

# We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • AUGUST 1, 2003

## Marshall Welcomes New Board of Governors Members

Governor Bob Wise has appointed three new members to the Marshall University of Governors. All three are Huntington residents and will serve four-year terms ending

June 30, 2007. The new members are Michael J. Farrell, Gary Adkins and Brent A. Marsteller.

Farrell, an attorney who succeeds David Todd, served on the board from 2001 to 2002, while Adkins and Marsteller are new appointees. Adkins, who is superintendent of Wayne County Schools succeeds Dr. Sam Sentelle. Marsteller is President and CEO of Cabell Huntington Hospital and succeeds Dr. Tom Scott.

"Governor Wise has selected three excellent individuals to serve on our board," President Dan Angel said. "During his year on the board Mike Farrell provided a tremendous service to higher education and no doubt that will continue.

*(continued on page 4)*

## James Morris-Smith is Employee of the Year

James Morris-Smith, director of Theatre Facilities, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Year, according to Jim Stephens, Chairman of the Employee of the Month Selection Committee.

Morris-Smith, who has been employed at Marshall for

17 years, was the June Employee of the Month. He was nominated by Sarah N. Denman, Roberta Ferguson, and Martha A. Woodward.

In their nominations they cited his creativity, affability, organizational skills, his critical eye for detail, his

*(continued on page 3)*



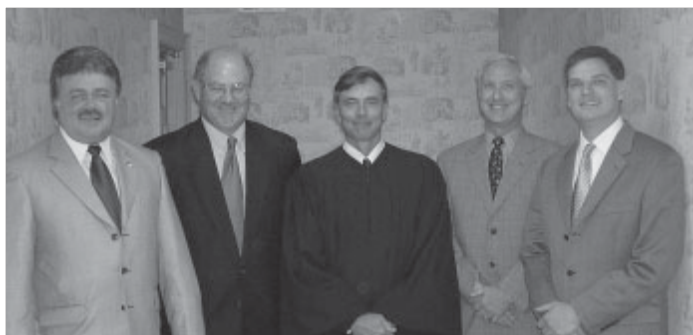
James Morris-Smith (right) receives his Employee of the Year plaque from President Angel.

## Book Lovers' Road Show Returns

For anyone who has ever wondered about the value of an old book or a favorite book picked up before the author became famous, help is on its way.

Noted antiquarian book appraiser, collector and lecturer Jack Walsdorf will pay a visit to Marshall University's John Deaver Drinko Library August 5 to look at books and give

*(continued on page 4)*



Judge Dan O'Hanlon (center) posed with new Board of Governors members Gary Adkins (left), Michael J. Farrell (second from left), Brent Marsteller (second from right) and James Sottile (right) after swearing them in.

## In Memoriam: Dr. Joseph Abramson

Friends and colleagues gathered last week for a memorial service in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse for Dr. Joseph Abramson, who was killed in an automobile accident July 14. He had been named interim head of the Department of Management and Marketing in the Lewis College of Business just prior to his death.

A native of New Orleans, he is survived by his father, Alfred Abramson, a brother, Alfred Abramson, and a sister, Carol Abramson Schudmak. Funeral services were held July 20 in New Orleans.

Abramson received a bachelor's degree in business from Louisiana State University, a master's degree from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. in marketing from Louisiana State University.

In an interview with the *Huntington Herald Dispatch*, Dr. Chong Kim, who is interim dean of the Lewis College of Business, said there are three types of people in this world: the necessity, the "just get along" and the parasite which breeds negativity.

"Joe was a necessity," Kim said. "He contributed to the group. He was hardworking and humble." Kim characterized Abramson as a "strong team player," someone who strove to build a group into a

*(continued on page 4)*

# Undergraduates Focus of Recent Gifts

Two recent gifts will establish scholarships for deserving undergraduate students at Marshall.

The Marshall University Foundation Inc. has received a gift of \$178,000 from the estate of Colin A. Campbell. This residuary bequest will establish the Colin A. Campbell Memorial Scholarship to benefit students in the College of Education and Human Services.

The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of financial need either to incoming freshmen or established Marshall students and may be renewed pending satisfactory academic achievement. Campbell was the owner of Campbell Organ Service in St. Joseph, Mo.

Campbell's late sister, Dr. Margaret C. Campbell, was a professor of education at Marshall. In 1987, she received the university's first Distinguished Service Award for her 30 years of service. She was acclaimed for her pioneering efforts to improve education statewide through programs such as Head Start and the enhancement of the entire university community.

