

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Movie Mania Hits Marshall

The story of the 1970 Marshall University football team plane crash and the spirited recovery that followed not only at Marshall, but in the Huntington community, soon will be told worldwide.

Warner Bros. Pictures and Legendary Pictures announced last week that filmmaker McG will direct and Matthew McConaughey will star in the yet-to-be titled Marshall University Football Project. It will be produced by Basil Iwanyk and McG.

Through the combined efforts of the West Virginia Governor's office, the West Virginia Film Office and Marshall University, a portion of the film will be shot in and around Huntington as well as on Marshall's campus. Warner Bros. said filming will begin this spring.

"This film is a great opportunity for West Virginia to receive international recognition for the tremendous community spirit and empathy that West Virginians show when faced with tragedy," Gov. Joe Manchin said.

Marshall Gets Green Light for Undergraduate Engineering

Marshall University's Board of Governors, in a special meeting Feb. 2 at the Memorial Student Center, unanimously approved the Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.S.E.) degree program at Marshall.

The new four-year undergraduate program, which will be implemented this fall and will be the only such program in the state, will be housed in the College of Information Technology and Engineering's existing Division of Engineering and Computer Science. This is the first time in more than 30 years that such a degree program will be available to Marshall students.

The primary objectives of the B.S.E. degree are to build a strong foundation in mathematics, science and in core engineering courses; to allow students the opportunity to pursue an engineering area of emphasis; and to provide students a high degree of flexibility through elective courses.

"This is a very important step for Marshall University toward establishing a program that will open new areas of collaboration and economic development," Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp said. "The flexibility of this program will allow us to look at combining interdisciplinary majors that will help prepare students to be adaptive and creative in their work. It opens up tremendous opportunities for our students, and it will attract a broader pool of students to the engineering profession."

The new engineering program largely is the result of state legislation passed in 2004. Senate Bill 448 included

(continued on page 4)

"Beyond that, it shows our resilience and will to move forward with a courageous spirit."

McConaughey will star as Jack Lengyel, who coached the Young Thundering Herd football team for four years after the crash that killed 75 people, including 37 players, six coaches, two athletic department staff members, 25 supporters and five aircraft crew.

The Thunder Road/Wonderland Films production will be released worldwide by Warner Bros. Pictures. It is being co-financed by Legendary Pictures.

"We are very pleased that Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures are taking this legacy of Marshall University and treating it with the respect and honor that it deserves," Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp said. "Undoubtedly, this story will touch the lives of people across the nation. It is a story that many have thought needed to be told through a major film."

(continued on page 4)

Shirley Oden Named Employee of the Month

Shirley Oden, Lead II in Physical Plant, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for January, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Oden, who has been at Marshall since September, 1996, was nominated by Dr. Kateryna A. R. Schray, associate professor of English, and Dr. Fred H. Mader, professor of Management/Marketing in the Lewis College of Business.

(continued on page 3)



Shirley Oden (center) receives the Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopp (left) and Head Football Coach Mark Snyder.

Spring Film Festival Begins Feb. 17

An Australian who overcomes daunting odds to become a champion swimmer, Tennessee middle school students who learn unexpected lessons through a paper clip project, four young abandoned Tokyo siblings who struggle to survive on their own, and the reaction of an Italian man who finds his mother is being considered for sainthood, are among the subjects of films to be shown in the Spring International Film Festival, Feb. 17-23.

After an absence, the festival is returning to the Keith-Albee Theatre. In all, six films will be shown. Admission for individual films is \$5 for Marshall faculty and staff and \$7 for the general public.

Films to be shown include:

Paper Clips (USA): Students at Whitwell Middle School in rural Tennessee decided to collect six million paper clips in order to grasp the concept of the six million Jews who were killed during the Holocaust.

Swimming Upstream (Australia): The compelling true story of a young man from a troubled family who found the inner strength to become a champion.

Brothers (Denmark): A hard-drinking ex-con must face responsibility for the first time in his life when his brother is reported missing in the war in Afghanistan.

Sharpe to Lead Center for Academic Excellence

Barry Sharpe, founding director of the Tusculum College Honors Program in Greenville, Tenn., has been named executive director of the John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence, according to search committee chair, Dr. Christina Murphy.

Sharpe succeeds Martha Woodward, who retired in 2004. Dr. Edwina Pendarvis, professor of gifted education in the College of Education and Human Services and math professor Dr. Evelyn Pupplo-Cody have served as interim directors since Woodward's retirement.

Sharpe graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1988, earning a B.A. in history and political science. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in 1995 and his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 2002. He will assume his duties at Marshall on June 1.

Me and You and Everyone We Know (USA): A poetic observation of how people struggle to connect with one another in an isolating, contemporary world.

My Mother's Smile (Italy): Old memories surface and family tensions rise when an Italian man learns that the Roman Catholic hierarchy is considering his late mother for sainthood.

Nobody Knows (Japan): Based on a true story, four siblings are abandoned by their mother in a small apartment in Tokyo and must gradually learn to make their own way.

The show times are:

Friday, Feb. 17 – 5:30 p.m. – **My Mother's Smile**; 7:30 – **Brothers**; 9:45 – **Me and You and Everyone We Know**.

Saturday, Feb. 18 – 2:30 p.m. – **Paper Clips**; 5:30 – **Nobody Knows**; 7:30 – **Swimming Upstream**; 9:45 – **My Mother's Smile**

Sunday, Feb. 19, - 2:30 p.m. – **Me and You and Everyone We Know**; 5:30 – **Brothers**; 7:30 – **Paper Clips**; - 9:45 – **Nobody Knows**.

Monday, Feb. 20 – 5:30 p.m. – **Swimming Upstream**; 7:30 – **My Mother's Smile**.

Tuesday, Feb. 21 – 5:30 p.m. – **Brothers**; 7:30 – **Paper Clips**.

Wednesday, Feb. 22 – 5:30 p.m. – **Nobody Knows**; 7:30 – **Swimming Upstream**.

Thursday, Feb. 23 – 5:30 p.m. – **Paper Clips**; 7:30 – **Me and You and Everyone We Know**.

Season ticket holders will be admitted 30 minutes prior to each film. Individual tickets are available at the door 15 minutes prior to each showing.

Skiers, Music Fans to Benefit from Package Deal at Canaan

Music-loving skiers and others at Marshall are being offered a package deal to help the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra while enjoying a renowned blues band and the opportunity to hit the slopes at Timberline Four Season Resort in Canaan Valley.

Timberline and the WVSO are pairing up to offer the first SkiScape weekend March 10-12. Packages start at \$250 and include two nights lodging, ski rentals, lift tickets, free food and beer. Guests will be treated to both a Friday and Saturday evening live concert featuring The Deanna Bogart Band, which has appeared with artists ranging from B. B. King and Ray Charles to Brian Setzer and James Brown.

"Deanna Bogart is the biggest blues act ever to perform in Canaan Valley and we're proud to bring her to Timberline for the first time to benefit the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra," said Timberline Owner, Fred Herz.

One hundred dollars from each package sold will benefit the WVSC and is tax deductible. To register for SkiScape or for more information call Timberline at 1-800-633-6682, or visit www.timberlinerestort.com.

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 Feb. 24, 2006. Deadline is Feb. 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.



Profile: Juanita Marley

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Juanita Marley

She's upbeat and cheery, an organized dynamo with an impish sense of fun.

Juanita Marley's been at Marshall since 1994, where currently she's an administrative assistant for Information Technology. Her first job here was in the Community and Technical College, a position she took shortly after arriving in Huntington where her husband, William, had taken a job as a faculty member at Marshall.

Currently he's a professor in the division of Exercise Science, Sport and Recreation and director of the Human Performance Laboratory program.

The Marleys came to Huntington from Philadelphia, where Juanita had worked for nearby Arcadia University in their physical therapy department. With their three children grown and on their own, she admits she felt lost when she moved to this community. "I didn't know anyone, I was at loose ends, so I decided to go back to work". A job opening in the CTC seemed just the ticket, so with boxes still unpacked from her recent move she joined the Marshall family. She made the move to Information Technology a couple of years later.

Her job is multi-faceted. Information Technology encompasses an array of departments, including Computing Services, Instructional Technology, Telecommunications and the libraries, she explains. "I work in the administrative area, providing support for all of them. We work with the different phases of whatever projects we're doing, such as the budget. The staff here is the support group for the executives in the Information Technology group."

Among her favorite duties is working with the wide variety of events that take place frequently in the Drinko facilities. She's there to help set up for press conferences, lunches, retreats, and meetings of all sorts. She's a Jill of all trades, helping to plan, organize, coordinate and work with a variety of people, caterers, photographers, and musicians, among others. With her organizational skills and her attention to details, whatever the request is, she can usually fill it.

"I love to do events," she says enthusiastically. "Hospitality is my favorite thing. The atrium and the other rooms in Drinko are used quite a bit. We have all kinds of events and some are pretty big, like the reception that the library did celebrating the restoration of the murals in the Morrow Library. A lot of big events come to the campus with outside people attending, so we want things to go smoothly. I help wherever I can, getting rooms set up, telling organizers where they can get things we can't provide, making whatever arrangements are needed, just doing whatever is necessary. Everything has to be very coordinated. You have to pay attention to details to stave off a crisis. But that's why I like the hospitality part."

When it comes to festivities it's not just university functions that get Marley's special touches. She's a great believer that life and work should be fun and she's the unofficial social chairman for her department, full of creative ideas. She can put together a party

(continued on page 4)

Shirley Oden

from Page 1

In her nomination Schray wrote: "I am very grateful for Shirley Oden's *superb* work in Corbly Hall. Ms. Oden works efficiently and productively, and has repeatedly demonstrated leadership, expertise, and sound judgment. She holds admirably high professional standards and probably cares more about the appearance of my office than I do; after my colleagues and I moved some furniture, Ms. Oden noticed a spot on the floor and insisted on cleaning it to make the work area look better; most recently, she cleaned the floors in my office and the surrounding area and they look spectacular. I look forward to her cheerful and upbeat presence on our floor each day."

Mader said Oden is genuinely friendly and "She has always been considerate of my work schedule needs and has demonstrated concern that somehow her activities might interfere with my work."

Head football coach Mark Snyder joined President Kopp in presenting a plaque, balloon bouquet and a check for \$100 to her.

Heart Month Activities Continue

As part of the ongoing activities observing February as American Heart Month, a Heart Health walk will take place on the Huntington campus on Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The walk will begin at the Memorial Student Center and participants are urged to wear red to show support for the American Heart Month.

During February the College of Health Professions, with the Office of Student Health Education Programs and the Women's Health Center, have hosted a series of activities to increase awareness of the importance of heart health to the Marshall community.

A Heart Health Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21 in the Memorial Student Center Lobby from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



With hundreds of red dress cutouts, a free blood pressure screening and even their own red-gowned mannequin, the faculty and staff of University Cardiovascular Services ushered in Heart Month Feb. 2 with Go Red Day, a day that focuses on women's heart health. "Women tend to neglect themselves and put themselves last; they don't always get checked," said Delores Ward, RN (not pictured). "We wanted to support Heart Month and highlight one day to say to women, 'Take care of yourself so you can care for the others in your life. Look for the differences in symptoms that you don't always hear about.'"

Juanita Marley

from Page 3

faster than you can light a birthday candle.

"The atmosphere here is, I think, the best on campus. We do things together. We celebrate birthdays. We celebrate holidays, Valentine's Day, all of the regular ones. We go out to lunch and we do a lot of fun things together. We have lunches here for special occasions. At Christmas we have a lunch and I always try to have something a little extra.

And beware to those who are celebrating "landmark" birthdays, especially those with a zero on the end. You never know what Marley's fertile imagination has in store. Once, with the cooperation of a co-worker's wife, but without his knowledge, she placed his high school photo in the Huntington Herald Dispatch and had a server bring it to him to be autographed during his birthday lunch. This past year was extra special for her when a staff member's three-year-old daughter left a message on her voice mail singing "Happy Birthday in Chinese and followed up by singing it in English.

Although her family is scattered now, Marley makes a determined effort to stay connected, not only to her children and four grandchildren, but also her to her two sisters and her husband's family. Each year, the Marleys rent a beach house and have a big, boisterous reunion with their children, Michael, Michelle and Jonathan, and their grandchildren, Julianna, Christopher, Shauna and Travis. Family birthdays are particularly special and are celebrated with Juanita's usual panache. She's proud that she and Shauna share a birthday, ironically, September 11. This year the beach vacation is being put on hold because Juanita and Bill are realizing a lifelong dream, taking a leisurely 12-day Alaska cruise.

