

# We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • AUGUST 6, 2004

## Herd Fans to 'Paint the Capital'



The Kanawha Valley will again thunder with the sounds of "Herdmania" on Wednesday, Aug. 18, as Charleston rolls out the green carpet for "Paint The Capital City Green," presented by the Friends of Coal," beginning at 6 p.m. at the Charleston Embassy Suites.

This annual event, now in its seventh year, is recognized as

the nation's largest pep rally for Thundering Herd alumni, fans and friends. "Paint the Capital City Green, presented by the Friends of Coal" is hosted by the Big Green Scholarship Foundation, Marshall University Alumni

Association, Greater Kanawha Valley Marshall Club and the Charleston Quarterback Club.

"Our growing base of alumni and friends in Charleston and the Kanawha Valley play an important part in our continued success, in our academic and research efforts and our

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## Jerry Stowasser is Employee of the Month

Jerry Stowasser, a campus service worker in Residence Services, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for June, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

A Marshall employee for nearly 23 years, she was nominated by her supervisor, Barbara Tubbs, assistant supervisor of Building and Campus Services Housing Auxiliary.

In her nomination, Tubbs wrote, "Jerry is a very dependable employee. She completes her work assignments with little supervision, she is seldom late or absent. Her work is orga-

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## Marshall Readies Fair Appearance

Marshall University will be represented at the West Virginia State Fair in Fairlea during the fair's run from Aug. 13 to 22.

The 20-by-30-foot booth will be staffed by University Communications staff, students and staff from various other departments to showcase the university. The theme will be "Marshall—The Passport to Prominence."

A "TV Game Show," which will allow contestants to be quizzed on Marshall trivia and win prizes, is expected to be a major attraction. In addition, an assortment of other Marshall give-aways will be available to fair-

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Jerry Stowasser received the Employee of the Month award for June. From left, Winston Baker, Director of Residence Services; Richard Ford, coworker; Barbara Tubbs, Assistant Supervisor of Building and Campus Services Housing Auxiliary; Stowasser; Jim Stephens, Director of Human Resource Services; and Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Communications and Marketing.

# New Faculty Orientation Starts Aug. 16

A three-day orientation program for new full-time faculty members and the first university wide adjunct faculty orientation program are being offered by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Sessions for full-time faculty run Aug. 16-18 and adjunct faculty are invited to attend orientation activities on Aug. 18.

The schedule includes:

## August 16:

- 8-8:30 a.m. - Taking Care of Business, Memorial Student Center (MSC), John Marshall Room.
- 8:30-9:45 a.m. - Opening Session: Breakfast and Introductions, MSC, John Marshall Room; Dr. Elaine Baker, Dr. Frances Hensley, Dr. Larry Stickler, Dean Steve Hensley.
- 10-11 a.m. - Introduction to MU Library Services, Drinko Library 349; Judith Arnold, Jennifer Sias.
- 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - How to Use MyMU, Drinko Library 349; Roberta Ferguson, Pat Gebhart.
- 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch in Drinko 349
- 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. - Teaching at Marshall, Drinko 402; Dr. Elaine Baker, Dr. Frances Hensley.
- 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Writing Across the Curriculum, Drinko 402; Karen McComas.
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Faculty Development Opportunities at Marshall, Drinko 402; Wylma Skean, Dr. Gwyneth Hood, Dr. Donna Spindel.

- 5:30 p.m. - President Angel's Picnic for New Faculty and Families, Buskirk Field; RSVP required, ext. 6690.

## August 17:

- 8-8:30 a.m. - Taking Care of Business, the Sequel, MSC, Shawkey Room.
- 8:30 - 9:45 a.m. - Breakfast Session: Faculty Role in Retention, MSC, Shawkey Room; Dr. Barbra Tarter.
- 10 - 11 a.m. - Students with Special Needs -Shawkey Room; Dr. Barbara Guyer, Sandra Clements.
- 11 a.m. - Noon - Working with Students Outside the Classroom MSC, Shawkey Room; Dr. Michael Castellani; Dr. Sherri Smith; Dr. Sarah Brinegar.
- 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. - Provost's Luncheon, John Marshall Dining Room, MSC; Dr. Sarah Denman and the Academic Deans.
- 1:45 - 2:30 p.m. - Building Your Portfolio, Shawkey Room; Dr. Sarah Denman
- 2:45 - 4:30 p.m. - Benefits Counseling, Old Main 207; Katherine Coffey, Glenna Racer, Judy Blevins.
- 5 p.m. - Reception/Registration for Community of Scholars, Marshall University Research Corporation, 1050 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## August 18:

- 8-9:15 a.m. - Evaluation Session/Continental Breakfast, Shawkey Room.

