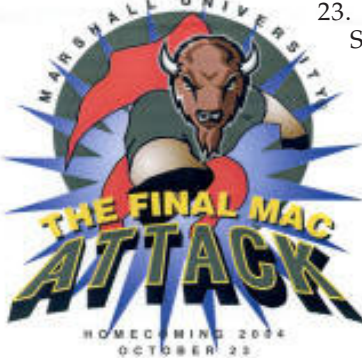


# We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OCTOBER 22, 2004

## Skeeter is Grand Marshal for Homecoming

Tom Skeeter, chief executive officer of the Sound City Entertainment Group, Inc. and a 35-year veteran of the entertainment industry, will serve as the Grand Marshal of Marshall University's homecoming parade, Saturday, Oct. 23.



Skeeter, a 1956 Marshall graduate, will lead the parade that kicks off at noon at the Big Sandy Superstore Center and ends at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium. He will attend several homecoming events and will meet with Marshall students and faculty.

As part of his itinerary, he will be a guest on a homecoming radio show at the Erickson Alumni Center beginning at 8:45 Friday morning. He will meet with students and faculty at 10 a.m. and will attend a noon journalism school fundraiser at 12:30 p.m. After lunch with graphic arts students, he will be given a campus tour by Jen Gaston, MU student body president. Skeeter will be on hand for a series of game-day activities.

Skeeter's company, the Sound City Entertainment Group, owns and operates the legendary Sound City Recording Studios as well as the Sound City Center Soundstage that provides world-class production facilities and services to outside client companies. Skeeter integrated the Sound City Entertainment Group to include Carman Productions Inc., a subsidiary entertainment management and production company. Skeeter has served as president of Carman Productions since 1970.

After graduating from Marshall with a Bachelor of Science degree in business management, Skeeter gained early business experience working in sales and management with the National Cash Register Company. He later served as vice president of the Daniel Boone Corp. a holding company located in Charleston, W.Va.

During his long entertainment career Skeeter and Carman Productions managed and guided the careers of many notable recording artists and actors including Rick Springfield, Richard Carpenter of The Carpenters. Actor Greg Evigan of "My Two Dads" and "BJ and The Bear," country recording artist Gus Hardin and pop recording artist Danny Wilde. Carman Productions helped to develop and produce Stevie Nicks and Lindsay Buckingham before they joined *Fleetwood Mac*.

Carman Productions became active in filming television special productions including two specials for the Showtime cable network: *Live and Kickin'* starring Rick Springfield and *Star Spangled Country Party*, starring Alabama, Waylon Jennings and Hank Williams Jr. The company recently completed principal photography on a

low-budget rock and roll horror movie entitled *Backstage Pass*.

Sound City Recording Studios has been a leader in recording and production since 1969. Producing credits run the gamut from Fleetwood's "*Fleetwood Mac*" in the early 1970s to Nirvana's "*Nevermind*" in 1991 and current songs from Summer 2004's blockbuster soundtracks for *Spider Man II* and *Shrek II*. According to the Summer 2002 issue of *Spin Magazine*, five of the top 40 metal albums of all times were recorded there. Sound City Recording Studios have recorded music for some of the most successful recording albums in the world, and are credited with more

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## Dorothy Rinehardt is Employee of the Month

Dorothy Rinehardt, campus service worker in Physical Plant, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for September, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee of the university for 12 years, she was nominated by Martha C. Woodward and Frances S. Hensley.

In her nomination Woodward wrote, "We have seen Dorothy work before and after eye surgery and after a serious burn. Her dedication to her job is such that she is willing to work even when it's uncomfortable. She is always upbeat, offering some cheerful bit of information or thought, which .... helps when you're working late."

Woodward has high praise for Rinehardt's attention to detail and her dedication to her job. "Clean for her is not just emptying trash baskets. Her pride in the job and in

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Dorothy Rinehart (center, holding oversize check) is surrounded by coworkers after receiving the Employee of the Month Award from Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Communications and Marketing (left).

# Marshall Med School to Study Link Between Vitamin A, Cancer

The National Institutes of Health has awarded Marshall University \$9.3 million to study the link between vitamin A and several types of cancer.

Six scientists from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and one from the College of Science are collaborating in the five-year project. The lead researcher is Dr. Richard M. Niles, chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the medical school and also its acting associate dean for Research and Graduate Biomedical Education. The other researchers are Drs. Beverly Delidow, Kelley Kiningham, Maiyon Park and Laura Richardson of the School of Medicine. Dr. Michael Norton of the College of Science and Dr. Donald Primerano of the School of Medicine will be directors of core support services in imaging and genomics.

The grant is a "milestone accomplishment," President Dan Angel said.

"The size and substance of this new major grant continues Marshall University on its march toward national prominence," he said. "Our research capacity is being enhanced by the star power of researchers like Richard Niles as well as the considerable investment that we are making in science and technology. The synergy of talent and cutting-edge facilities is a winning combination, and we have just begun."

The grant creates a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence within the School of Medicine's cancer research program. Three of the projects that make up the center will focus on melanoma, testicular cancer and neuroblastoma, a cancer of the nerve cells that primarily affects children. The fourth project will explore whether a gene that causes tumors in zebra fish has a cancer-causing counterpart in humans.

The Marshall projects will look at how a group of nutrients (vitamin A and related compounds) called retinoids controls the actions of specific genes, causing them either to be switched on (expressed) or off.

Dr. L. Howard Aulick, vice president for research, said the grant represents a major step forward for Marshall.

"I would like to think this grant is recognition that Marshall has the beginnings of a critical mass in basic cancer research which is something we didn't have in the past," he said. "Now we've got it, we've been recognized for it, and we're going to do wonderful things with it. We're going to have people totally invested in cancer research."

"One of the key reasons this was successful was because of Dick Niles and his recognized capabilities in cancer research," he added.

Dr. Charles H. McKown Jr., vice president for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine said developing a critical mass in cancer research has been a major focus at the school for the past three years.

"This grant, in conjunction with the \$16 million grant received this summer, greatly accelerates our pace in developing modern biomedical research and state-of-the-art clinical services within our university," he said.

## Athletic Training Receives Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) has awarded Marshall's undergraduate Athletic Training education program full continuing accreditation for another five-year period.

The recent peer review, which continues Marshall's accreditation through 2009, recognizes the program's compliance with the nationally established standards for athletic training education.

The on-campus accreditation process included meetings with faculty, students and administrators along with a review of the curriculum for the program.

"It's hard to get to the point to reach accreditation," Dr. Dan Martin, program director and assistant professor in athletic training, said. "It's pretty exciting to say the least."

The accreditation also allows graduates of the program to take the national board exams for athletic training after graduation. Martin, who has been with the program since its

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## Vaseashta, Grad Student Participate in NATO Summer Institute

Marshall University professor Dr. Ashok Vaseashta and MU graduate student Nora Gao were in Szopopol, Bulgaria in September to participate in the NATO Advanced Summer Institute, "Nanostructured and Advanced Materials for Applications in Sensor, Optoelectronic and Photovoltaic Technology."

Marshall and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences served as hosts of the event. Vaseashta, a professor in the College of Science, served as the ASI director for NATO countries.

Gao was one of three students from West Virginia selected to participate and present her work at the institute. The others were Andrew Woodworth and Jarrod Schiffbauer from West Virginia University.

The scientific event was funded by NATO and jointly sponsored by the National Science Foundation; TUBITAK in Turkey; INVOTAN in Portugal; the Ministry of Industries in Greece; the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; Marshall Univer-

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## We Are...Marshall!

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Nov. 5, 2004. Deadline is Oct. 29. 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

To the Marshall University Community:

*Thank you* for the many expressions of support during the illness and recent death of my mother. My father and I are touched by your kindhearted gestures, from cards of sympathy to beautiful floral tributes to personal visits and telephone calls with words of encouragement. Your thoughts and prayers continue to help us through this difficult time and we are very grateful. God Bless You.

Judy Blevins  
Human Resource Services

## Profile: Jackie Hersman

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Jackie Hersman

She's an exuberant bundle of high energy, a dynamo with an evangelical fervor for the work she does.

Jacquelyn Hersman can easily recite a litany of good things about Upward Bound, the program she has headed since 1984. Working with her staff, her mission is to seek out low-income or first-generation students—those from families in which neither parent completed a four-year degree—and encourage and motivate

them to attend college.

And, she says, Upward Bound has been remarkably successful in meeting its goals. "The program works really well," she says. "Fully 80-90 percent of our students go on to postsecondary education and this is true nationally. We work with 70 students each year. Our goal is to work with low-income kids and turn them into college graduates."

Upward Bound, she explains, originated as one of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty projects back in the 1960s. The program came to Marshall in 1972 and is completely funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education that has to be renewed every four years. The Marshall program works with several high schools, dealing with students in grades 10-12. Those targeted schools include Cabell Midland, Huntington, Tolsia, Wayne, and Tug Valley.

"The grant is very specific," she says. "We have to prove that these schools have a specific need for our program. In addition, there is a sister program here, Student Support Services, which works with students who are here on campus. It's a retention program to help them get through college successfully."

Actually Hersman worked with that program for nine months before assuming the post as Director of Upward Bound. A native of Weirton, she bucked the tide of classmates who traditionally attended West Virginia University and enrolled in Marshall after making a successful campus visit. Independently minded, she recalls, "I didn't want to go to WVU like all my cohorts in high school. I came down here and I loved the campus from the beginning, so here I am!" After earning an undergraduate degree in psychology and a M.A. in counseling, she worked for five years as a therapist at Pretera Mental Health Center in Huntington before returning to Marshall as an employee.

If she brings high energy and unbridled enthusiasm to her job, she carries those traits over to her personal interests. A lifelong love of the outdoors—and horses in particular—led her and her partner, Kenneth Devlin, to become weekend trail guides in Ohio for several years. A 10-acre farm they purchased near the Huntington Mall gives free rein to a menagerie of critters that make their home there, including two elderly "retired" horses.

"When we moved here we brought the horses. We don't ride them any more ... one of them is 25 years old and we just run a retirement home for them. And we have dogs, cats, and all kinds of other four-legged creatures that abound on a farm." They're soft touches for any needy animal, and once the visiting small child of a coworker, looking over the assortment of furry creatures, exclaimed in awe, "This is just like a petting zoo!"

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## Dorothy Rinehardt from Page 1

Marshall University does not allow that. She wants us all to look good. Dorothy is a special person who brings a good word—and good work—wherever she goes."

Hensley added, "I admire Dorothy's commitment to Marshall and her dedication as an employee. She is always positive and professional. She takes great pride in her work and treats everyone with respect. She offers personal encouragement to all of us and asks how she can help us in our jobs. This is an extraordinary approach that we should all try to follow."

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

## Forensic Science Receives Grants to Aid Crime Labs

Marshall's Forensic Science Center has received \$3.3 million in funding secured by U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd to provide assistance to forensic crime laboratories and \$520,000 in Justice Department funding toward training forensic criminologists in a new DNA initiative.

President Dan Angel said the appropriations will provide opportunities for national outreach. "Marshall's impact on the forensic science community will be strengthened by the working relationships that will be forged with forensic laboratories within West Virginia and in other states," he said.

The Forensic Science Center (FSC) serves as a national resource for the forensic community as part of the Forensic Resource Network (FRN), a program funded by the National Institute of Justice providing research, evaluation tools, and direct services to crime laboratories to improve their abilities to solve crimes.

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## Marshall Artists Series Presents 'Best Little Whorehouse'

The song and dance filled rollicking romp, **The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas**, makes a stop in Huntington Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. in the Keith-Albee Theatre as part of the Marshall Artist Series.

The award-winning musical tells the story of a small Texas brothel known as the Chicken Ranch. Presided over by its proprietor, Miss Mona, the ranch and its occupants are put in the spotlight by an egotistical and ambitious local television commentator who is out to make a name for himself by exposing what he sees as the social abuses of the Chicken Ranch. The ensuing fracas forces Miss Mona to take a long, thoughtful look at her life.

Originally opening at the Actor's Studio on Oct. 20, 1977, in New York, the musical moved to what is now the Richard Rodgers Theatre in 1978 where it ran for 1,584 performances. In 1982, it was released as a film starring Dolly Parton as Miss Mona and Burt Reynolds as Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd. The musical won three Tony Awards in 1979.

Tickets may be purchased through the Marshall Artists Series Box Office which is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. Phone orders may be taken for those using a Visa or MasterCard by calling ext. 6656.

## Jackie Hersman from Page 3

On weekends she likes to take long hikes with her dogs and she sometimes takes in an abandoned or injured animal. "We adopt those that wouldn't have a home, so that's how we end up with all these critters," she says cheerfully.

The couple's love of adventure has led them into deep water as well. Enthusiastic scuba divers, they try to make a trip to the Caribbean once or twice a year. For Hersman, it all started as a lark when, just to be a good trouper, she took up the sport and went along with her partner on a dive. "It was scary at first," she says honestly. "But it was good for me. I overcame my fears and once I did that it's a phenomenal experience. It's just an amazing thing, like nothing else I have ever done ... Growing up in a steel town there weren't lot of outdoor activities, so that's one of the things I really enjoy about this area. We live only 20 minutes from my office. It's a real plus to have both the city and the outdoors at my disposal."

