

We Are...Marshall!

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Spring Teacher-Lecturer Series Features Wendy Thomas

Wendy Thomas, a special education teacher at Meadows Elementary School in Huntington, has been named Marshall University's Teacher-Lecturer for Spring 2006 in a series sponsored by Marshall's College of Education and Human Services.



Wendy Thomas

Thomas will draw upon her expertise as a special needs educator and will discuss the benefits of promoting diverse education environments through a series of presentations during March, all free and open to the public.

The dates and topics of her remaining lectures, both on the Huntington campus, are Wednesday, March 15, Secondary Methods, 4:15

p.m., room 100, Jenkins Hall and Monday, March 27, Graduate Special Education Students, 6:30 p.m., room 134, Harris Hall.

The aim of the Teacher-Lecturer program is to foster diversity for pre-service teachers by allowing them to interact with diverse exemplary teachers.

"The Teacher-Lecturer series continues to be an extraordinary journey in understanding both the similarities and differences in human beings," said Dr. Jane McKee, associate dean for academic programs.

Thomas is a graduate of Marshall University, having earned a B.A. degree in elementary education with a specialization in mental retardation and a Master's degree

in specific learning disabilities. She also has a certificate in behavior disabilities.

She received Marshall's Outstanding Black Alumni Award in 1997 and was given the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Volunteer Award in 2000. Thomas also was the recipient of the Huntington Black Ministerial Association's Pete Goodson Award and

(continued on page 4)

Mary Anna Love Named Employee of the Month

Mary Anna Love, undergraduate secretary in the College of Health Professions, School of Nursing, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for February, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since 2001, she was nominated by Rebecca Appleton, Peggy Baden, Madonna Combs, Nancy Fagan, Marilyn Fox, Karen Stanley, Diana Stotts, Lynda Turner, and Susan Bush Welch.

Appleton noted Love's exceptional work performance and said she "rarely misses work, is always positive and wants to help you." Appleton says Love is pleasant and knowledgeable and "...you can count on Mary Anna ... she

(continued on page 3)

In Memoriam: Dr. Soo Bock Choi

A memorial service for Dr. Soo Bock Choi, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Politics at Marshall University who died on March 2, will take place at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 15 in the Campus Christian Center chapel.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers and gifts contributions be made to the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., and designated for the Soo Bock Choi International Festival Fund. Choi founded the MU International Festival shortly after beginning his career at Marshall in 1963. He recently was named to the International Programs Hall of Fame.

A Web page honoring Choi has been established on the MU International Festival Web site at www.marshall.edu/cip/festival/choi/.



Mary Anna Love (left) received the Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopp.

Marshall Surpasses Goal on Campaign for National Prominence

When Marshall University kicked off the public phase of its Campaign for National Prominence in September 2002, it set an unprecedented goal of raising \$100 million in private donations by Dec. 31, 2005.

On Friday, Feb. 24, Glen Kerkian, President and CEO of the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., announced that Marshall not only reached its goal, but exceeded it by 10 percent. The total amount raised or pledged in the campaign was nearly \$110 million, Kerkian said.

"This campaign has lifted people's sights as to what we can collectively accomplish at Marshall," Kerkian said. "And once sights are raised they never return to the old norm!"

"Raising \$100 million was a daunting task," Tim Haymaker, national chairman of the campaign, said. "To get to \$110 million is incredible. This is the first of many

Army ROTC Unit Receives National Recognition

Marshall University's Army ROTC has been recognized as being in the top 15 percent of Cadet Command's 272 units for the school year 2004-2005 according to Major General W. Montague Winfield, commanding general of the U.S. Army Cadet Command.

In a letter to President Kopp, Winfield wrote, "This accomplishment demonstrates excellence in the overall Army ROTC program and the hard work and competence of Marshall University cadets."

Winfield went on to say that this achievement reflects the support given to the ROTC unit and students at Marshall University.

"The continuing success of the Thundering Herd ROTC program is a true team effort, and we would not be successful if not for the overwhelming support we receive from the university and the community," said Lt. Col. Joseph Samek, professor of Military Science and director of the ROTC program at Marshall. "The administration, starting with President Kopp and Acting President Farrell before him, the colleges on campus, the intercollegiate coaches and the many staff and faculty, support our program and help mentor our cadets."

Samek said MU's office of alumni affairs, along with many friends and alumni of the ROTC program, have

(continued on page 4)

capital campaigns at Marshall. In addition to the cash and pledges (already received), you also are plowing fields and sowing seeds for continuous harvest."

