

# We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JANUARY 13, 2006

## Marshall to Celebrate Life of Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 16

Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders, superintendent and CEO of Toledo, Ohio public schools, will be the keynote speaker following the presentation of winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Competition.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"This year we celebrate our 13th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Symposium and I can think of no better way to advocate and renew our commitment to non-violence, peace, social justice and equality for all peoples," Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley, vice president for Multicultural Affairs at Marshall, said. "Increasingly this dynamic symposium serves as a catalyst for change, inspiring students to engage in social action in order to make their communities better."

The symposium opens with a Focus on Youth program from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., conducted by Moore at the Marie Redd Senior Life Enrichment Center at 1705 9th Ave. A roundtable discussion on "Stairs to Success in Education" follows there from 2 to 4 p.m. with a panel made up of parents and students.

A highlight of each year's symposium is the traditional march which begins this year at the First Baptist Church at 801 6th Ave. and ends at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church at 1647 9th Ave. The lineup begins at 4:30

p.m. and will be led by Grand Marshal Ken Hechler, former U.S. congressman and West Virginia Secretary of State. The march gets underway at 4:45 p.m.

The memorial service begins at 6 p.m. at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and will feature remarks from David Felinton, mayor of Huntington; Dr. Stephen Kopp, president of Marshall University; and Moore, who will pay tribute to Parks.

Presentation of winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Competition will be made by Dr. Christina Murphy, dean of Marshall's College of Liberal Arts and chair of the awards competition.

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## Jan Parker Named Employee of the Month

Jan Parker, Records Officer in the Dean of the Graduate College's Office, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for December, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

A Marshall employee for over 10 years, Parker was nominated by Leonard J. Deutsch, Betty Cook, Carol Hurula, Sherrie Knapp, Denise Lawhon, Sherri Noble, and Susan Swan.

In a letter of nomination Deutsch said, "She has become an invaluable asset to the Graduate College Office on the Huntington campus. Ms. Parker ... is responsible for evaluating the several hundred files of students who apply for graduation every year; she processes the hundreds of Graduate Assistantships that go through our

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## Marshall Plans "Herd HOOP-lah" at Toyota Capital Classic Jan. 25

The Marshall University Alumni Association will host a reception before the Toyota Capital Classic from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25 in the South Hall of the Charleston Civic Center. This free event is open to the public. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

Marshall president Stephen J. Kopp, along with university staff and representatives, will greet visitors during the reception and booth displays from university academic and service units will provide information. A live band will entertain the crowd, and Marco and the Marshall University cheerleaders will break away from the women's game for a brief appearance.

Marshall and WVU meet in a women's game at 5:30 p.m., and the Thundering Herd and West Virginia men play at 8 p.m. in the annual Capital Classic.

Remaining tickets for the doubleheader may be purchased by calling the Marshall ticket office at 1-800-THE HERD or the Charleston Civic Center box office at 345-7469.



Jan Parker (center) received the Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopp (left) and Dr. Leonard Deutsch, Dean of the Graduate College.

# Strategic Vision Process Enters Next Phase

Marshall University's process for creating a Strategic Vision, which will guide future development and priority setting, has begun its next phase, using ideas from Marshall's global constituent base gathered Nov. 17 to Dec. 19.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and interested parties external to the campuses of the university were asked to send in their ideas via a unique method involving on-line communication via an Internet web portal.

The response rate greatly exceeded expectations, according to Dr. Jan I. Fox, Vice President for Information Technology. Through this inclusive approach, Marshall University received more than 800 submissions from internal and external members of the Marshall community. Following a review of the input received, seven distinct strategic

themes emerged and the ideas provided have been consolidated under the following themes:

- **Improvement.** . . A commitment to becoming better and better in all that we do each day, seeing opportunities in the challenges of our daily work and life and acting on them. It is about valuing the potential that each person brings to our community and our approach to the work that lies ahead as we endeavor to fulfill the promise of a better future.
- **Investment.** . . Strategic investments in what will matter most in terms of creating future opportunities, greater public value and success.
- **Innovation/Inquiry.** . . A multi-faceted, resourceful process predicated on an inquiring mind. It takes two basic forms: 1) discovering novel ways to improve existing processes and 2) pioneering inventiveness that creates greater value and supersedes existing endeavors.
- **Integration.** . . An approach to systems thinking and practices that use multiple tools and strategies to discover new opportunities embedded within complex issues with the goal of advancing performance, productivity and new discoveries.
- **Initiative.** . . A concept empowering and mobilizing organized and systemic action to accomplish priority strategic goals. It values the power of ideas and ideals, which are embraced collectively and inspire a shared dedication to achieving the vision of the future.
- **Involvement.** . . A self-initiated and self-directed engagement leading to advances and development in personal, community and institutional growth. It implies an understanding and commitment to relationship

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## Rain Pryor to Appear Jan. 31

Rain Pryor, daughter of the late comedian Richard Pryor, will bring her funny and observant one-woman show, *Fried Chicken & Latkes*, to the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. as part of the Marshall Artists Series.

