

# We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OCTOBER 10, 2003

## Cho Arrives in Huntington Oct. 21

Proclaimed as "Comedy's most fearless superhero!" outspoken comedian Margaret Cho will be appearing in her one woman show, "Cho Revolution," at the Keith-Albee Theatre, Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 8 p.m.



Comedian Margaret Cho will appear in Huntington Oct. 21 as part of the Marshall Artists Series.

Following on the heels of her recent Notorious C.H.O. Tour, CD and movie release, Margaret Cho launched her new Revolution tour playing to sold-out audiences. Using unbridled, no-holds-barred humor, she now tackles such topics as the axis of evil, her travels through Thailand's

red light district, her loser ex-boyfriend, and her now world-famous mother.

Cho started performing stand-up comedy at age 16. In 1994 she starred in her own sitcom, "All-American Girl," which featured television's first Asian American family. In 1999, Cho's

### Marshall Wins WebCT Content Award

Marshall University has been named a Digital Content Leader for 2003 by WebCT, the world's leading provider of e-learning solutions for higher education.

The designation given by WebCT is based upon Marshall's usage of WebCT to deploy online learning throughout the year. This is the first year that WebCT has designated institutions as Digital Content Leaders.

The Leaders were formally announced at the WebCT Users Conference in San Diego, which was held this past summer. Marshall was represented by Matt Christian, Director of MU's Center for Instructional Technology, at a panel discussion during the WebCT Users Conference. Marshall also was recognized at an invitation-only reception for Digital Content Leaders at the Conference.

groundbreaking one-woman show, "I'm the One that I want," played off Broadway, toured the country and became a best selling book and a feature film. Her second show, "Notorious C.H.O." culminated with a concert at Carnegie Hall which was taped as a double-sided CD and became a second feature film. The show contains adult material.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards from groups such as NOW, GLADD, and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund for making a significant difference in promoting equal rights for all.

Tickets may be purchased through the Marshall Artists Series Box Office, located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. for ticket purchases and special requests. For additional information, call ext. 6656.

### Teacher-Lecturer Program Features Lopez, Burgueno

Dr. Carlos Lopez and Dr. Cristina Burgueno, associate professors in the department of Modern Languages, are the featured speakers in the College of Education and Human Services Teacher Lecturer Program.

Lopez and Burgueno will present a series of lectures titled "Teaching Diversity from the Difference" beginning Friday, Oct. 10. The purpose of the program is to allow pre-service teachers the opportunity to interact with diverse exemplary teachers.

The complete Teacher Lecturer Program schedule is as follows:

- 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, Corbly Hall 105
- 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 13, Shawkey Room, Memorial Student Center
- 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, Harris Hall 133
- 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, Jenkins Hall 233

Dr. Jane McKee, Associate Dean for Academic Programs with the College of Education and Human Services, said one of the most important reasons for having Lopez and Burgueno participate as guest lecturers is that the Hispanic population is the fastest growing minority population in the United States.

"You find that in many cities there are more and more Spanish speaking children who need special

(continued on page 4)

# Banner, Purchasing Workshops Set for October

Several training and development workshops have been scheduled in October by Human Resource Services. Classes slated are:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 21, Banner HR View Module**, 9-10 a.m., 207 Old Main, Jim Stephens, facilitator; participants are required to be enrolled in the Banner HR View process.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 22, State of West Virginia Purchase Card Training**, 9:30 a.m. -12 noon, Drinko Library, Room 402; and 1:30-4:00 p.m., Drinko Library, Room 402. P-card training is the prerequisite to applying for the State purchase card. This training covers use of the card, restrictions, maintaining records and reconciling the monthly statements. Only full-time state employees are eligible. Facilitators are Jerry Isaacs, audit supervisor for higher education institutions, and Kelly L. Smith of the Accounting Department.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 22, Basic Banner Navigation**, 9 a.m. -11 a.m., Drinko Library, Room 349, Pat Gebhart of Computing Services, facilitator.

