

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JUNE 20, 2003

Campaign Tops \$55 Million, Receives Maier Gift

The university's Campaign for National Prominence has reached more than \$55 million, according to Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and one of the campaign's co-directors.

One of the most recent pledges was for \$500,000 from the Sarah and Pauline Maier Foundation. It was



the
**Campaign
for National
Prominence**
Marshall University

directed toward the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center. The Maier Foundation, its president, Dr. Ed Maier, and his wife, Susan

Runyan Maier, have supported a number of Marshall projects.

"Our foundation's principal mission is higher education in West Virginia. We feel the (biotechnology)

Marshall Writers Festival Debuts June 27-28

Two acclaimed West Virginia writers will visit Marshall June 27-28 to read from their works and to conduct workshops for local writers during the first ever Marshall Writers Festival.

State Poet Laureate Irene McKinney will read from her work at 7 p.m. June 27 in Smith Hall's Birke Art Gallery. She is the author of four collections of poems, including *Six O'Clock Mine Report*, and is the recipient of fellowships from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts as well as the National Endowment for the Arts. She recently edited *Backcountry: Contemporary Writing in West Virginia*, a new anthology from West Virginia University's Vandalia Press.

Nationally known fiction writer Pinckney Benedict, author of a novel, *Dogs of God*, and two collections of short stories, will read at 8 p.m. June 27, immediately following McKinney, also in the Birke Art Gallery. Among other awards, he is recipient of the Nelson Algren Award from The Chicago Tribune, as well as a James Michener Fellowship.

On June 28, each writer will conduct a workshop for area writers. Space is limited. To register in advance, e-mail requests to stringea@marshall.edu.

In addition to the featured presentations, panel discussions with MU writing faculty and local authors will be presented. A group of these local writers will read from their works at 3 p.m. June 27 in the Atrium of the Drinko Library.

Books by festival writers are available at the MU bookstore and at the festival. All events area free and open to the public.

center is going to have a number of positive influences in education, from educating teachers for the public schools in primary and secondary education to undergraduate and graduate education at Marshall," Ed Maier said.

"We think one aspect that may have a very profound effect, not only in the Huntington community but also in the southern half of West Virginia, has to do with the positive economic development effects we think this center will have."

(continued on page 3)

Teresa Bolt is Employee of the Month

Teresa Bolt, Business Manager for University Information Technology, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for May, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed at Marshall since 1998, she was nominated by Dr. Jan I. Fox, and Arnold Miller.

In their nomination, they wrote, "Teresa Bolt continues to provide Information Technology with excellent service as a budget manager. IT has very complex budget accounts and contracts serving all of the IT areas including computing services, university libraries, distributed education, technology outreach and IT accounts for foundation, grants and contracts. She

(continued on page 3)



Teresa Bolt, winner of the Employee of the Month for May, received her plaque from Jim Stephens, Director of Human Resource Services.

Marshall Receives Benedum Grants

Marshall University has received \$325,000 from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to benefit three programs at the university.

The programs include the Hanshaw Geriatric Center Driving Assessment Program, \$100,000; the West Virginia School-Based Health Initiative, \$150,000; and a distance learning program in the College of Fine Arts in rural West Virginia schools, 75,000.

"It is wonderful that the Benedum Foundation has demonstrated its confidence in Marshall University by supporting our arts and health initiatives," said Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. "The Foundation continually recognizes that Marshall is the multi-laned avenue of service and education for the citizens of West Virginia."

The Hanshaw Geriatric Center Driving Assessment Program provides medical screenings and evaluations by an occupational therapist to determine if the person being tested has the skills needed to drive safely. The data are analyzed and a recommendation is made to the patient or to the referring physician as to whether the person appears to have intact driving skills.

The funds from the Benedum Foundation will allow expansion of this School of Medicine program to other parts of the state, educating others as to how wide-spread the problem of impaired elderly drivers is; creating a program for rural practitioners so they can test their own patients; protecting the driving privilege of those elderly persons who can still drive safely, and ultimately improving the public safety of West Virginians.