The show is a one-woman experience based on Rain Pryor's life as told through song and characters. The story takes the audience on a journey of racial identity, family, career, spiritual growth and love giving a glimpse into the universe that was Rain's childhood and morphing into the people around her.

Born to a white go-go dancer and her famed comedian father, Rain Pryor grew up in as a Black and Jewish girl in Beverly Hills. Rain calls on her versatile skills as a story weaver, singer, mime, mimic, comedienne and dancer to relate her journey through hate, racism, fear, loss and love, with poignant twists and turns.

*Fried Chicken & Latkes* was a Los Angeles Times "Critics Choice" and earned Rain a nomination for a Best Solo Performance Ovation Award. In February 2005, Rain's work earned her the NAACP Theater Award for Best Lead Actress Equity.

Rain Pryor recently became an ambassador for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. In 2005 she joined MS

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## Alumni Association Seeks Photos of Marshall Fans in Worldwide Locations

If you're planning a visit to Disney World to meet Mickey and Minnie, or you're going to try your luck on the ice at Rockefeller Center or you're planning a drop in on your favorite performer in Branson, be sure to take along your Marshall gear—and snap those photos.

The Marshall Alumni Association is collecting photos of alumni, faculty, staff and friends wearing Marshall apparel at recognizable spots throughout the world, and they welcome your submissions.

So far, Marshall green has shown up in snapshots from all over the world, for example at St. Andrews Old Golf Course in Scotland; at Cardiff Castle in Wales; on top of Haleakala Volcano in Hawaii; under the St. Louis Arch; at Edgar Allen Poe's gravesite in Baltimore; in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris; in Hattiesburg, Miss. where volunteers helped with rescued animals following Hurricane Katrina; at the Coliseum in Rome, and in southern Iraq. Lola Thompson scored a photograph taken with Jeff Gordon at a Daytona, Fla. restaurant while another Marshall fan was photographed with hockey legend Wayne Gretzky and "Desperate Housewives" actor Mark Moses in San Diego, Calif.

Photos can be submitted to [drastura@marshall.edu](mailto:drastura@marshall.edu) or [pelphrey@marshall.edu](mailto:pelphrey@marshall.edu).

## We Are...Marshall!

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Jan. 27, 2006. Deadline is Jan. 20. 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: Carolyn Suppa

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Carolyn Suppa

Dr. Carolyn Suppa can understand the grief experienced by the survivors of the West Virginia miners killed in the recent Sago mine disaster. One of her specializations as a counselor and psychologist is in the area of grief counseling. She's taught classes about death and dying for the past several years at the Graduate College in South Charleston.

"Part of 'grief' literally is *i-f*: 'If only he would have ... If I would have...' When something traumatic happens, it is human nature to seek understanding, yet also it is human nature to place blame," Suppa relates. "In events such as the Sago mine disaster, behavior must be assessed and legitimate blame established so that we can have an accurate understanding of this horrific accident. Unfortunately, however, many survivors will accept and place some guilt on themselves and others ... The miracle I am praying for now is that the survivors – not only the family and friends but also the service personnel – can both live in the present as well as think of the past in a productive manner that helps them to reinvest in the future – a future that honors the lives of those lost."

Suppa also says, "I am deeply concerned that all of us who are in contact with survivors of any relation to the disaster diligently assess for suicidal warning signs, no matter how impossible suicide may seem for a particular individual. There are helpful Web sites available by searching the key words 'suicide assessment.' Since WV ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for completed suicides according to the Surgeon General, the possibility that a survivor might be considering suicide is not that remote."

Suppa also believes that it is necessary in today's world to educate and to prepare people to help others deal with difficult issues. "Medical professionals have been taking death and dying classes for quite a while," she says. "But there seems to be such a need for them in public schools as well. In other times, without the medical treatments we have today, people were more used to seeing people die, some at young ages, but this generation of kids really isn't used to that."