## Flu Shots Available on Huntington Campus

Flu shots will be available this year at Marco's in the Student Center. Shots are \$10 for employees and free for students who are enrolled for five hours or more on the Huntington campus. Employees are reminded to bring their MU ID cards with them. The schedule in Huntington is as follows:

Monday, Oct. 13, noon to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The shots will be available on the South Charleston campus at a later date.

- **Wednesday, Oct. 29, Banner Budgeting Overview**, 10:00-11:30 a.m., 207 Old Main, Sandie Means, of the Budget Office, facilitator.
- **Thursday, Oct. 30, Banner On-Line Inquiry and Reporting**, 1-2 p.m., 224 Old Main, Linda Mollohan, Accounting Department, facilitator.
- **Through Friday, Oct. 31, Banner Basic Purchasing**, two-hour sessions with time and location to be arranged. Facilitators will be purchasing agents from Purchasing and Materials Management.

Registration for these workshops may be accomplished by visiting the Human Resource Services Web site at [www.marshall.edu/human-resources](http://www.marshall.edu/human-resources).

## Prevention Resource Center to Hold Conference Oct. 26-29

The West Virginia Prevention Resource Center's annual Share the Vision Conference is scheduled for Oct. 26-29 at the Charleston Marriott. The conference is open to prevention specialists and individuals from communities, state agencies and organizations that have an interest in prevention.

The center is administratively housed at the South Charleston campus.

This year's conference will showcase research-based prevention programs and feature skill-building courses and a Community Awards Luncheon, celebrating those who are making a difference in their communities. Several nationally known speakers will be presenters.

Registration deadline for the conference is Oct. 15 and the cost is \$149 per person. Continuing education credits are available from some professional organizations.

Additional information about the conference, including a registration form, is available at [www.PrevNet.org](http://www.PrevNet.org) or by contacting Kathy Paxton at 746-2077, ext. 16 or [kpprevent@aol.com](mailto:kpprevent@aol.com).

## Retirement Appointments Available Oct. 29

Krista Noel, a representative from Educator\$Money/Great-West Retirement Services, will be available at the Memorial Student Center, Room 2W8, on Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 8:30-3:00 p.m. for individual appointments/counseling sessions for employees interested in the WVHEPC-approved 401(a), 403(b), and/or 457 retirement plans, according to Jim Stephens, Director of Human Resource Services.

Stephens said Educator\$Money has recently been added as a new retirement plan provider. Meetings with Noel are expected to last approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

According to a statement sent out by Human Resource Services, "Educator\$Money is approved

(continued on page 4)

## 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 Oct. 24, 2003. Deadline is Oct. 17. 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).



## Profile: Debra Wood

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Debra Wood

She's bought food by the ton for trendy restaurants and motels/hotels, she helped investigate pawn shop fraud, she's strip-searched "ladies of the evening," and she once staged a festive Christmas party at Disney World.

Debra Wood, administrative secretary senior in the Educational Leadership program on the South Charleston campus, would be the first to admit she's had a colorful job history. But that's because, armed with an exuberant outlook on life and a fun-loving spirit, she welcomes challenges that sometimes turn out to be adventures.

She's been with the graduate college for nearly 14 years, serving two separate stints. She came to what was affectionately known then as COGS (College of Graduate Studies) as a fresh-faced kid just out of high school in 1975, working in the business office. She married her long-time sweetheart, Keith in 1977, and the next year the two began nearly two decades of criss-crossing the country as Keith rose through the ranks of a military career.

Luckily, Wood always looked upon their many moves as an adventure. With Keith studying aviation to become a pilot, they initially were stationed in Texas, and eventually he was assigned to Fort Hood. That's when she went to work for the Killeen Police Department, and found herself assigned some very unusual duties.

After a stint as a dispatcher, she was promoted to investigations. She worked the pawn shop detail and "I did everything from strip searches on prostitutes to taking sworn statements from non-English-speaking people. I loved the job. I thought seriously about going into law enforcement as a career but I wanted to be a mom so I put that on hold for awhile."

As a military wife, moving and spending time alone quickly became a way of life. But as usual Wood made the best of things, always managing to put a positive spin on events. When Keith was sent to Korea for a tour of duty, she moved briefly back to West Virginia.