The School-based Health Center Technical Assistance and Evaluation Office, located in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health at Marshall, is taking proactive steps to address the problem of obesity in West Virginia schools, treating the problem as a public health issue and creating a systematic plan for helping all children who are overweight and helping prevent associated health risks.

Funds from the Benedum Foundation will assist MU in working with the centers to implement protocols for getting height and weight data and to providing them with an electronic medical records system for tracking the data.

The distance learning program in the College of Fine Arts is a pilot project utilizing distance education technology to deliver faculty development to primarily rural schools, with the goal of helping classroom teachers and specialists enhance arts education. The college will work closely with teachers to develop programs that can be delivered over the Internet, allowing for interactive learning with faculty and artists from the region. With the help of the Benedum Foundation, the college should be ready to deliver the faculty development programs early in 2004.

(continued on page 4)

Marshall Hosts Mars Station Online

Marshall University is host to one of three Planetary Society Web sites that allow visitors to use a robot in a simulated exploration of Mars. By logging on to Mars Station South Pole at <http://206.212.61.160>, participants can remotely drive a LEGO rover across a Mars terrain, seeing through the rover's EB camera "eye," just as mission scientists use robotic rovers to sense and explore the surface of Mars. In addition, there's the Mars Station, located in Jenkins Hall, Room B2, featur-

(continued on page 4)

Walker Receives Patent for Iron Treatment

Dr. Ernest M. Walker, Jr., professor of pathology at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, has been awarded a U.S. patent for "Methods of Treating Iron Overload" by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

Walker submitted the patent application in December 2001, and was awarded U.S. Patent #6,509,380 this past Jan. 21. After he submitted an invention disclosure form to the Marshall University Research Corp., MURC began working with him in reviewing the disclosure and seeking patent counsel.

Walker found that the compound acetaminophen treats iron overload and turned to fellow MU professors Dr. Michael Norton in chemistry and Dr. Protip Ghosh in geology to help him prove acetaminophen reacts with iron and removes it from body tissues.

"I became aware that iron overload is a terrible problem," Walker said. "Internationally about 50-100 million people have some degree of iron overload. If you get too much iron, it can damage your heart, give you diabetes and damage the liver. It's toxic if the iron level gets too high—that's the bottom line."

(continued on page 3)

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of July 11, 2003. Deadline is July 3. 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

Dear Marshall Community:

Thanks so much for the cards, flowers, and prayers during my recent illness. You will never know how your acts of encouragement helped in my recovery.

Thanks again,
Bob Collier

Profile: Mike Sullivan

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Mike Sullivan

The seven graduates, attired in the traditional caps and gowns, proudly smile for the camera. They could be any group of special friends, posing for a last fond photo together, classmates who are joyfully celebrating a mutual milestone. And they may very well be all of that, but as the vintage photo from 1973 reveals, this group is making history as the entire first class of graduates of the newly created West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, or COGS, as it would become affectionately known.

Among those smiling faces was Dr. Michael Sullivan, whose odyssey with the Graduate College, now part of Marshall University, has continued for 30 years. Now program director of Special Education, he's a professor of Special Education and Leadership Studies, located on the South Charleston campus.

"At the time I began taking classes in what was then the Kanawha Valley Graduate Center of West Virginia University, my classes were on Main Street in Nitro," he remembers. With a degree from West Virginia State College in business administration, the recently returned Vietnam veteran declined the opportunity to resume a job as a cost accountant at Union Carbide Corp. and turned to a more rewarding career path.

"I decided I didn't want to fit numbers into little boxes for the rest of my life," he says. "My wife, Mary, who was a teacher, had recently taken a special education class and really liked it so I decided to take a class, also." He was set upon a path to a lifelong dedication to special education when he met faculty members Iva Dean Cook, and Dr. Alan Blumberg, who quickly became his mentor. Blumberg, who was known both state-wide and nationally for his work in special education, headed up that department at the graduate college for many years until his retirement.

