

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • APRIL 4, 2003

Convocation, Speakers Celebrate Academics

Dr. Meave G. Leakey, a paleoanthropologist who in August 1999 led a research team in Africa that found a 3.5 million-year-old skull and partial jaw said to belong to a direct ancestor of humans, is the featured speaker at the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation, April 4



Dr. Meave Leakey will speak at the Elizabeth G. Drinko Honors Convocation April 4.

The convocation highlights the ninth annual John Deaver Drinko and Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Celebration of Academics, which is taking place through April 4 at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Leakey, a native of Sussex, England, and currently a Research Associate in the Paleontology Division of the National Museum in Kenya, will speak at 7 p.m. Friday on the topic, "My Life in Science: An Evening with Meave Leakey." The event is free to the public.

She is the wife of well-known paleontologist Richard Leakey and

daughter-in-law of Louis and Mary Leakey, who are famous for their fossil finding. For decades, Meave Leakey has spent summer months in the dried riverbeds around Lake Turkana in Kenya. In addition to her field work there, Leakey's research has focused on the evolution of East African fossil mammals and mammalian faunas as documented in the Turkana Basin.

"This is a wonderful, unique opportunity for Marshall students to hear one of the foremost scientists in the field of paleontology," said Dr. Suzanne Strait, a paleontologist and professor in MU's Department of Biological Sciences. "She's very, very exciting, very dynamic. She comes from a family with an incredible tradition of studying human ancestry."

Leakey has worked at the National Museums of Kenya since 1969. She and her 31-year-old daughter, Louise, work together in the Turkana Basin with the rest of the research team, which is known as the "hominid gang." The skull they discovered in 1999 was named *Kenyanthropus platops* (flat-faced man of Kenya) and the

(continued on page 4)

Plans Underway for Service Awards

The 19th annual Service Awards Luncheon will be held Monday, May 5, 2003 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center.

The following is a *tentative* list of university staff members who will receive awards:

For 15 Years of Service: Michael Adkins, Doris Atkinson, Beverly Bennett, Barbara Black, Brenda Carrico-Ferguson, Kitty Carver, Janice Colegrove, Julia Dickens, Yetta Evans, Dorothy Godgluck, Joyce Harrah, Virginia Holderby, Damon Holley, Verlin Hughes, William Moore, Sherry Osborn, Nancy Pelphrey, Judith Ross, Tara Runyon, Monica Shafer, Carol Stinson, Linda Stockwell, James Terry, Nina Thompson, Billie Weis, Wanda Wells, Cora Westmoreland, Cathy Zhea.

For 20 Years of Service: David Bailey, Ann Blankenship, Cassandra Chappelle, Loretta Earls, Peggy Egnatoff, Roberta Ferguson, Rebecca Goodman, Linda Javins, Roberta Kinney, Nancy McComas, Beverly McCoy, Frances Mooney, Janet Turner, Trula Stanley, Patsy Stephenson, Mark Ward, Connie Zirkle.

For 25 Years of Service: Vickie Cramer, Tony Crislip, Jeffrey Daniels, Arlene Ferguson, Lester Fleming, Karen Greybill, Kent Hayes, Estil Hurn, Jeffrey Long, Arnold Miller, Carolyn Miller, James Richendollar, Marvin Stewart, Margaret Theis, Jack Toney, Deborah Watson, Charles Young.

(continued on page 3)

Research, Creativity Focuses of Liberal Arts Conference

Approximately 85 MU undergraduate students will deliver papers, exhibit posters and present their creative works Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15-16 at the third annual College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference on the Huntington campus.

This year's conference has been extended to two days with shorter hours to accommodate the schedules of students and visitors to the conference.

The purpose of the conference is to showcase the academic and creative talents of the liberal arts students, according to conference director Dr. David Kenley. Exhibits will be set up in the Memorial Student Center and the Drinko Library. Tuesday's sessions will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., and Wednesday sessions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Robert DeMott, the Edwin and Ruth Kennedy Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Writing at Ohio University, who will deliver an address on Tuesday at 11 a.m. His topic will be "Travels With Steinbeck: In Search of Ourselves."

"The conference will be an intellectually stimulating experience that brings together the university community, parents, friends and alumni," said Kenley, who is an Assistant Professor of History.

(continued on page 4)

Frank Jr. to Take Stage at Keith-Albee

Frank Sinatra Jr. has never been known for having his father's ring-a-ding style or swagger.



Frank Sinatra Jr. will appear at the Keith-Albee Theatre as part of the Marshall Artists Series April 14.

But he will be bringing memories and tunes that made his father famous to the Keith-Albee Theatre Monday, April 14 at 7 p.m.

Frank Jr. reassures audiences that he is not trying to impersonate his father. He prefers to call it "a very pleasant reminiscence," with a 36-piece orchestra to augment his anecdotes. He does re-create his father's original orchestrations, and even tries to duplicate the vocal phrasing of the songs his father made famous.

After years of studying music at the University of Southern California,

Frank Jr. originally planned a career as a pianist and conductor. Show promoters, however, had different ideas

and he eventually made his professional show business debut as a singer with the Eliot Brothers band, a group best known for its take-offs on name bands of the 1940s.

In 1988 Frank Jr. joined his father's staff as musical director and concert conductor, while continuing to perform on his own. He helped to choose the music and rehearsed and conducted the orchestra whenever Sinatra Sr., was on stage. In October 1993, fans flocked to the Desert Inn where Frank Jr. was singing in the lounge and his father was performing in the showroom.

"It was a lot of work conducting for my father and then singing two of my own shows, but I can't remember when I've had so much fun," he said.

Tickets are available through the Marshall Artists Series box office located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Tickets can be purchased over the phone with a VISA or MasterCard by calling ext. 6656.

'Hannah Ives' author to speak at Library Associates luncheon in Charleston

The first-ever joint Marshall University/West Virginia University Library Associates luncheon will take place at noon Friday, April 25 at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, W.Va.

The featured speaker for the luncheon is Marcia Talley, best-selling author of the Hannah Ives mystery series. Ms. Talley will discuss how an author does the research necessary to create scenarios for the murder mystery genre.

"Ms. Talley is a woman who speaks as well as she writes, said Barbara Winters, Marshall's Dean of Libraries. "She does a masterful job of talking about how she goes about researching details for murder mysteries."

Marcia Talley's first Hannah Ives novel, *Sing It to Her Bones*, won the Malice Domestic Grant in 1998 and was nominated for an Agatha Award as Best First Novel of 1999. *Unbreathed Memories*, the second in the series, won the Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award for Best Contemporary Mystery of 2000. Both were Featured Alternates of the Mystery Guild.

Hannah's third adventure, *Occasion of Revenge*, was released in August 2001 and is a Romantic Times Top Pick. Talley also is the editor of a collaborative serial novel, *Naked Came the Phoenix*.

For more information on the Library Associates' luncheon, please contact Yanzhi Wu at (304) 696-3201 or via e-mail at wu@marshall.edu.

Music Events Announced for April and May

A number of musical events are on tap in the Department of Music for April and May. All performances are scheduled for Smith Recital Hall, unless otherwise noted. These performances are free. They include:

SCI Composers' Concert, 4 p.m. April 4; Single Reed Day and Day of Percussion, both from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 5; Chamber 10 and More! Duo-piano recital—Leslie Petteys and Rhonda Mizok Taylor, 3 p.m. April 6; Senior Recital: Eric Akers, composition, 8 p.m. April 6; Senior Recital: Derek Gwinn, tenor, 8 p.m. April 7; Brass ensembles, 8 p.m. April 9; Choral Union, 8 p.m. April 11-12; Chamber 10 and More! faculty recital—Michael Stroehler,

(continued on page 3)

We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (312 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of April 17, 2003.

Deadline is April 11.

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.



Note of Thanks

We would like to thank the Marshall community for their prayers, cards and condolences following the recent death of Gina's father, George McCloud. It was most appreciated.

Gina & Terry Kates

Profile: Joan St. Germain

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Joan St. Germain

Tucked away in the basement of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, there's a treasure trove of clothing that can transport a visitor on a magical journey through time and to all sorts of places. There's contemporary, regular-folks everyday wear; dowdy duds for the poor and downtrodden; splashy, elegant gowns for the rich and glamorous; fancy finery fit for royalty; and vintage outfits reflecting life from the distant and not-too distant past.

Presiding over this basement kingdom is Joan St. Germain, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance. It's her job to costume the actors who appear in the productions of the Marshall Theatre Department. In the world of the theatre, clothes really do make the man and the woman, or in some cases, the mascots.