"The College of Education and Human Services is very pleased to have received a significant gift from Colin Campbell to establish a teacher education scholarship for a worthy undergraduate student," said Dr. Tony L. Williams, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Services. "We are indebted to the generosity and vision of benefactors such as Colin Campbell who have placed Marshall in their wills."

The family of Dr. Stuart W. Thomas Jr., former Marshall University professor of psychology, has established the Stuart W. Thomas Jr. Undergraduate Research Award in Psychology, to be given to a full-time undergraduate student in the Department of Psychology.

The recipient will be chosen on the merits of his or her outstanding research that relies substantially on quantitative psychology. The award was established by Thomas wife, Dr. Donna J. Spindel, professor of history, and children, Becky Thomas, Wayne Thomas and Megan Thomas.

In addition to teaching, Thomas served as statistical consultant on many student, faculty and staff research

projects at Marshall from 1972 to 2003. He served as director of institutional research from 1986 to 1991, and continued to support the Marshall administration by completing special assignments for the Office of Institutional Research and the Office of Academic Affairs. In 2002, Thomas was awarded the university's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his many years of expertise and dedication.

"Dr. Stuart Thomas, a wonderful colleague and friend, was a major contributor to the teaching mission of the Psychology Department for many, many years," said Dr. Marty Amerikaner, department chair. "He encouraged, supported and mentored innumerable psychology students, so the establishment of this award is a fitting tribute to his work. It will serve to celebrate the excellent work of many highly motivated and talented psychology students, the type of work which Stuart's teaching so often stimulated and nurtured."

## WV-BRIN to Present University Biomedical Research

The second annual WV-BRIN (Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network) Summer Research Symposium will take place August 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Huntington campus.

WV-BRIN sponsored biomedical research has been active this summer sponsoring 22 undergraduate student interns and seven faculty fellows from around the state in research laboratories at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the West Virginia University School of Medicine. Additional students and faculty are participating in WV-BRIN grant-funded research at Fairmont State College, Salem International University and West Liberty State College.

Guest speakers for the symposium include Dr. Robert Elston, chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Case Western Reserve and Professor Nancy Steinberg Warren, Director of the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program at the University of Cincinnati. Elston will focus on the challenges of multifactorial trait analysis and Warren will discuss the importance of counseling in genetic research.

Student and faculty research will be highlighted with poster presentations and research talks. For additional information, call Ext. 7318.

## 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 Aug. 15, 2003. Deadline is Aug. 8. 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).



## Note of Thanks

I would like to say thank you for all the cards and well wishes I received on my retirement. Thanks so much to all who stopped by to personally wish me well.

I enjoyed my years working at Marshall University and especially all the friends I have made through the years. Thank you again.

Penny Smoot

## Profile: Karen Haney

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Karen Haney

There are days when your computer turns cranky, spews nonsensical computerspeak all over your nice clean screen, has a bad hard-drive day, or in general seems out to get you. If you are on the South Charleston campus, it could be Karen Haney to the rescue.

Haney, a multi-talented information systems specialist, has moved easily through several jobs since joining the Marshall University Graduate College in 1979, so it's no surprise that the meticulous and well-organized Haney is now tackling the complex world of computers.

She didn't start out jousting with malfunctioning machines, however. With a home economics degree from West Virginia State College in hand, her first job at the graduate college was working as secretary for Kemp Winfree, currently Vice President for Regional Operations, but who at that time was Director of Development for the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies.

And the machines she worked on back then were a far cry from the speedy and multi-faceted computers of today. She used an IBM Selectric typewriter to individually type the dozens of letters their office sent out to donors. There was no flick of a magic key back then to produce multiple professional copies like today, but rather "a whole lot of carbon paper and lots of white out" she says with a smile. "If we had 60 letters to go out, then I typed 60 letters and made carbons. There was no printing or no duplication. Everything was original and they had to be perfect!"

Graduation to an early word processor, a desk-sized AB Dick machine, helped a lot but was still a far cry from the sleek and continually shrinking computers of today.

But back then, computers were still a fuzzy futuristic concept in the minds of most people. So work in the development office went on, very labor-intensive even for a skilled typist like Haney.

Her career with the Graduate College paused in 1983, when she moved to Florida with her husband, a private pilot for an oil magnate. The stay on Florida's west coast was a gratifying time for the couple, but Haney admits she was more than ready to move back to her native state three years later. And, it was natural for her to come back to work at the college, initially as a part-timer. Six months later she had her old job back in the development office when a vacancy fortuitously occurred.