Once Sullivan made the decision to change professions, he went about it with determination, becoming a full-time student using the G. I. Bill and stipends to finance his education. At the time, classes were being offered through West Virginia University's Kanawha Valley Graduate Center, but in 1972 the newly formed Board of Regents created COGS, which was mandated to operate as a separate college offering master's degrees in several fields. Eventually a cooperative doctoral program in education administration with WVU and Marshall was added.

Sullivan believes he was the only full-time student in that first graduating class, since the Graduate College primarily has served working adults. During that time he made some history himself. He was the first COGS student to serve on the Board of Regents Advisory Council of Students, and he represented his fellow students on the college's Institutional Board of Advisors.

After his graduation, Sullivan taught in Kanawha County for several years and was a frequent adjunct instructor for the rapidly growing graduate college. He later returned as a student and earned a second master's degree, this time in Leadership Studies, before becoming one of the early enrollees in the new cooperative doctoral program, eventually earning an Ed.D. degree.

In mid-term of the 1982-83 academic year, Sullivan began a new phase of his career when he accepted a joint appointment to teach at COGS and to become the first executive director of the West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children. Working with a newly employed secretary, Sullivan set about fulfilling the

(continued on page 4)

Teresa Bolt from Page 1

continues to juggle dozens of funds and organization accounts and assist with financial planning for the entire IT area. Under the current financial situation, this has put even a greater burden on her expertise. She is a true team player and a joy to have as a partner."

Bolt was presented with a plaque, balloon bouquet, and a check for \$100 by Jim Stephens, Director of Human Resources. She will be eligible to become Employee of the Year.

Maier Gift from Page 1

In 1971 the Maier Foundation began a program in Marshall's English Department to give an award of \$5,000 annually to talented student writers, and a Latin Award was created in 1978. The foundation also provided funding to help set up the Higher Education for Learning Problems (H.E.L.P.) program, and a \$1 million endowment for the Yeager Scholars Program.

In 2001, the MU Foundation received a challenge gift from Ed and Susan Maier to establish the Susan Runyan Maier Distance Learning Classroom in the College of Education and Human Services. A special classroom was refurbished, equipped and furnished.

The goal of the Campaign for National Prominence is \$100 million by December 31, 2005. Marshall raised about \$46 million from July 1999 to September 2002, when the public phase of the campaign began. About \$9 million has been raised or pledged since last fall.

"We are progressing very well toward our campaign goal," Spears said. "It is people like the Maiers and groups like the Maier Foundation that will help Marshall students and programs thrive."

Walker Patent from Page 2

Walker's interest in heavy metals began more than 30 years ago while he was attending the Medical University of South Carolina. He began exploring acetaminophen as a treatment for iron overload three to four years ago, he said.

He has been at Marshall University since 1992 when he became chairman of pathology at the School of Medicine, a position he retained through 1998. He has served as Residency Program Director for the pathology department and staff pathologist at the V.A. Hospital. He also is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Thomas E. Wilson, Professor of Physics and Physical Science, was an invited speaker at a symposium held in May at the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of California at Irvine. The symposium was organized to honor the memory and career of noted physicist, Professor Walter E. Bron (1930-2002).

Mike Sullivan from Page 3

goals of the organization, particularly seeking to secure licensure for special education administrators.

Working for COGS in its formative years required a great deal of flexibility on the part of faculty and staff as the entire college had to make frequent moves to accommodate its expanding size. For a while, part of the college was located on the campus of West Virginia State College in Institute, first in Hill Hall and later in Sullivan Hall while other programs occupied leased space at the University of Charleston. But it was the college's final move to its newly constructed headquarters in South Charleston that ironically took him straight home to his childhood roots.

He grew up on a small farm on Jefferson Road on property that adjoins the Dow Technical Center, which is adjacent to what is now the Marshall University Graduate College.

"As a youngster we always had a horse and pony and I rode all over what is now the Dow Tech Center and the graduate college. At the time only the lower buildings were there at the tech center and the graduate college property was completely wooded. I used to hunt on that property, in fact. If anyone had told me years ago that my office would be where we used to roam as kids, I would never have believed them!" Sullivan, who today owns the family property, says.