When Keith returned, they ended up in Fort Drum, New York, he to take more advanced flight training and she to go to work as a Federal Civil Service employee, once again working in law enforcement, to her delight. "I worked with statistics in the criminal investigation division but I got to do all sorts of interesting things. For example, I sat in on polygraph exams," she remembers fondly.

And then came the two-year tour of duty in Izmir, Turkey. Wood as usual made the best of things by making friends with local residents and even managing to learn enough of the language to communicate well. "That area was unbelievably beautiful," she says with her usual enthusiasm. "In fact, Istanbul is one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. I really want to go back there for a visit."

And she found the Turkish people to be warm and friendly. She quickly found a job and just as quickly made friends. "Most of my friends were Turkish; I hung out with them and got into their culture. I went into their homes and saw how they lived and did things," she says.

(continued on page 4)

## Poets to Read Works Oct. 14

Poets Edwina Pendarvis and Victor Depta, both MU faculty members, will celebrate the publication of their new collections in a reading Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. in room 2W16 of the Memorial Student Center. The free reading is sponsored by the English Department and the College of Liberal Arts.

Pendarvis is the author of two poetry collections, most recently *Like the Mountains of China* from Blair Mountain Press. Her work has appeared in *Antietam Review*, *Louisville Review*, *Long Island Quartley*, *Now and Then*, and *Appalachian Heritage*. She is associate editor of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* and a professor of education.

Depta has written seven books of poetry and is a successful playwright. His poetry includes the recent *Azrael on the Mountain*. His work has appeared in more than 100 literary journals nationwide.

## Cain Appointed to Major Gifts Post



Adrian Cain

Adrian Cain, a 2001 MU graduate, has been named a Major Gifts Officer, effective Aug. 18.

A Parkersburg native, he will focus on the Huntington area and northern West Virginia. He has a B.A. degree in education and will receive a master's degree in Communication Studies later this year.

Cain has been involved in numerous activities at Marshall since coming to the school as a freshman in 1997. He was a Thundering Herd cheerleader for four years, a member of the Institutional Board of Governors, and he worked in the president's office. Most recently he had been developing and coordinating a new alumni recruitment program in the Admissions Office.

"We're really pleased that Adrian brings his experience at Marshall and the community to this very important task," said Keith Spears, co-chairman

(continued on page 4)

## Faculty/Staff Achievements

**Dr. Robert Bickel** of the College of Education and Human Services and **Dr. Stan Maynard** of the June Harless Center for Reading Excellence are co-authors of a paper, "Group and Interaction Effects with 'No Child Left Behind': Gender and Reading in a Poor, Appalachian District." The paper has been accepted for publication by the journal, *Education Policy Analysis Archives*.

**Dr. Michael Cunningham** and **Dr. Teresa Eagle** of the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development will make a presentation at the Southern Regional Conference for Educational Administration in Little Rock, Arkansas, Oct. 24-26. Their presentation is, "The Rhetoric and Reality of Change: A Mode for Supporting Higher Education Faculty in Web-based Instruction."

## **Debra Wood** *from Page 3*

After Turkey, they were assigned to Tampa, Florida, where Wood found employment at a hospital. But it was in Tampa that their long-awaited dream of becoming parents finally materialized. Through the efforts of hospital personnel, Debbie and Keith, after 13 years of waiting, became parents of an adopted daughter, Melody, born in January 1989. The staff was so thrilled for them that they threw a hospital-wide shower for the proud new family.

In 1990, their lives took another turn when Keith, by this time a major, was deployed to Saudi Arabia where he took part in Desert Storm, working directly for General Schwarzcoff. Wood, now at home with their daughter, moved to Orlando, where she decided to do temporary work. She couldn't have imagined the roller-coaster job ride she would take in the coming months.

"My first job was as a buyer of foods for restaurants," she recalls. "I bought food in bulk for both restaurants like the Olive Garden and hotels and motels – tons of food, it seems. It was really different from anything I'd ever done before. Then, by chance, I was assigned to work for the Central Florida Hotel/Motel Association. When I got there, the director had just been fired and there were only an executive director who was rarely there and a college intern. The place was a mess, the files were a mess, there was no organization at all. So I started organizing things and straightening them up. And then out of the blue, I was asked to take over as the manager of the association. I knew it would be a tremendous amount of work, and it was!"