Working with a staff of work-study students and other students of varying sewing skills, it's a challenge to mount a production during the 5-6 weeks period of preparation available for each show. But St. Germain and her crew make it on time. As audiences enjoy the shows they are blissfully unaware of all the time and minute attention that's gone into it—and that's just the way the backstage workers know it should be.

Right now they're sewing—or building, in costume jargon—pajama-like garments suitable for patients in a psychiatric hospital as portrayed in Ken Kasey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which runs April 23-26 in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Costume design begins with the first reading of the script, and discussions with the director, St. German says, and ideas flow from there. What actors are wearing on stage helps delineate their characters, so the costumes have to suit each role's personality without taking focus from the actors' work.

"The best thing is when the actors look right and you don't think about what they're wearing. You have to consider the stage picture as a whole and it has to be translated into the individual characters," she says. "... I enjoy getting inside the characters' heads, developing a psychological profile for each character so you can understand why they do what they do and wear what they wear. It's about creating imaginary closets filled with imaginary clothes a character would wear."

A native of Rhode Island, St. German has been involved with costume design for the past 22 years, having worked her way up the hierarchy of technical theatre. Armed with a B.A.

(continued on page 4)

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Frederick P. Roth, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology / Anthropology, chaired a panel on "Crime, Justice, and Policing in Africa" at the annual meetings of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Boston, MA March 4-8. He also presented a paper, "Traditional Society and Democratic Policing in Botswana."

Dr. Thomas Klein and **Dr. Linda Hunt** of the College of Education gave a presentation to the West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics on "Move Over, Math Anxiety" March 21. The presentation defined math anxiety, reviewed the literature on math anxiety, gave implications of math anxiety on students' math performance, and gave methods to ameliorate math anxiety.

Music Events from Page 2

trombone, and Harsha Abeyaratne, piano, 3 p.m. April 13; Chamber ensembles, 8 p.m. April 14; Graduate recital: Chip Gue, euphonium, 8 p.m. April 17; Graduate recital: Sandra Fox, piano, 8 p.m. April 21; Percussion Ensemble, 8 p.m. April 24; Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m. April 25; Bach Series: Castleberry and Smith at Trinity Episcopal Church, 3 p.m. April 27; Guest recital: *Madame M* (Claudia Stevens) at site to be announced, 8 p.m. April 27; Symphonic Band, 8 p.m. April 28; African Drum/Dance Ensemble, 4 p.m. April 29; MU Orchestra, 8 p.m. April 30.

May performances include:

Wind Symphony, 8 p.m. May 1; Chamber 10 and More! faculty composers' recital—Mark Zanter and Marshall Onofrio, 8 p.m. May 2; Faculty recital: *Nevelson Duo* at Huntington Museum of Art, 3 p.m. May 18.

Service Awards from Page 1

For 30 Years of Service: Sue Bell, Charles Harless, Stephen Hensley, Carolyn Hunter, Randy Price, Ken Reffeitt, Joseph Vance, Alan Ward, Joe Wortham.

For 35 Years of Service: Deborah Hicks, Charles Newsom

Retirees: Marilyn Armentrout, Mary Black, Annette Blake, Thelma Dawson, William A. Edwards, Sharon France, Susan Heidekruger, Carolyn Hunter, Ethel Lipscomb, Ralph May, Belinda Calliccoat-McFarland, Carolyn Miller, Rowena Napier, Patrick O'Neil, Joyce Ray, Samuel Stanley, Margaret Theis, Michael Underwood, Shirley Vaught, Jane Vickers.

To be eligible for awards, employees must have completed 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years of service to Marshall University by May 1, 2003. (Marshall University Graduate College service counts as Marshall University service.) If anyone has been left off this list, please contact Joe Wortham at 696-5402.

The menu will feature braised Beef Tips over Noodles, Vegetable Medley, Mixed Green Salad, Assorted Rolls, Cakes, Pies, Beverages, or a Vegetarian Meal (Baked Cheese Tortellini).

Joan St. Germain from Page 3

degree from Marquette University and a M.F.A. from The Ohio State University, and with a flair for the technical side of theatre, she spent five years working with regional theatres and in summer stock, honing her skills. She's been an apprentice, an intern, an assistant designer and, finally, a head designer, working chiefly in professional theatre in New York and New England before turning to academic theatre.