Suppa has long had an interest in working with the elderly, an interest that began in her senior year at Fairmont State College (now University) where she was a social work major. She worked for what was then the Department of Welfare (now WVDHHR) at the old Weston State Hospital during her last year in college. She completed a master's degree in counseling from the College of Graduate Studies in 1976 and later entered the counseling doctoral program at West Virginia University. Between her master's and doctorate, she worked for the West Virginia Commission on Aging and then returned to the WV Department of Welfare after Morgantown.

"I realized I wanted to work with aging—I had always specialized in it—and I decided to go into counseling rather than continue to pursue social work. Counseling with the aging was brand new then and so was community agency specialization. After I received my doctorate in 1981 I found that WVU was developing a counseling psychology program, and later, with additional studies, I was able to qualify for psychology as well. I became a supervising psychologist in 1993, so I've ... been able to cover three areas of mental health—social work, counseling and psychology." She's spent more 30 years of her life working in these fields.

The field of gerontology had always been her special interest but by the time she had married and had two daughters, her thoughts began to turn toward working

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## Jan Parker

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office annually, and she handles all of our budgets. Jan is unfailingly courteous and helpful to students and faculty alike. She never gets rattled when she is interrupted and she appears to accept the challenge of multi-tasking exceptionally well."

The nominators characterized Parker as a dedicated employee who is a competent professional who always uses good judgment.

Co-worker Denise Lawhon said "Jan has always been prompt to assist faculty, staff and students and treats them with kindness and respect ... She has been wonderful and easy to work with ... This office is a much better place because of her presence."

Another co-worker, Sherri Noble, said, "Jan is always pleasant, no matter how many demands our office may place on her. She is always willing to help us with questions we might have. I really enjoy working with her."

According to Carol Hurula, "Jan has a ready smile and a willing attitude no matter what is asked of her. She's not one to send a student to another area for an answer. Even if the question isn't one for the Graduate College, she willingly assists the student in seeing that his or her questions or concerns are taken care of." Sherrie Knapp added, "Jan is always helpful and friendly. She works very hard to keep up with the large amount of graduate waivers."

Parker was presented with a plaque, a balloon bouquet and a check for \$100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

### Photo Reminder

If you or a member of your family had a photo taken with Santa at the holiday party on Nov. 29, please pick up the picture at 213 Old Main if you have not already done so. Photos will be available until Jan. 31.

## Strategic Vision

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and community building and an ability to work effectively with diverse individuals and groups.

- *Inclusiveness*... The provision of equal opportunity to achieve and succeed, fostering social and professional networking and shared success, while building a greater sense of community and citizenship.

Examples of ideas categorized under each strategic theme and information on the public comment phase of this process, which ends Jan. 20, may be found on the strategic plan Web site at [www.marshall.edu/strategic](http://www.marshall.edu/strategic).

### Nominations Sought for Alumni Association Board

The Marshall University Alumni Association is seeking nominations for 10 three-year board positions, due Jan. 15.

Nominees should be willing to come to three meetings a year and have time to serve on committees, which commonly meet by conference call.

Potential board members must be active members of the alumni association. The association is seeking five local people and five from around the country. Nomination forms are available at the Alumni Association's Web site at [www.marshall.edu/alumni](http://www.marshall.edu/alumni).

## **Carolyn Suppa**

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more with children and their needs. That interest once more propelled her back to school where she earned a school counseling certification (K-12) at the Graduate College.

"I really felt I needed to learn more about children. I work now with the West Virginia Advocate Program which deals with foster care."

She has been a full-time faculty member at the Graduate College since 1989, where she's currently an associate professor of counseling. Her empathy for her students and her availability have won her accolades from students. She was named the 2004 Outstanding Academic Advisor of the Year for the South Charleston campus.

Suppa currently juggles her time between her faculty duties and her family, which includes her husband Mike and two teen-aged daughters, Laura, who is majoring in biology at WVU and planning to become an optometrist, and Cara, who fervently wants to attend Marshall. Suppa is proud of her parents and sister and their accomplishments as well.

In fact, her father, Harold Hayslett, is a renowned cello and violin maker who was the subject of a 1996 documentary, "Building a Cello with Harold." The film was given a special screening last week at the South Charleston Museum, which proclaimed a "Harold Hayslett Day." Hayslett, a self-taught artisan, has produced cellos, violins and other stringed instruments that are played in orchestras all over this country. One of his cellos is in an Israeli symphony. His exquisite instruments earned him a gold medal for cellos in an international competition by the Violin Society of America.