As a longtime faculty member and now program director of Special Education, Sullivan is especially pleased that MUGC is continuing the outreach mission that began when it was COGS.

"Enrollment in graduate special education is very healthy," he says. "We fund full cycles of programs in Beckley. We have a cohort (group of students who start a program together and take a cycle of classes at their own location) in Moorefield. We've had groups in Point Pleasant and Parkersburg and now we have two state-wide programs that are operating out of the Graduate College, the visual impairment program coordinated by Dr. Christine Roman, and a new teacher preparation program, slated to begin this summer, which will train teachers to work with the deaf and hard of hearing."

He's particularly proud of these two ambitious programs. Dr. Molly Steadman is coming from Nebraska to coordinate the hearing project which is currently awaiting final approval from the West Virginia Department of Education and the Higher Education Policy Commission.

"Both of these programs are the only ones in the state and they are made possible through a grant from Special Education at the WV Department of Education," he explains. "Since we don't have big numbers of children in these programs it would be difficult for Marshall to support them if it were not for the generous support of the state Department of Education and the assistance of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Romney. What was happening before was that the state had to bring in training programs like those at Gallaudet University. But it has become so prohibitively expensive to bring in teachers and programs that it was decided those projects could be established to serve the whole state, and that is what we are doing"

Sullivan is quick to give credit to Dr. Ron Childress, Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development, for his leadership. And longtime administrative secretary, Phyllis Bias, keeps the department running smoothly. "She knows everybody, knows where everything is and how to do everything. If she ever decides to retire, I'm afraid I'll have to go, too!"

Right now the Sullivan family is bursting with pride at the accomplishments of daughters Sarah and Keeley. Sarah, who graduated with honors this month from George Washington High School, has just been named a Yeager Scholar at Marshall. In addition to her impressive list of academic, civic and other achievements, she and her sister are accomplished musicians, both playing the flute. And, Sullivan says, when it comes to high achievements, 15-year-old Keeley shows every sign of following in her sister's footsteps.

Sullivan loves the outdoors and the whole family enjoys retreats at their summer place in the Blue Ridge Mountains of

Virginia. An avid runner, who used to participate regularly in the COGS 10K classics, he still runs, just slower, he says wryly. He and Mary, who after 32 years as a French and Spanish teacher came out of retirement to work with the WV Department of Education's virtual middle school Spanish project, still find time to play tennis.

And looking back over the past 30 years and his relationship with the ever-changing graduate college, it's been a good ride, he reflects. "I couldn't have imagined that, in terms of career paths, I would be here 30 years later!"

Mars Station from Page 1

ing a diorama simulating the appearance of a different location on Mars.

Dr. William Carter, Professor of Science Education in the College of Education and Human Services, assisted by math professor Linda Hamilton, constructed the diorama. Hamilton set up the software and the interface and programmed the robot. Using glue, rocks,



A simulated Mars exploration vehicle is on display in a diorama constructed by Marshall faculty and students as part of a Mars Station project, one of only three in the world.

and baking soda—for snow—the diorama depicts ice layers found on Mars' polar caps, craters, as well as material ejected from the craters.

Assisted by Jennifer Carter and graduate assistant Wenbo Lu, the station remains open and operational continuously.

Mars Stations are based on the "Red Rover, Red Rover" project, developed by The Planetary Society, the LEGO Company and Visionary Products, Inc. "Red Rover, Red Rover" is a curriculum package that allows classrooms to build small rovers out of LEGO bricks and a camera, build a Mars diorama and drive their rovers in that terrain.

Carter said he created the Mars Station South Pole based on two needs. The first is for future teachers to become actively involved in the latest in technology and science. The other is to carry on the goals and objectives of the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute, which he said realizes the need for better transportation for the future.

"Students who create Mars Rovers are creating vehicles capable of exploring various environments such as coal mines, river bottoms, ocean floors or virtually inaccessible mountain regions," Carter said. "The main goal of both these needs is to provide brighter kids with brighter futures."

Benedum Grants from Page 2

The Benedum Foundation, established in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1944, has been a longtime supporter of Marshall University. Its mission is to encourage human development in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania.