

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • APRIL 16, 2004

Rahall to Keynote Commencement '04

Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, II will be the keynote speaker for Marshall University's spring commencement. The university's 167th graduation exercise is set for 10 a.m. Saturday, May 8 at Huntington's Big Sandy Superstore Arena.



Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, II (right) who will provide the keynote address for Marshall's commencement this year, is shown here with Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta during Mineta's recent visit to Huntington.

Well known for his expertise in national policies relating to transportation, infrastructure, energy and the environment, Rahall has been a tireless fighter for the people of southern West Virginia. First elected in 1976, he currently is serving his 14th term and is the dean of the West Virginia Delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Through his leadership in Washington, Congressman Rahall has been instrumental in positioning

Marshall University as a national transportation research leader," President Dan Angel said. "His contributions to the betterment of Marshall University have helped to broaden the focus and scope of our academic and research efforts. We look forward to welcoming him home to the Marshall University community for this commencement address."

In the area of transportation and infrastructure, Rahall is a national leader in the development of federal highway and transit legislation. A veteran of every federal highway

Leslie Nielsen to Appear April 24

Internationally recognized movie and television star Leslie Nielsen will appear at a benefit dinner for Marshall University's theatre program Saturday, April 24, beginning at 5:30 p.m. before the Marshall Theatre's production of "To Kill a Mockingbird."

"Leslie Nielsen is a great new friend for Marshall University," said Marshall president Dan Angel. "We are grateful for the time he is giving to our theatre students and program."

A veteran of more than 100 motion pictures and more than 1500 television appearances, Nielsen turned his image inside out with a deadpan performance as the loopy doctor in the comic hit movie, "Airplane!" He also appeared on the TV series "Police Squad!" on which he originated the role of police Lt. Frank Drebin, which he recreated in Paramount Pictures release, "The Naked Gun," and in the sequels, "Naked Gun 2 1/2" and "Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult."

Earlier in the day on April 24th, Nielsen will work with students and answer their questions in a format similar to

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bill since coming to Congress, Rahall was a key architect in the formulation of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (known as TEA 21).

In that bill, he secured more dollars for designated highway projects than any other member of Congress and established the Rahall Transportation Institute (RTI), a consortium of five Southern West Virginia colleges, based at Marshall.

Recently, Rahall helped RTI win designation as a National Maritime Enhancement Institute to enable the school to compete for federal grants related to a great number of maritime activities. This is one of only seven so-named universities in the nation, further advancing RTI's

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Ron Hicks Named Employee of the Month

Ron Hicks, a trades specialist/carpenter in Physical Plant, has been selected as the Marshall University Employee of the Month for March, 2004, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Hicks, who has been with the university for more than 20 years, was nominated by Vince Payne, station manager of WMUL-FM on behalf of the WMUL-FM Board of Directors.

In the nomination, Payne wrote, "We have observed Mr. Hicks' work over the past several semesters while constructing materials for the renovation of our digital news production facility in the Communications Building, and have been very impressed. He was not only dedicated, but

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Ron Hicks (center) is presented with the Employee of the Month Award by Dr. H. Keith Spears (left), Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and Dr. Charles Bailey, a member of the faculty of the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Service Awards Luncheon to Recognize More Than 90

Marshall University's 20th annual Service Awards Luncheon will be held Tuesday, June 8, 2004 from noon to 2 p.m. in the W. 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: Raddar Atchely, Paula Brillhart, Lorna Browning, Terri Byrd, Dana Edmonds, Florence Harshbarger, Teresa Holschuh, Barbara J. Lanham, Barbara S. Lanham, Judy Little, Leslie Lucas, Linda McComas, Raleigh McSweeney, Tammy Moore, James Napier, Carolyn Roberts, Deandre Turner, Tony Waugh, Sandra White, Phyllis White-Sellards, and Nancy Wooten.

For 20 Years of Service: Sherry Adkins, Tammy Aliff, Karen Baumgarner, Gregory Beach, Paul Benford, Karen Bledsoe, Alberta Bowyer, Tommy Burchell, Mary Curtis, Thomas Dorsey, Joyce Ellis, Elizabeth Graybeal, Jacquelyn Hersman, Carol Kilgore, Sandra Lloyd, William Lucas, Margaret McFarland, David McKenzie, Marty Newman, Terrence Olson, Chrystal Rowe, Sherry Salyers, Phillip Sergent, Johnny Walker, Barbara Williams and Jacqueline Woolfolk.

PEIA Open Enrollment Underway

The PEIA open enrollment period concludes May 7 and all completed Tobacco Affidavit and Open Enrollment Transfer Forms for participating faculty and staff must be returned to Human Resource Services no later than 5 p.m. that day, according to Jim Stephens, Director of HRS.

"If you have not received the combination Tobacco Affidavit and Open Enrollment Transfer Form at your home by this date, contact the PEIA Open Enrollment Helpline at 1-877-676-5573 to confirm your mailing address and request the form be sent to you," Stephens said.

All policyholders need to submit tobacco affidavits for Plan Year 2005 even if they and/or their dependents smoke. "Some participants have indicated that they threw their forms away because either they were not making changes to their health plans or they are smokers," said Stephens. "If you have discarded your form, you need to contact the Helpline number to request another form. Human Resources Services at 207 Old Main, must receive

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For 25 Years of Service: Lynette Boyes, Beverly Bunch, Katharine Coffey, Edward Dzierzak, James Faulkner, David Fenney, Rick Haye, Joann Jordan, Adrian Lawson, Faye Malone, Lynne Mayer, Judith Napier, Arissa Pritchard, Barbara Roberts, Judith Russell, Allen Taylor, Lahoma Weekley, and Sara Wilson.

For 30 Years of Service: Carolyn Endicott, Patricia Gebhart, Delbert Harless, Charlene Hawkins, Frank Lambert, Susan Lewis, Lynn Mayfield, Vicki Navy, and Karl Shanholtzer.

For 35 Years of Service: Lois Fry.

For 40 Years of Service: Lola Stratton.

Retirees: Barbara Begil, Linda Blatt, Alberta Bowyer, Lynette Boyes, Kitty Carver, Shirley Dyer, Orville France, Lois Fry, K. Edward Grose, Bonnie Harris, Lucy Jackson, Paula Kelly, James Richendollar, Penny Smoot, Janet Turner, George Wales, and JoAnn Wetherall.

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, 2004 (Marshall University Graduate School service counts as Marshall University service). If anyone has been left off this list, please immediately contact Joe Wortham at 696-5402.

Troy Brown to Appear at Big Green Banquet

Two-time Super Bowl Champion and former Marshall University standout Troy Brown will be the keynote speaker at the 26th annual Big Green Scholarship Foundation Banquet at 7 p.m. April 20th at the Cam Henderson Center.

Brown has established himself as one of the premier players in the National Football League over his 11 NFL seasons. He helped the New England Patriots to two Super Bowl Championships and was selected to play in the 2001 Pro Bowl.

During his career at Marshall, Brown amassed 2,746 receiving yards and caught 24 touchdown passes. As a senior in 1992, Brown helped Marshall to its first Division

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Classified Staff Council Elections Scheduled

Elections have been scheduled for a vacant position on Staff Council for Skilled Crafts/Service Maintenance.

Absentee Voting will take place Tuesday, May 4, 2004 in 123 Morrow Library from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **General Voting** will be Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at the following times and locations:

Staff Council Office
123 Morrow Building
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Laidley Hall
Room 127-A
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Medical Education Building
Room G-08 (Associate Dean's Office)
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Robert C. Byrd
Dean's Office
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sorrell Maintenance Bldg.
Room 200
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Night Shift:

Old Main Custodial Office- B15
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.m.

Henderson Center Ticket Office
7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

The nominees, both from Skilled Craft/Service Maintenance, are Michael King and Shirley Oden.

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 30, 2004.

Deadline is April 23.

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.



Profile: John Richardson

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



John Richardson

Tucked away in a nondescript green metal building just across from the stadium parking lot on the Huntington campus, there's a bustling shop where a whole lot of sewing, stuffing, cutting and gluing is going on.

And it's not a meeting of a cozy craft group but a working upholstery shop, presided over by Marshall's upholstery guy, John Richardson. He's the guru

charged with keeping campus furniture in good repair and looking presentable, replacing repairing, and refurbishing pieces that sometimes come to him looking like they've been "ridden hard and put away wet."

But it's all in a day's work for the talented Richardson, whose expertise with the tools of his craft along with a creative eye earned him a showing of his work in the Huntington Museum of Art.

Richardson has been plying his trade at Marshall for 17 years. During the course of a year, he repairs and upholsters pieces in dorm lounge areas and some office areas, along with apartments for resident directors and the married students housing at University Heights. He's done some work for the president's home, re-covering chairs and other items. In addition, he keeps Formica surfaces in good repair in cafeterias throughout the campus, repairs countertops, touches up wood wherever it's needed, repairs drawers, re-glues chairs, and fixes cabinets. In short, any piece of furniture or fixtures that are frayed, falling apart, ripped or torn and sometimes seemingly past redemption, come to Richardson for rescue.

He's inordinately modest about this abilities and the work he does. Even though upholstery is seen as daunting to many aspiring furniture refinishers, turning articles that in most cases would be headed for the trash back into attractive functional pieces is all in a day's work for Richardson.

He's always been fascinated by woodworking and furniture repair, going back to junior high school where his favorite class, hands down, was shop. "I preferred shop classes and I would go down to the workshop at every opportunity to work on something," he admits. And he loved tackling old discarded and seemingly useless pieces. "I'd bring a cabinet or something that had been thrown away in an alley to shop class and repair it."

And his diligence paid off. In junior high a teacher entered one of his pieces, a multi-wood lamp, in the Craftsman's State Fair where it took first place in his age division. He had seen a picture of a lamp in a magazine and built his own version of it, gluing layers of various woods together. At the vocational-technical school which was then attached to Huntington East High School, he enrolled in the industrial carpentry program and developed a life-long passion for working with wood.

"I enjoy the feel of wood, and using a wood lathe where you can turn out lamps, posts and bowls. I don't have a lathe right but that's something I might get back to when I retire. Actually I like to repair things better than to build them new, and I've done this all my life."

And it was in junior high school he found he had a talent for refurbishing and repairing antiques, a skill that has proven to be quite valuable to him.

After high school he worked for a year for a Huntington company that manufactured new furniture

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Ron Hicks

from Page 1

extremely thorough with his work. Mr. Hicks' unselfishness has provided many students with the opportunity to produce in a studio that rivals that of any station in our state. WMUL-FM is known throughout the nation as one of America's best college radio stations and with Mr. Hicks' help during the renovation process WMUL-FM can continue paving Marshall's pathway toward national prominence with a facility it can be proud of."

Payne noted Hicks spent many hours working on the project and was warmly regarded by the WMUL-FM family. He said "...they appreciate his work and sacrifice made to benefit countless future Marshall students who will have the opportunity to practice for their careers in something Mr. Hicks helped to construct."

Hicks was presented with a plaque, a balloon bouquet and a check for \$100 by Dr. Keith Spears, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

COLA Research Conference Slated for April 20

The fourth annual College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference is scheduled for April 20 from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center and the Drinko Library. Registration will run from 7:30 to noon at the MSC entrance. Posters will be on display on the main level of the student center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dozens of student presentations, including posters, will be on display. Students throughout the day will deliver papers, exhibit posters, or present their creative works in a series of concurrent panels.

"The purpose of the conference is to showcase the academic and creative talents of our students," said Dr. David L. Kenley, Associate Professor of History and conference codirector. "Participants are encouraged to deliver papers, exhibit posters, or present their creative works. We hope the conference...will be an intellectually stimulating experience that brings together the university community, parents, friends, alumni, and employers."

The keynote speaker is Dr. Les Standiford, Director of the Creative Writing Program at Florida International University. His presentation, "The Man Who Invented Florida: Revisiting the Concept of Robber Baron" will be delivered at 11 a.m. in the Shawkey Lounge of MSC.

"Last year's Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference demonstrated in a clear and convincing way that undergraduates at Marshall University are heavily involved in exciting and valuable research," said Dr. Sarah Denman, Provost and Senior Vice President for

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Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Ashok Vaseashta, Professor of Physics and Physical Sciences, presented two papers at the March 2004 meeting of the American Physical Society in Montreal, Canada. The first presentation, "Calculation of the Figure of Merit for Carbon Nanotubes Based Devices," was given in an oral session, "Nanotubes and Nanowires—Theory", sponsored by the Division of Materials Physics. The second presentation, "Unique Applications of Carbon Nanotubes in Medical Imaging, Bio-sensors and Vaccine Delivery," was presented in a poster session with Anna Rebekah Lemon and Lauren Miller, students in the College of Science. The poster session was sponsored jointly by the Division of Materials Physics.

John Richardson *from Page 3*

and then moved on to a series of other jobs. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to Huntington and took a job at the Libbey-Illinois plant. When the company downsized, he found himself looking around for other opportunities. Totally self-taught in upholstering, he began a whole new career path after he covered a chair for his sister-in-law. People who saw the chair were so impressed that word-of-mouth of his skills soon kept him busy turning out custom pieces. In fact, he was in such demand, he operated his own shop for a three-year period in Huntington, mainly refurbishing and repairing antiques.

And he did all this without any formal training. "I never had lessons. I was just observant, and I asked questions. I learned as I went. And I have never quit learning. I learn something new every day."

He closed the shop, he says, partly because keeping track of expenses and taxes became a burden, but principally because he couldn't find people who were willing to be trained and to work in the profession.