Although Suppa and her daughters are talented musicians, they've had only passing flings with stringed instruments. Her father always encouraged her to play and she did take violin lessons. "I did my time, but I really wanted to be in the marching band and you can't be in band dragging a cello around or playing a violin," she says, laughing. "There were no high school orchestras around then so I ended up playing the flute. Laura took cello lessons but she also wanted to be in the band, so now she's a drummer. Cara wants to take guitar lessons. Although we all like music, we just didn't have an obsession about playing the violin or cello. These are my father's passion and I'm so proud of his accomplishments." She also takes pride in the accomplishments of her mother, Louise Hayslett, who as the executive director of South Charleston's Public Library and was largely responsible for getting them the new building that currently houses the library; as well as her sister, Deborah Hayslett, who has taught English at George Washington High School for 32 years.

Actually Suppa has continued to enjoy music as a singer. A talented soloist, she was often sought after to sing at weddings—she even sang at her own—but the press of family obligations and professional duties have left her little time to perform in recent years.

Although the merger of the Graduate College with Marshall University brought about changes for both institutions, Suppa already had a connection with the Huntington campus. She's related to Charles Hedrick, a former Marshall University faculty member who is credited with founding the graduate school at Marshall, and whose family established the prestigious Charles Hedrick Teaching Award which is awarded annually to an outstanding faculty member. "We're cousins on my mother's side," she says, "Because he died before I was born, I never knew him, but I've certainly heard about him through my family."

Suppa is grateful that she has had the flexibility, as she says, "to have time for my family, to have practice time in counseling and to hone my craft." One recent accomplishment she's particularly proud of is her work with fellow faculty member Dr. Joyce Meikamp in reviewing two tests which were published in the Mental Measurements Yearbook. And her daughters have benefited from being around an academic atmosphere, she believes.

"I've devoted my life to the field of mental health in one capacity or another and has been so rewarding," she says softly. "I can't imagine doing anything else."

## **Martin Luther King Jr.**

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Following the awards ceremony, music will be provided by the Marshall University Musical Lecture Series Ensemble under the direction of Shanti Chapman.

Sanders is beginning his sixth year as Toledo Public Schools superintendent and CEO. He's a nationally known educational innovator and administrator who has worked to move the Toledo public schools forward.

An advocate for access to education, as well as for closing the achievement gaps among white, Hispanic and African American students, Sanders implemented Project STAR as a way of helping low performing schools improve. He also opened an all-boys elementary academy and an all-girls elementary academy as well as three district-sponsored charter schools to meet the needs of pregnant girls, troubled students, and dropouts.

His accomplishments have earned Sanders national acclaim and numerous awards. He is the author of many articles and a book, "Urban School Leadership: Issues and Strategies."

At 8 p.m. following Sanders' address, a reception will take place in the church's fellowship hall.

The final event of the symposium, "African American Folktales," will be presented from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 20 by Ilene Evans, Artistic Director/Storyteller of Voices from the Earth, Inc. in the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center at 1658 5th Ave. The event is free to the public.

Dr. Rainey Duke and Moore are co-chairs of this year's symposium planning committee. Members include Philip W. Carter, Maurice Cooley, Edward Dawson, Leah Clark Edwards, Rebecca Glass, Loretta Hagler, Stephen Hensley, David Johnson, Dolores Johnson, Charles O. Lloyd, Michael Misiti, Christina Murphy, Sara Ramezani, Sylvia Ridgeway, William Smith, Paul Willis, Sr. and Barbara Winters.

Sponsors of the event are Marshall University Multicultural Affairs in cooperation with the mayor and the City of Huntington, the Cabell County Board of Education, the Cabell County Public Library, the Huntington/Cabell County NAACP, The Herald-Dispatch, the Huntington Human Rights Commission, and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

## **Rain Pryor**

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Lifelines to provide awareness, education and hope to people and their families with MS. Her late father lived with MS for nearly 30 years. Diagnosed in 1986, when Rain was in her late teens, her father's illness changed their previously strained relationship for the better and brought them closer.

"When he got sick with multiple sclerosis, I think it put everything into perspective for me," she told CBS News. Pryor took it upon herself to educate and raise money for the disease that impacted her father's mobility and speech.

"Fried Chicken and Latkes" is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Adelpia Media Services, Clear Channel Communications and the Huntington Herald-Dispatch. For ticket information, call the Artist Series box office at ext. 66656.