Fortunately, she enjoys traveling because her job occasionally takes her to some pretty far-flung places. She's traveled all over the country and to Maui in Hawaii. "I've become very involved with training grants," she explains. "Our program is unique and there are training grants at the national level. These programs collectively are known as TRIO programs. There were originally three programs—that's where the name comes from and it just stuck—but now there are seven and we have five of the programs on our campus. Our programs include Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and two Talent Searches—one for Cabell County and one that serves Lincoln, Mason and Wayne counties—and an Equal Opportunity Center. I love doing the training. It's fun to work with adults."

And there are few lazy, hazy days of summer for the Upward Bound staff. Summer brings the Upward Bound participants on campus for an intense, six-week residential session. During the year, UB staffers travel to the designated schools on a regular basis and students come to the Huntington campus once a month. Come summer, the students, who are in grades 10-12, come to campus to take part in a wide assortment of activities beginning with classes that run daily on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The classes cover a wide assortment of topics which can include math, science, communications, literature, business and career philosophy, as well as performing arts and etiquette classes. Hersman says months of planning go into the summer sessions and the planning includes some fun activities as well.

"We plan social things, fun activities for the evenings. We do all sorts of things. What we're doing is getting them interested in attending college and getting them prepared for the experience ... We usually start planning in January. Marshall students are hired to live with the participants and they supervise and mentor them. It's a great experience for the Marshall students as well."

However, all the meticulous planning does pay off, Hersman says. "The government expects high results from us because these programs are expensive. There are 600 programs across the country and we get very good results from ours. We have to reapply for the grant every four years and it's very competitive. It's a challenge to write the grant but as my staff knows, I don't sit still well!"

One of the greatest rewards, Hersman says, is to see students who have gone through the program on the Marshall campus. "That's what keeps me going. We encourage students to go to college somewhere. But many of the students do come to Marshall because we have so much to offer."

And for the ebullient Hersman, who traveled to Huntington from the Northern panhandle all those years ago, her work has been a labor of love. With her characteristic sense of humor, she can put her more than 25 years at Marshall in perspective.

"I came here to do undergraduate work and if anyone had told me then I'd be here more than 20 years later, I'd have said they were crazy. But I like what I do and I can see the results. That's what keeps me coming to work every day!"

## Homecoming from Page 1

than 80 Gold and/or Platinum albums with worldwide sales in excess of 130 units.

Longtime residents of Southern California, Skeeter and his wife Joan recently celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Skeeter served for three years on the board of directors for Marshall University's Society of Yeager Scholars.

## Forensic Grants from Page 3

The Forensic Science Center will provide funding for the FRN's Community Support Initiative.

Dr. Terry W. Fenger, director of the FSC, said the center's role has expanded to support a national effort to improve and provide training to state and local crime labs.

"The center's model working forensic laboratory will continue to provide assistance to forensic crime laboratories by utilizing its DNA lab and computer forensics lab in research and development, testing and evaluation, and model training," he said.

The Justice Department funding recognizes the highly specialized training that Marshall provides to experts and students alike.

Fenger said many state crime laboratories need assistance and training to best utilize new DNA technologies that are helping to solve previously unsolved crimes.

The center will provide six week-long DNA laboratory training workshops on DNA extraction and analysis for human identification to 60 individuals in the forensic community. The National Institute of Justice will select individuals who work in crime laboratories and require training in forensic methods and techniques. MUFSC also will provide a help desk for advice and consultations after training is completed. The center's distance learning facility will be used for teleconferences for additional classroom and laboratory training sessions.

## Athletic Training from Page 2

first accreditation in 1984, said that without accreditation a program is not able to turn out athletic trainers. Graduates of an unaccredited school are not allowed to take the national board exam even with an athletic training degree.

"The accreditation lets students and parents know that we meet the national guidelines and our students will get a quality education in the field," Martin said. "It moves us up a notch to be more competitive with other schools and allows us to recruit potential students."

## Vaseashta from Page 2

sity, Kansas State University and Seki Technotron Corp. of Tokyo, Japan. Ninety-one participants from 23 countries covering North America, Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Japan and Thailand were selected to attend the meeting under guidelines provided by the NATO secretariat in Brussels.

Vaseashta delivered three lectures: *Characteristics of Nanostructured Materials from Applications Point of View; Carbon Nanotubes Based Sensors and Devices; and Field Emission in Carbon Nanotubes*. He also teamed with other presenters on four posters.