The years sped along and she busied herself with not only her job, but with classified staff matters. She served several terms as president of the classified staff council, was elected to represent the staff on the college's Institutional Board of Advisors, and served on numerous committees, including the design committee responsible for planning the South Charleston facility which opened in 1995. And somehow she managed to make time to complete a master's degree from Marshall in Consumer Science with a specialty in aging.

Job offers in her field were tempting, but after weighing them, Haney opted to stay on at the college because she was fond of the work and the people with whom she worked. But she wasn't totally adverse to change, so in 1988 when a position opened up in Institutional Research, she somewhat reluctantly made the leap. For the detail-oriented Haney, it was a perfect fit.

Working with an interim director, she was figuratively knee-deep in compiling statistics, preparing reports of all

*(continued on page 4)*

## James Morris-Smith

*from Page 1*

tireless efforts on behalf of the university, and the enthusiasm and knowledge he brings to every job he undertakes as reasons for to honor him.

Denman wrote, "James Morris-Smith works tirelessly to make Marshall University always 'look good.' He makes impossible jobs happen and makes them look easy. He makes every event seem important and makes the job easier for all involved. His love of Marshall is evident in all he does and his good humor makes difficult things go smoothly."

And, she adds, "One of the joys of working with James is his 'wicked wit' No matter how stressed we all are, he always makes us laugh and focus."

He was responsible for giving this year's commencement, with its largest graduating class ever, a new look, according to Ferguson. "From the center aisle carpet to the elegantly decorated stage, James personally attended to every detail. His efforts resulted in a memorable event for our graduates and their guests. Future graduates also will benefit from his work."

She says he is generous in sharing his professional knowledge and expertise with theatre students, helping them explore all aspects of their craft.

Woodward has high praise for Morris-Smith after working with him on the Yeager Symposium, Honors Convocation and Governor's Honors Academy as well as other projects, all requiring a good deal of time and work. "James must set up and coordinate facilities for all the performance activities as well as [schedule] people to be there to see that everything works. He brings it all off with flair and aplomb."

She concludes, "As anyone who knows James can tell you, working with him is a pleasure not only because of his organization, attention to detail and brilliant design flair but because he is sensitive, generous and funny. Not many universities can claim such a gift as James."

The announcement of Morris-Smith's selection as Employee of the Year was made by President Dan Angel at a reception honoring the twelve monthly winners. He received a plaque, a gift certificate from the Marshall University Bookstore and a check for \$300.

## Erickson Campaign Reaches Halfway Point

The Erickson Alumni Center Campaign has surpassed the halfway mark in reaching its goal of \$3 million. The fundraising effort was initiated in early fall 2002 and is part of the Campaign for National Prominence.

The 22,000-square-foot building will house the Alumni Relations and Development staffs, along with facilities for use by campus and constituency groups associated with Marshall. It will be located at the site of the current alumni center.

"We are very fortunate to be at the halfway point at the end of one year," said Lance West, vice president for Alumni Development. "We wish to express our sincere gratitude to those who have committed to this worthwhile project."

## **Karen Haney** *from Page 3*

types, and turning out stacks and stacks of thick college fact books that could tell you basically anything you wanted to know about the growing institution. As major accreditation visits loomed, their work accelerated to include gathering detailed data for yet more stacks of reports.

When Dr. Patricia O'Reilly took over as the permanent Director of Research and Planning and as that office's duties expanded, Haney quickly became her valued assistant. Several years later, when O'Reilly's retirement neared, still another enticing opportunity opened at the college in the computer science department. With her usual thoroughness, for years Haney had painstakingly set out to learn everything she could about computers, taking any training or classes that became available and utilizing her knowledge of them in her work. Again, this new job opportunity seemed like a perfect fit for her versatile abilities.

"When I left Institutional Research, just as when I left Development, I liked the job and the people I worked for but I welcomed a challenge," she says. And she's candid about making the switch. "I probably wouldn't have gone into Computer Services if I hadn't been here for so long and people knew me and knew my work. At the time they were looking for people to train and they knew what I was capable of ... that I could work well with people, and that's important in this job."