She's close to her sisters as well. One lives in Florida and the other in Canada, and annually they rotate visiting each other's homes. This year Marley will be heading to Canada for a treasured reunion and lots of sisterly activities. And there are her husband's family to visit also. The family makes regular trips to Virginia Beach and to Florida to visit his two brothers.

"Family is the most important thing of all to me," Marley says quietly. "People who have family living nearby are so lucky. I've always loved doing things with my kids and grandkids. When they were small, we would make bread and cookies and they helped do everything. We live by a golf course so we would walk to the pond and feed the ducks and sleigh ride in the wintertime. Nothing makes me happier than to be around my kids and grandkids."

She was born and brought up on a farm near Lewisburg and graduated from the now defunct Frankford High School. She attended Concord College where she met her husband and after their marriage traveled with him to the University of Maryland where he received his master's degree and then to the University of Toledo, where he completed his doctorate. She worked at these institutions as well, juggling young children and job responsibilities.

The Marleys like to travel and Juanita takes vacation time to accompany Bill on his professional trips when possible. It's a good way to see the country, she says, and they often spend time on their own exploring new territory. The energetic Marley finds time to play tennis twice a week—"I love tennis!" she says—and still has enough energy left over to do regular workouts at the Zone physical fitness center. She likes to garden and she's good at it. "That's my Greenbrier County farm experience, I absolutely love being outdoors," she says with a laugh. She'd really like to raise vegetables but overly friendly deer nosh on anything resembling a vegetable, so she contents herself with deer-resistant plants and flowers.

"I really enjoy working at Marshall, that's why I haven't retired," she says with her trademark cheerfulness. "I like the people I work with and the people I work for and the job that I have. I consider it really fortunate that my husband decided to take the job here 13 years ago. I wouldn't have missed out on this experience for the world!"

Movie

from Page 1

McG is considered one of Hollywood's most sought-after filmmakers, with "Charlie's Angels" and its sequel among his films. Iwanik's most recent film is "Firewall," starring Harrison Ford, which has just been premiered.

Where possible, Marshall faculty, staff and students will be used as extras in the film, and university theatre and broadcast students may be offered internships.

The executive producers of the Marshall University Football Project are Brent O'Connor, Thomas Tull, Jeanne Allgood and Scott Mednick. The screenplay is by Jamie Linden, based on a story by Cory Helms and Linden. Lynn Harris is the Warner Bros. Pictures executive overseeing the project for the studio. Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Communications and Marketing at Marshall, and Pam Haynes of the WV Film Office also have been involved with this project since its development.

Engineering

from Page 1

language inserted by Sen. Robert Plymale, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, which allowed Marshall to begin the process of expanding its engineering offerings. This legislation also was strongly supported by the entire Cabell-Wayne legislative delegation.

Dr. Sarah Denman, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, said implementing the new four-year engineering program "is extremely important to Marshall University."

"This degree complements our already strong science, technology and graduate engineering programs," Denman said. "The engineering degree has been the missing link. It will assist many disciplines, geography and visual arts to name just a couple, at this institution in their ability to grow."

Marshall has had an undergraduate degree program before, but it was discontinued in 1970 because of external factors and institutional priorities that existed at that time. Marshall did, however, retain the program's freshman and sophomore years.

Through this program, students completed the first two years of undergraduate engineering at Marshall and thereafter had to transfer to another institution to obtain the actual engineering degree. Many students took advantage of this program, transferring to West Virginia University, WVU Institute of Technology, or to other institutions in the state.

Dr. Betsy Dulin, dean of the College of Information Technology and Engineering, said the new program fits in well with other established programs at the college.

"This is an important step in the continuing growth of our engineering and computer science undergraduate programs," Dulin said. "Our faculty members have been working very hard toward this goal for quite some time, and are to be commended for their dedication to these programs and to the students in the state and the region."

Denman said anticipation of the new engineering program is high not only at Marshall, but in the community and the state as well.

"It's good to come full circle," she said. "Engineering was always a part of this institution and now it's back again."