Time Out, a runaway youth shelter in Huntington; Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, for those with developmental disabilities; Huntington's Children's Place, and the Scott Community Center in her neighborhood. A member of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, she's active in the congregation and holds various posts in the church. She also enjoys crosstitching and reading.

The bottom line these days is that she really likes what she's doing. In addition to working directly with individual students, she is also in charge of hiring graduate students—five this semester—and the 30-40 student assistants who are hired part-time to provide services ranging from tutoring, note taking, test and text readers to a host of other services as needed.

"I see my job as empowering students to go and take charge of their lives. I can remember the time when a student would come to my office and Mom and Dad did all the talking. But now students come in at the beginning of the semester and they are so confident, they'll just leave me a note telling me what they need. That's the really rewarding part for me."

Thesis Awards

from Page 3

Roxanne Smith for "Going Down the Path Not Taken: A Sociological Analysis of Appalachian Women and Higher Education." Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Ambrose, Sociology.

Mizuki Takahashi for "Life History, Seasonal Activity and Status of the Common Mudpuppy, *Necturus m. maculosus*, in West Virginia." Advisor: Dr. Thomas Pauley, Biological Sciences.

Tonya Yablonsky for "The Effects of Habitat Fragmentation on West Virginia Bats." Advisor: Dr. Suzanne Strait, Biological Sciences.