New faculty members and all adjuncts, both new and experienced, have been invited to attend sessions on Aug. 18 when the CTE sponsors its annual fall faculty development workshop, this year featuring Barbara Cambridge from the American Association of Higher Education as the keynote speaker. The activities include:

- 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon - The Scholarship of Teaching/Special CTE program for All Faculty; Dr. Barbara Cambridge.
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Workshop: Teaching Deaf and Hearing Impaired Students in Your Classroom, Dr. Molly Stedman; Drinko 349.

The evening program for adjunct faculty runs from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the Don Morris Room, MSC and includes:

- Rotating programs - 30 minutes each:
  - a. Writing and Teaching -Karen McComas

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## 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. 20, 2004.

Deadline is Aug. 13.

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: Gay Thomas

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Gay Thomas

She came straight from from work, still wearing her restaurant uniform, eager to show up for a job interview at what was then the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies located in Institute.

The year was 1986 and Gay Thomas was about to join the staff of the college as a cashier, a position she held for 15 years until she was named an accounting clerk. Currently she works in the Bursar's office on the Huntington campus.

Her soon-to-be mother-in-law, Betty Thomas a college employee, had told her of an opening and Gay was so enthusiastic about the prospect of the job she rushed over, "wearing my uniform, kitchen smells and all," she remembers with a laugh.

"Fortunately the finance office had a way of determining people's values and they gave me a chance," she says.

With a good head for figures and an enviable work ethic, Thomas had found a niche that fitted her particular skills and abilities perfectly.

When she took the job at COGS, as the graduate college was then affectionately known, she had just returned from a short stay in Florida where she had hoped to put down roots. But she and Florida didn't mesh well, so it was soon time to come home to the hills of West Virginia.

"I missed my family and friends," she says. "I've lived in other areas, Kentucky, Ohio and Utah and I keep coming back to good old West Virginia. This is just where I belong."

Before the move to Florida she had managed a Nitro convenience store where she put her skills to good use. She's admits she's a perfectionist in her own way, "maybe not visibly, but in my heart and head, yes," she says with amusement.

Her hiring at the graduate college came only two months before her marriage to Harold Thomas, Jr. And as incredible as it may seem to some, her new job found her working amicably in the same department with her mother-in-law, and later her father-in-law as well when he signed on for a temporary two-year stint in the finance office.

"Betty wasn't just my mother-in-law, she was my friend," Gay Thomas says admiringly. "Working with my in-laws was a wonderful experience and I was inspired by both of them. There will never be another couple like them. Everything I know about work ethics and consideration for other people I learned from them."

The Thomas clan managed to combine work with some fun when they traveled as part of a COGS caravan to southern West Virginia where they registered students on-site three times a year.

Before the computer age, most of the staff of the admissions and finance office, along with academic staffers, set up shop in Bluefield, Beckley, Lewisburg, Athens and later Summersville to take

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## Jerry Stowasser

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nized so she can perform her job duties. She places high priority on getting the job done."

Stowasser has worked with the landscaping project for the residence halls for the past two years, and part of her duties included choosing flowers and shrubbery, Tubbs said, a task to which she brought dedication, knowledge and care.



Jerry Stowasser poses with her Employee of the Month plaque and some of the flowers she tends at Twin Towers.

Tubbs recalls that as students were moving out last May, "Jerry had left to go home at the end of the day, and on her way home she remembered that someone

had told her that her ...rosebushes had been pulled up. She returned to replant them."

And, the nomination concludes, "Jerry has a great working relationship with her co-workers in her presently assigned area, Twin Towers East. "She is extremely outgoing....and interacts well with them."

Stowasser was presented with a balloon bouquet, a plaque, and a check for \$100 by Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Communications and Marketing.

## Faculty/Staff Achievements

**Dr. Stephen Cooper**, assistant professor of Communications, is the primary author of a book chapter about news coverage of the Iraq war. He and his co-author, Jim A. Kuypers at Dartmouth University, wrote "Embedded Versus Behind-the-Lines Reporting on the 2003 Iraq War," which appears in *Global Media Go to War*, published by Marquette Books this month. The chapter is a comparative framing analysis of war stories published in the *Washington Post* and *The New York Times* during the military campaign in March and April 2003.

