

# We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

## Theatre Dept. Announces 2001-02 Season

The MU Department of Theatre has announced their 2001-2002 line up which will feature four diverse and award winning shows.

*The Foreigner*, which kicks off the season on September 26, 27, 28 and 29, is the winner of two Obie Awards and two Outer Critic Circle Awards as the Best New American play and



The Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center will be the location for the Department of Theatre's 2001-2002 season, which includes noted works such as "The Foreigner" and "Bus Stop."

Best Off-Broadway production. Directed by Gene Anthony, *The Foreigner* is described as "an inspired romp and a wonderful evening's entertainment."

A poignant drama based on the life of John Merrick, *The Elephant Man*, opens October 31 and runs through November 3. Merrick, a famous Victorian sideshow performer disfigured by neurofibromatosis, is the subject of this award winning play which garnered Tony Awards, Obies, The New York Drama Critics Circle Award, and the Drama Desk Award. It will be directed by Jack Cirillo.

*Bus Stop*, William Inge's romantic comedy about five weary travelers caught in a blinding snowstorm who take refuge in a roadside diner, will be performed February 20-23. Directed by

Gene Anthony, the bittersweet comedy has long been an audience favorite.

The season will close with Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the much loved classic that continues to provide insights into issues that resonate with today's audiences. There have been many versions of this classic—it's been the basis for countless films, an opera, a ballet and theater companies all over the world continue to perform it. It will run April 24-27 and will be directed by Jack Cirillo.

The Department of Theatre is offering season ticket packages and discounted tickets for seniors and MU faculty and staff. Adult season tickets are \$32, while seniors (age 65 and up) and MU faculty and staff can purchase them for \$30 each. A family package, which includes 16 tick-

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## CTC, Strictly Business Offer South Charleston Classes

Several multi-session training seminars are being offered jointly by the Marshall University Community & Technical College's Computer Learning Center in South Charleston, and Strictly Business Computer Systems in Huntington in the coming weeks.

All classes will be held at the South Charleston Computer Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free parking is available on site.

Seminars include **Oracle Introduction**, September 10-14 and **Oracle DBA 2Performance Tuning**, October 15-19; Other upcoming classes with dates to be announced are **Oracle Backup & Recovery**, 4 days in November; **Oracle Database Administration**, 2 days in December; **Oracle Networking**, 2 days in December. **Oracle Developer & Oracle 9i Portals**, is scheduled for early 2002.

To register, or for additional information, contact Martha Pierson at 746-2062, or fax at 746-2092 or by e-mail at [mpierson@marshall.edu](mailto:mpierson@marshall.edu).

# RECOGNITION: Make Someone's Day!

by Judy Blevins, Human Resource Services

*RECOGNITION Does Not End with a "Thank you!"*

The Marshall University *Employee of the Month* program recognizes staff members who exemplify exceptional levels of work performance and display high regard and loyalty toward Marshall and their job responsibilities. Each monthly recipient receives a plaque and \$100. The *Employee of the Year* receives a cash award of \$300, along with a plaque recognizing this honor.

A committee, composed of at least one each classified employee, non-classified employee, faculty member, and student member, evaluates the nominations and selects the monthly honorees, as well as the *Employee of the Year* recipient.

The basis for nominating someone should include one or more of the following:

- Exceptional level of work performance
- Special contribution to the university
- Exemplifies the mission of the university
- Outstanding attendance record
- Responsible attitude toward his/her job
- Special rapport with other staff, faculty, and/or students

Each nominator is instructed to describe in detail why the employee he/she is nominating should be *Employee of the Month*, elaborating on any

incident or accomplishment pertaining to the basis of the nomination.

Forms are online at <http://www.marshall.edu/human-resources/forms/eomform1.pdf>. Paper copies can be obtained in 207 Old Main, Human Resource Services.

An *Employee of the Month* nomination is a great way to express appreciation and recognition!

## Excused Absences

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

August 21, after 4 p.m. - Kyle Adkins, Eric Akers, Justin Altizer, Jason Barr, Michael Bonar, Bobby Carroll, Josh Cassidy, Greg Circle, Brian Dunfee, Brian Endicott, Stefanie Gessel, Darrell Haynes, Gary Jack, Jay Jobe, Sherman Kelly, Megan Lanier, Ahsley Lusk, Adam Martin, Emily Mottesheard, Jamie O'Brien, Mark Pelurie, Zach Price, Richard Ryan, Chris Shew, Michael Skeens, Heather Smith, Grant Stephan, James Summerville, Sarah Watts, Angela Weekly, Emily Wilkins.

Members of the Marching Thunder have been excused from classes on August 30-31. They are: Aaron Smith, Aaron Stone, Adam Martin, Aimee Forshey, AJ Smith, Alana Carney, Alica Dempsey, Alicia Sheppard, Alison Spardo, Allen Jordan, Allison Carroll, Amanda Boone, Amanda Cochran, Amanda Knight, Amanda Moles, Amanda Pelt, Amber Jarvis, Amber Kendrick, Amber Marcum, Amy Stout, Amy Kisling, Amy Wessel,

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## 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 September 21, 2001.