He runs a one-person shop now but recovering and repairing campus pieces really isn't challenging, he says. A lot of the work involves recovering cushions from sofas and chairs, a basic skill he has long-since mastered. "It's really not difficult, it's just the cutting and sewing that take time. Most of the work I do at Marshall is pretty basic. Luckily, I'm a good guesser," he says with a laugh.

Word of his meticulous craftsmanship soon got around and a few years ago he was asked to work on upholstered pieces for a display on furniture made in America that was being put together by the Huntington Museum of Art. Among pieces he did were an Empire sofa, and a Victorian chair, which he terms "my masterpiece." "It was done in teal green leather, a rose-wood Victorian chair, fully tufted, in the seats, arms and back. It was the nicest but most intensive work I've ever done," he remembers fondly.

Actually, Richardson's expertise with cutting tools and the sewing machine has led him to a second career. For the past 16 years he's taught basic upholstery classes for Marshall's continuing education program. For eight weeks in the fall and spring semesters, aspiring upholsterers can take lessons from the pro. And he's firm that anyone can learn to re-cover furniture if they pay attention to details and stick with it. But the thought of taking a piece of furniture apart and putting it back together better than new, is still daunting to many novices. Through the years the classes have proved to be so popular it's not unusual for late-registering students to be turned away because of lack of class space.

Richardson isn't the only creative talent in his family. His wife, Debbie, is an award-winning artist who has regular exhibits in galleries throughout the region. She has had exhibits in Ashland, Ky., Gallipolis, Ohio, and Huntington. "Debbie has won lots of blue ribbons," he says proudly. She has an upcoming one-woman show in Ashland in June, and her work is featured on a Web site. The couple lives in Ona, near relatives in this region, and regularly takes trips to their favorite place, the beach. Richardson also finds time to raise a small vegetable garden, which is one of his delights.

A self-admitted perfectionist who takes great pride in his work, Richardson has shown a great dedication to his craft and his job. He worked at Marshall for over 10 years before missing a single day's work. "If I was sick, I just came in to work, anyway" he says. "My dad always told me to take care of the job and the job will take care of you."

One piece of advice his father offered that Richardson didn't heed was to go into electronics. "... I never had the slightest inclination to have anything to do with electronics. And if I hadn't gotten this job at Marshall I would have gone to North Carolina. The job kept me from moving out of town. It's been a fortunate thing, being at Marshall ... I have no regrets. I enjoy what I do."

PEIA *from Page 2*

completed Tobacco Affidavit and Open Enrollment Transfer Forms...no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, May 7, 2004."

He adds there have been significant changes to the Carelink (HMO) plans. If CARELINK members wish to continue in that plan, they must indicate their choice on their transfer forms or they will default into the PEIA PPB Plan A.

Two PEIA Benefit Fairs will be held in Huntington on Monday, April 19. They are scheduled for room 2W16 in the Memorial Student Center from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and in the Dogwood Room in the Conference Center Wing of the Big Sandy Superstore Arena from 3 to 7 p.m. PEIA representatives will be available to answer questions pertaining to the various plans.

Research Conference *from Page 3*

Academic Affairs. "The students involved in this year's conference, and their faculty mentors, are to be congratulated for carrying on what I hope will be a long and satisfying tradition."

Rahall *from Page 1*

mission of "Building Jobs through Transportation" for West Virginia.

Two weeks ago, Congressman Rahall accompanied U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta to Marshall's Huntington campus for a firsthand look at the research work being conducted at RTI.

Leslie Nielsen *from Page 1*

the Bravo cable television network's series, "From the Actors Studio," in which a television or movie personality is interviewed and answers questions from acting students. At Marshall, Nielsen will be interviewed by Brandon McCoy, a senior theatre major from Wayne County, West Virginia.

"As a student looking toward a career in show business, I appreciate the chance to work with and learn from a legendary performer," McCoy said.

Tickets for the event are \$75 per person and may be reserved by calling Marshall's College of Fine Arts at 696-6433. The cost includes a reception, dinner, and a short presentation by Nielsen. Complimentary tickets to the theatre performance are also available to dinner attendees.

Big Green Banquet *from Page 1*

1-AA National Championship by producing a school-record 2,641 all-purpose yards.

Two additional Thundering Herd football greats will be on hand to honor Brown. Former Minnesota Viking Pro-Bowl defensive back and current West Virginia State head football coach, Carl Lee, and current Philadelphia Eagle Mike Bartrum will be in attendance.

As part of the evening's activities, there will be a large silent auction.

Individual tickets to the event are \$75 and corporate tables for eight are \$2,000. All proceeds will go to support athletic scholarships at Marshall.