Born in Pittsburgh, Haney and her family moved frequently as her geologist father was transferred to various cities in this region. But the family settled permanently in the Charleston area when she was in the fourth grade and she ultimately finished school there and completed a degree in Secondary Education at West Virginia State College. She came to the graduate college when she realized she had little inclination to teach, a decision she says she has never regretted.

These days one accomplishment she's extremely proud of is her continuing commitment to a workout routine that began when she participated in last year's Wellness at Work program.

"I originally joined when, as part of the wellness program, we were offered a year's membership in the South Charleston Recreation Center for \$75, which is a terrific deal. In the past I used these kinds of programs to lose weight and shape up but I wouldn't stay with them all that long. But now my motivation is different, I do it for my health, my heart and lungs and my bones, and that has made a difference."

She was also spurred on by her mother, who died last summer after having battled lifelong serious health problems. "She was so proud of me for sticking to the program," Haney says quietly. "It meant so much to her that I was doing something good for my health. I just didn't want to disappoint her. She wanted all of us, my brother and sister and me, to avoid some of the problems she'd had if at all possible."

In fact, three weeks after her mother's death, Haney headed back to the gym. "It was hard and I had to make myself go, but I knew this is what she wanted me to do."

She suffered another setback when she had major surgery several months ago, but within six weeks and with her doctor's permission, she was right back on the program. Not only has the exercise improved her health, there's also a practical aspect. "I couldn't lug all those computers around if I didn't work out!" the petite Haney says with a smile.

And after hours she's kept busy caring for her menagerie of four dogs, which includes her elderly Shih Tzu, Angel, along with Bandit, another Shih Tzu, and two Miniature Pinschers, Remington and Petey. She tries to find time for a favorite hobby, cross-stitching, and she delights in working in her yard and with her flowers. Then, there's the time she spends in her two time-share residences. Through flexible scheduling she's been able to visit various parts of the country—the Grand Canyon; Branson, Mo.; Williamsburg, Va.; North Carolina and Florida. "It's good to have gotten to a time in my life where I have the time to travel," she says thoughtfully.

She and the other members of the South Charleston-based Computing Services do some traveling in their jobs from time to time as well. "We take care of computers at sites such as Point Pleasant, Beckley, Gilbert, Mullins, Logan and Gassaway. Most of these sites were made possible through a Cross Roads grant that supports computer labs in rural location. Under the grant we provide technical support."

And she concludes, "At this point, after having been here for so long, I feel really fortunate to have had three different jobs without ever having to leave the institution. I've loved every job I've had but I'm grateful there have always been opportunities to make changes and take on new challenges."

## **In Memoriam** *from Page 1*

working unit both inside the university and out. "He wasn't just a co-worker," he said..

"He was married to Marshall," Kim said of his colleague who was usually on campus by 7 a.m. daily and stayed until 4:30 p.m. or later.

Kim said that in addition to teaching duties, Abramson did research and helped with many administrative tasks. On semester breaks he enjoyed traveling, including trips to England and Scandinavia.

## **New Board** *from Page 1*

I'm certain Gary Adkins and Bent Marsteller will make significant contributions."

Continuing as board members are Stephen E. Haid of Charleston, Carol Hartley of Charleston, Virginia King of Charleston, Menis E. Ketchum of Huntington, A. Michael Perry of Huntington, Robert L. Shell, Jr. of Huntington, Gary G. White of Gilbert, Thomas D. Wilkerson of Charleston and Joseph L. Williams of Huntington.

Sherri Noble remains the Marshall staff representative on the board. James M. Sottile is the new faculty representative, replacing Marshall Onofrio, and Michael Safcsak replaces Cory Dennison as student representative.

## **Book Lovers** *from Page 1*

owners an idea of their monetary worth. He will be joined by Confederate history specialist Terry Murphy, who will offer appraisals on Civil War imprints.

Much in demand as a speaker at library events, Walsdorf has worked for Alibris, a worldwide online search service connecting buyers with sellers of used, new, and hard-to-find books, movies and music. Murphy, a Marshall graduate, has owned and operated the Mount Sterling (Kentucky) Rebel Bookstore for more than 20 years.

A reception begins at 4 p.m. in the library atrium, to be followed by a brief talk on the joys of book collecting. Kathleen Bledsoe, of the Libraries' Special Collections Department, will provide advice on preserving books, papers, photos and memorabilia. Individual appraisals, which will be limited to two books per person, will follow.

Admission and appraisals are free for members of the MU Library Associates. The cost for non-members is \$3 per person. Those who plan to attend should call (304) 696-3201.