Deadline is September 14. 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](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).



## Theatre 2001-2002 Season

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ets, is available again this year for \$112 with additional season tickets priced at \$28. Individual ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and MU faculty and staff. The deadline to purchase season tickets is September 24.

According to information from the Department of Theatre, funds raised from season subscriptions provide opportunities for high school students to view and participate in theatre programs at Marshall; promote the performing arts in the Huntington area through partnering with other community organizations; put dollars back into the community; and assist in providing a regional and national presence for Marshall Theatre and the Huntington community through participation in regional and national workshops and conventions.

## Profile: Phyllis Bias

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Phyllis Bias

She can laugh now about the relay system of making coffee, one of the many memories that have studded her 22-year tenure in the Special Education program at what is now the Marshall University Graduate College.

But back in 1979, the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, or COGS as it was affectionately nicknamed, was located in Hill Hall, a converted dormitory on the campus of West Virginia State College in Institute. A somewhat shabby three-story structure, it did lack some amenities.

"Because of the electrical system, we couldn't all make coffee at the same time. When I wanted to make coffee for our department, I had to go up and down the hall asking other staff to turn off their pots. It seems funny to have done that now but somehow it worked. Everybody cooperated and everybody eventually had coffee," she says.

And then there was the lone copy machine used by everybody in the building. "There was always a mad scramble to get to it while it was still working as it went down almost every day from the sheer amount of copying done on it," she remembers.

She's seen a host of changes occur in the college—several name changes, the merger with Marshall, three changes of locations—and with her usual calm efficiency and a great sense of humor, she's taken them all in stride.

She, along with other members of the staff, through the years became adept at packing up and moving the whole institution. In 1981 the entire college moved across campus to roomier quarters in the 8-story Sullivan Hall, another converted dormitory, named for esteemed civil rights activist, Leon Sullivan. The coffee pots finally worked all at once and there were copiers on each floor.

The final move came in 1995 when the college's odyssey ended with the staff following moving vans five miles down the interstate to South Charleston where a sleek new building and plenty of parking awaited them.

And although the early days in modest surroundings required a lot of flexibility and ingenuity on the part of the staff, they've formed a mosaic of some of Bias' favorite memories.

Her greatest luck, which set the tone for her working career at the college, Bias says, was coming to work for Dr. Allen Blumberg, known

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## Additional New Faculty Named

Additional new faculty members for 2001-02 announced by the Office of Academic Affairs include Ashok Vaseashta, Physical Sciences; Terry Wiant, Management/Marketing; Matthew Wolfe, English; Melinda Backus, Education; Keith Beard, Psychology; Nicholas Bedway, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Marybeth Beller, Political Science; Lance Bellville, Marketing/Management; Sharon Brescoach, Journalism and Mass Communication; Clayton Brooks, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Debra Conner, Education; Charles Martin, Criminal Justice; Frances Martin, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Gary McIvain, Exercise Science, Sport, and Recreation; Lisa Moten, Human Development and Allied Technology; Heather Pack, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Sandip Patel, Management/Marketing; Edward Powell, Finance/Economics; Christine Schimmel, Graduate School of Education and Professional Development; Laura Stapleton, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Cicero Fain, History; Michael Godbey, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Andrew Gooding, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Mary Katherine Gould, Dietetics; Lois Jakubowski, Accountancy/Legal Environment; James Jarrell, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Diana Jividen, English; Nicola Locascio, Biological Sciences; Marie Manilla, English.

## Chemistry Faculty Members Wed

Two Chemistry faculty members were married this summer in Aptos, California.

Seth Bush, assistant professor of chemistry, and Jenny Yom, temporary assistant professor, exchanged wedding vows in a ceremony on July 21.

## Faculty/Staff Achievements

**Dr. Mack Gillenwater**, a Drinko Fellow, attended the annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education August 1-5 in Vancouver, British Columbia. He chaired the session on Appalachian culture and presented a paper, *Historical and Cultural Geography of Mining Wars in Southern West Virginia, 1911-1922*.

**Dr. Robert Bickel** and **Dr. Roxane Dufrene** of the College of Education and Human Services are authors of a paper titled *Opportunity, Community, and Crime on School Property: A Quantitative Case Study*. The paper has been accepted for publication by the journal, *Educational Foundations*.

## *Phyllis Bias*

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fondly as Al by all who knew him. A man with an impish sense of humor and a perpetual twinkle in his eyes, he was revered by students, staff, and special education professionals alike.

"Dr. Blumberg was a father figure, not just a boss. He made it fun to work at the college and he taught me so much." They worked together until Blumberg's retirement in the early 1990's.

Shortly after she joined the Special Education program, her boss went on sabbatical and during his absence she had what was then one of her most embarrassing moments which she can laugh about now.

"I had just started to work when we had a major NCATE (National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education) review. I didn't know what NCATE was or that as part of their visit they would be looking at some student files. One morning a group of people walked into my office and asked to see some files and I told them I was sorry, but they couldn't see them. I didn't know who these people were. Nobody told me it was okay until later."