## **Gay Thomas** *from Page 3*

the graduate college to the students. It was definitely a low-tech and momentous undertaking, requiring the packing and transporting of numerous boxes of files and other pertinent information. Leaving at noon on Friday, the group made a tour that didn't get them home until Saturday evening. It was a whirlwind of activity and sometimes the weather played havoc with their plans.

"One time there was a terrific snowstorm in Summersville and we had to get to Bluefield," Thomas remembers. "The roads were snow covered and we loaded heavy boxes of materials in the back of the car Larry Kelley (the finance director) was driving so it would stay on the road. When our group got to the motel that night, we were registered as being with COGS. Because of the name, the motel people thought we were a square dancing group!"

She moved to Huntington when her position was assigned there more than a year ago, which has meant a daily round-trip commute of 100 miles from her home on Heizer Creek in Putnam County. But like everything else, she's taken the move in stride.

"The biggest difference in my job now is that I'm dealing with 90 percent undergraduates rather than the graduate students I used to deal with," she explains. "It's been a big learning experience because undergraduates need a lot of help and guidance. The graduate college was so much smaller, you knew the students and who was about to graduate and who changed programs. But dealing with the students now helps me stay young."

She's been accepted warmly by the Huntington staff, she says. "Everyone here has been so helpful to me ... I'm very happy to be working with such a good group."

And she's no stranger to hard work. Born near Beckley into a coal mining family, she was one of six children to whom the parents taught the lessons of being independent and working productively even at an early age. After graduating from high school she was accepted at the Southland Bible Institute, now Southland Bible College, in Lexington, Ky. where she graduated in three years. After marrying at age 21, she was a stay-at-home mom for several years to daughter Beth and son Russell. When her marriage ended several years later she moved to the Charleston area, which has been her home every since.

Thomas is very active in her church, the Heizer Community Church, where she sings in the choir, subs as a Sunday School teacher and takes on any chores that need to be done. Her daughter and son, along with her four granddaughters, Amber, 15, Gracie, 4, Autumn, 3, and Erin 2, all live within a 5-mile radius of her home which makes for some lively family times. She's immensely proud that Amber, a talented singer, is a member of the church's choral group

Her home in the country where she has lived for 20 years came with a lot of acreage but fortunately, "I love to weed eat, it's one of my favorite things to do," she says with a laugh. And she likes to tend the roses that grow in profusion on the property.

When her children were young Thomas made a point of traveling with them and they even lived for a while in other states but the family always ended up back in the Mountain State.

"When John Denver's song, *Country Roads* first came out I knew it was written for me. As the lyric says, 'take me home,' that's talking right to me."

## **Paint the Capital** *from Page 1*

athletic pursuits," said Marshall University President Dan Angel. "We appreciate the Friends of Coal for its support of this year's event, and we look forward to having another record crowd join us to help us kick off the Marshall athletic season."

The 6 p.m. event will include a pep rally and tailgate party, featuring food and entertainment by Marco, the Marshall Cheerleading squad and the MU pep band. A formal program will begin at 7:15 p.m., featuring remarks from special guests and a live auction of team collectibles, memorabilia and special items.

Marshall President Dan Angel, Director of Athletics Bob Marcum, Head Football Coach Bob Pruett, Men's Basketball Coach Ron Jirsa and Women's Basketball Coach Royce Chadwick will be on hand to discuss the upcoming seasons for Marshall's athletic programs.

There is limited seating for this year's event. Advance tickets are \$25 each. Tickets at the door the evening of the event will be \$35 each and subject to availability. Sponsorship opportunities and a limited number of reserved tables are still available. For tickets or additional information, call 696-3134, 696-7138 or toll-free 866-I HERD 10 (443-7310).

## **Fair Appearance** *from Page 1*

goers. The game show host will be Adam Nedeff, a mass communications major from Parkersburg and an award-winning game show buff.

The Marshall tent is located on Industrial Lane, near the Underwood Youth Center. Displays are expected to be available for viewing from approximately 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

## **New Faculty Orientation** *from Page 2*

- b. MyMU Services for Faculty, Roberta Ferguson
- c. Teaching at Marshall, Dr. Elaine Baker
- d. Academic Policies, Dr. Frances Hensley
- 9:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks, Dr. Elaine Baker, Don Morris Room MSC