During the next several months Wood put her considerable organizational skills to work planning numerous monthly luncheons, executive meetings, a golf tournament and a large annual fund-raising event known as the "Bacchus Bash". She even planned and carried out a huge Christmas party on the Disney properties.

"I loved that job, but Keith had decided to leave the Army after 15 years and I knew we would be moving. After 2 1/2 years on that job I knew it was time to move on, and I wanted to stay home with Melody."

Keith had decided to look worldwide for a job, anyplace that would allow him to continue flying, and they were both incredulous when a job as Director of Aviation for the State of West Virginia, based in Charleston, opened up. He was hired by then-Governor Gaston Caperton and, in addition to other duties, he has been the personal pilot for each governor since 1992. After almost too many moves to count, the Wood family had finally come home.

It didn't take long for the intrepid traveler to find a job, and in a bit of serendipity, she wound up once more at the place where her working career had started—the graduate college. Wood was astonished that after a 15-year absence from the college, many of the people she had worked with as a teenager were still there. "It gave me such a sense of continuity," she remembers. She had traveled the world and now "I felt like I was coming home."

For the past several years the Wood family has been involved in the Herculean task of building their dream house—a log house in Pocahontas County. Except for the shell, they've done every bit of the work themselves, from putting down the flooring, putting up the tongue-and-groove walls, installing the kitchen and baths, and doing all the plumbing and wiring. It's finally finished, the fruition of a long-standing dream.

The house is located in a pristine wilderness area but it's not without modern conveniences. "I can't do without my football games, so we have television. I'm a huge Vikings fan and a Randy Moss fan," she says

Fortunately they both enjoy the physical labor of working outdoors. They're very handy and she loved every minute of the construction, she proclaims.

Fit and lithe, Wood says, "I love being outdoors. I love nothing more than splitting wood, stacking it and sitting around a fire roasting marshmallows. I think I was really meant to be either a forest ranger or a house builder!"

In addition to home chores their days are filled with Melody's many activities. A multi-talented musician who is passionate about music, she plays the trumpet but also has studied cello, guitar, violin, and piano. "Her goal is to play with the London Symphony," her proud mother says.

"I never regretted for a minute that we came back to West Virginia. It's home," she says reflectively. And she's been a perfect fit for her department. The students and faculty are just like family. And even with all her travels and job adventures, she means it when she says, "I simply can't imagine working anyplace else!"

## **Retirement Appointments** *from Page 2*

along with TIAA-CREF as one of the authorized providers of the primary retirement program for West Virginia public higher education employees. Educator\$Money is also authorized along with TIAA-CREF and other vendors to provide supplementary tax-sheltered retirement savings products. We are authorized to provide information to the University community about both TIAA-CREF and Educator\$Money. Human Resource Services, however, does not make any recommendation about which vendor to use for the retirement program. Such choice rests solely with the employee."

Appointments with Krista Noel can be scheduled by contacting her directly at 1-800-222-1567, ext. 15, or by e-mail at [krista.noel@gwl.com](mailto:krista.noel@gwl.com). For questions or concerns contact the Human Resource Services at ext. 6455, or by e-mail at [human-resources@marshall.edu](mailto:human-resources@marshall.edu).

## **Teacher Lecturer Series** *from Page 1*

attention from teachers," McKee said. "The Teacher Lecturer Program helps our students to understand this need in our public schools ... They will know many of the challenges that will face them as they try to meet every child's needs."

All of the presentations are free to the public. For more information, contact McKee at ext. 2859 or via e-mail at [mckeej@marshall.edu](mailto:mckeej@marshall.edu).

## **Cain** *from Page 3*

of MU's Campaign for National Prominence, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement. "He will represent us well as he conveys the message of Marshall University's quality to our constituents."

Cain said, "Throughout my experiences as an undergraduate, graduate and now as a staff member, one element has never changed: my commitment to the success and future of Marshall University. I'm excited about the opportunity to further enhance Marshall's move to national prominence."