However, the NCATE officials didn't go away mad. They recognized she was merely being protective of students' privacy, an admirable trait in their eyes.

Along with the changes in locations, there has also been changes in her duties, which have also affected the staff in other programs. "It's no longer just typing memos or just answering phones," she notes. "You have to have so many more technical skills. ...We all take training classes to keep up, lots of computer classes but other classes as well."

But most staff she's worked with are patient and flexible, and like her, manage to juggle a myriad of diverse responsibilities.

She still answers the phone the old fashioned way and talking with students is one of her favorite duties. "In this position, I'm the first person a student talks with and how I answer the phone can make it or break it for students," Bias says.

And like other program secretaries, being well versed on academic and program policies and procedures is a plus for the students, Bias says. "I really enjoy talking with our students and I get along well with them. We all try to do everything we can to help them, to make their contact with the college pleasant. I try to make them comfortable and, like most program secretaries, I can usually answer about 75 percent of their inquires."

The 22 years she's spent at the graduate college have flown by according to Bias. "My daughters were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades when I started work and now they're married with careers and two children each and another baby due in January. I love my grandchildren dearly and I admit that I am a doting grandmother," she remarks proudly.

After her husband's retirement from American Electric Power Company, the Biases have indulged in one of their favorite pastime—travel. They visit

daughter Terra and her family in North Carolina and other relatives in Florida. But often as not it's a spur of the moment kind of thing, she relates. They like being spontaneous and as she says, "We don't always plan too much. If we want to go someplace, we just go and we always have a good time!"

She's reflective as she looks back at her years at what is now MUGC. "I've made a lot of good friends here...it's like a family and we stick together. It's been a wonderful 22 years!"

## *Excused Absences*

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Andrea Click, Angela Weekley, Angie Gates, Anna Wiley, Anthony Herr, Ariel Price, Ashley Thompson, Becky Fisher, Bob Carroll, Brian Dunfee, Brian Endicott, Bridget Peterson, Brittney Beckett, Brooke Bailey, Candace Vassallo, Cara McDaniel, Carie Bartolovich, Casey Neehouse, Chad Halstead, Charles Thompson, Cheri Gregory, Chris Carter, Chris Dillon, Chris Itson, Chris Scarberry, Chris Shew, Cindy Harrison, Corey Green, Courtney Reach, Cristina Carman, Crystal Harris, Darrell Haynes, Darren Driskell, Dave Timmons, David Dotson, Derek Hippler, Emily Mottesheard, Emily Wilkins, Eric Akers, Erica Davis, Erick Pullen, Evan Hubbard, Evelyn Sergent, Gary Burdette, Geary Jack, Grant Stephan, Greg Circle, Greg Roberts, Hanna Thurman, Heather McIntire, Heather Smith, Hollie Bailey, Isaac Morgan, Jacqueline Ward, James Somerville, Jamie Barber, Jamie O'Brien, Jamy McClanahan, Jared Adams, Jason Barr, Jeannette Kripas, Jeff Gillis, Jeff Mesker, Jenna Ashbury, Jennifer DePompei, Jeremy Carter, Jeremy Dye, Jeremy Richardson, Jeremy Wellman, Jssica Halstead, Jessie Staton, Joe Jobe, Joe Pauley, Joe Woda, John Hodak, John Mark Curtis, Jon Janatolo, Josh Adkins, Josh Cassidy, Josh Hendrick, Josh Honaker, Josh Reed, Josh Ruppert, Josh Ward, Julia Jackson, Julian Lucci, Justin Altizer, Justin Gladwell, Justin McIntire, Justin Sizemore, Justin Spencer, Kasi Perry, Katherine Myers, Kedron Elliott, Kelly Adkins, Kelly Greenwood, Kelly Parsons, Kelly Rawlston, Kevin Ellenburg, Kimberly Pullen, Kyle Adkins, Latoyia Green, Laura Bailey, Laura Johnson, Lee Tabor, Leslie Hall, Leslie Styron, Lexa Halstead, Lisa Lewis, Marc Dowdy, Mariah Hinshaw, Marlayna Maynard, Mary Dameron, Mary Reynolds, Matt Hodge, Matt Jarvis, Megan Lanier, Melissa Langford, Michele Lappert, Michele Pritchard, Michelle Morton, Mike Bonar, Mike Hardt, Mike Knight, Mike Skeens, Misty Tinsley, Nick Slay, Nicole Gibbs, Rachel Cooper, Renee Jones, Richard Ryan, Sam Hodge, Sara Benda, Sarah Greathouse, Sarah Watts, Seth Rose, Seth Stanley, Shane Lappert, Sharon McClure, Shavana Jones, Sherman Kelly, Sherri Neckers, Shirley Weidger, Stefanie Gessel, Steve Osborne, Summer McCallister, Tara McCarty, Terri Murphy, Tiffany Stewart, Tim McClung, Tracy Adkins, Travis Conner, Tuesday Farley, Valerie Prichard, Vernon Jackson, Zack Bosley, Zach Price.