St. Germain became interested in teaching after working with students from an arts magnet school. "I liked working with the kids and I found I enjoyed teaching and I was pretty good at it," she explains.

Her first teaching assignment was at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. She was in her element when she found that in addition to other productions, the university staged an opera each summer. Operas require some of the most challenging and elaborate costume designs and lots of them. During her stay at Cameron she worked on "Il Trovatore," "Carmen," "The Barber of Seville," and "Madame Butterfly."

Eventually moving on to Texas Tech University, she found her talents called upon to help refurbish the university's beloved mascot, Raider Red, which was in a sorry state of disrepair. "We cleaned him up, put him in a tux and a top hat ... we made him look better than he had before," she fondly remembers.

The shows she's designed run the gamut of Broadway hits. In addition to the operas, she worked on numerous musicals, which are the mainstay of theater, she says, as well as light comedies, dramas, dance, and well-loved classics like "A Christmas Carol."

Although the MU Theatre has been in existence since the 1930s, the MU costume shop is relatively new, formed only 9 years ago. St. Germain is the second full-time costume designer. Prior to 1994, costumes were rented, borrowed, pulled from performers' closets or made as needed.

"Now that we have the position of costume designer and a shop, the productions take advantage of it," she says. Costumes are reused, refurbished and remodeled, with many dipped into the dye pot to come away with whole new lives. In some cases, costumes need to be made from scratch and St. Germain is an old hand at finding fabric and accessories. She combines local shopping with trips to New York and Boston, where there are numerous mill outlets. And the Internet is turning out to be a valuable source for hard-to-find character outfits.

She's heartened by the growing attendance at MU Theatre productions.

"We get a good audience, a good number of subscribers and a growing number of students are coming to shows ... Our productions are getting good word-of-mouth advertising, the best possible kind."

She's done so many shows, she can't really select favorites but probably her most memorable one was the 2001 production of "Our Town." Shortly before beginning work on the bittersweet comedy/drama, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and began chemotherapy.

"Keeping focused on the show when so many things were happening was a challenge but it was a beneficial challenge. I could let go of what was happening physically and focus on art. I figured if I could keep it together for that show, I could keep it together for anything,"

And she did. Out of treatment for the past two years, the upbeat designer is looking for a way to give back for the care she received, and is organizing a Marshall Relay for Life team to participate in the upcoming American Cancer Society's Huntington event on May 16-17. A preliminary meeting was held last week and she stresses that anyone unable to attend that meeting can still join the team. For more information, call her at ext. 6583.

Come summer, St. Germain will head for summer stock. She's usually at the Papermill Theater in Lincoln, New Hampshire, which she describes as "a theatre camp ... a lot of hard work and a lot of fun."

Although her career has taken several turns, she's right where she wants to be. "My job is perfect for me," she says. "I get bored easily. Theatre is always something different—different shows, different colleagues."

And once the actors take their bows, the audience applauds and the curtain comes down, the costume crew can breathe a sign of relief. They've done their jobs well when their work is appreciated while going basically unnoticed.

After all, she says philosophically, "No one goes out of a Broadway show humming the costumes!"

Liberal Arts Conference from Page 1

An information desk will be set up in the student center. Registration is not necessary for attendance and everyone is invited to come and look over the projects, according to Kenley.

"There aren't many schools that do this type of thing," he noted. "We want to thank the students and the faculty mentors who put so much time and effort in preparing for the conference."

For additional information about the event, to get the conference schedule and to view a list of the projects, visit the Web site at www.marshall.edu/libartsconf.

Convocation from Page 1

discovery made headlines around the world.

The Celebration of Academics began yesterday with the John Deaver Drinko Symposium. The featured speaker was Dr. Michael L. Little from Marshall's Department of Integrated Science Technology in the College of Science. His topic was "Creature Tracks and Creature Comforts Across W.Va.: Looking For Signs In All The Wrong Places."

During the Honors Convocation Friday evening, students who have received academic awards during the year will be honored. Martha Woodward, executive director of the John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence and the Yeager Scholar Program, described the celebration as "the academic event of the year."

The remaining schedule for the Celebration of Academics includes:

7 p.m., The Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation, Joan C. Edwards Playhouse, Dr. Meave G. Leakey speaking on the topic, "My Life in Science: An Evening with Meave Leakey."

8:30 p.m., public reception, lobby of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.