Kerkian highlighted several projects that were at least partially funded with campaign funds: They include:

- 182 new student scholarships created during campaign
- New uniforms for the Marching Thunder
- The university's move to Conference USA
- Construction of the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center
- Renovations of Morrow Library

(continued on page 4)

'Third House' Earns More Than \$10,000 for J-School

The Third House, an annual "evening of political satire" that allows the capitol press corps to poke fun at state leaders, continued its tradition of comedy by bringing a near full house to the Cultural Center on Monday, March 6.

This year's event also brought in \$10,850 for Marshall University's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications (SOJMC).

"We really appreciate all the hard work and creativity that goes into the Third House," said Dr. Corley Dennison, dean of Marshall's SOJMC. "The funds raised from Third House go directly to buy equipment and software for our newsroom which serves The Parthenon and MU Report. We also appreciate our sponsors of the Third House, West Virginia Lottery and West Virginia United Health System, and all the patrons who bought tickets again this year."

The cast of this year's Third House included Beth Vorhees, Dan Hyman, Tom Miller and Anna Sale of West

(continued on page 4)

Japanese Exchange Web Site Added to CIP Site

The Far East just moved a little closer to Marshall, thanks to the creation of a new Japanese cultural exchange Web site sponsored by the MU Center for International programs (CIP).

The site, located at www.marshall.edu/cip/japan, features online centers for conversation, exchange and travel tips but it is not complete yet, according to Jessica Cox, a Marshall student who is developing the program.

"What we have put together is a place for students to meet and create their own exchange environment," Cox said. "We have created a sort of online open space so students can always add their own content and build it as they want it. I don't ever want the site to be 'finished'"

(continued on page 3)

We Are...Marshall!

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of March 24, 2006. Deadline is March 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.



Note of Thanks

To my friends at Marshall,

Many, many heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed catastrophic leave to me while I have been off these past several months. God will reward you for your kindness and generosity. God bless all of you.

Freda Richardson

Profile: Mary Wolfe

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Mary Wolfe

After she finishes her day as a records clerk in the admissions office at MUGC in South Charleston, Mary Wolfe heads home to Mason County, where, after a scenic hour's drive, her brood, including Angel, Fanny, Rachel, Sugar, Lassie, Domineque, and Wendy, eagerly await her.

No, they're not her children, but they might as well be for all the care and attention that's lavished on them. They're quarter horses, valuable broodmares producing prize-winning foals, which Wolfe and her husband, Dale, raise, show and sell.

"Two of our colts have gone on to become reserve world champions," Wolfe says proudly. "We now have 12 horses, the latest one born March 4th. We run a business, we raise the babies and sell them to the people who train and show them. "In addition to the mares, there's Cool, a laid-back stallion who is bred to about half the mares. The other mares are bred to quality stallions outside the farm.

Horses are nothing new. Wolfe, the daughter of long-time state Commissioner of Agriculture Gus Douglass, and her mother, Anna Lee, grew up on a farm and had her first pony at age 5. "I've always been a country girl," Wolfe says happily. "My husband and I both love horses; they're a big part of our lives. We run a business but we don't do this just for the money. We wouldn't be happy without horses in our lives."

But the horses require an enormous commitment from the couple. For example, they can't go on vacation together because one of them needs to be home tending to the horses seven days a week. When they go to horse shows, her brother Tom willingly fills in for them, allowing them a brief time away from the stables. And when Wolfe gets home after putting in a full day's work at the graduate college, she only has time to fix dinner before heading for the barn, where she and Dale usually work until 11 p.m. When a horse needs 'round-the-clock medication, they set the alarm clock and rise throughout the night to administer the dose, just as people do with their children. When an expectant mare goes into labor, she is monitored on a video camera placed in a stall. The picture is relayed to a receiver in the house that allows the Wolfes to keep close track on her progress. Most of the time things go well with the birthing process, but sometimes things go unforeseeably wrong. The couple recently lost one of their prized mares when, even with good medical attention, she was unable to deliver her foal and they had to make a tough decision.

"It is so hard to lose one of my 'ladies,'" Wolfe says sadly. "I have a real attachment to the mares. This year hasn't been a good year for us. We lost another mare, one with real potential, to a virus she picked up apparently at one of the horse shows. And we lost a foal that was born with a birth deformity in his front legs. We had hoped to have five foals this year but we only have two. Sometimes you have a run of bad luck and this year has been the worse. I'm hoping this black cloud will lift soon!"

Horses are actually very fragile animals, whose diet has to be carefully monitored or they'll get equine-sized stomach aches. "They're like babies, they're so fragile," Wolfe says. "We pamper them, we watch their diets. They may be our business but we also get very attached to them. The foals come and go, but the broodmares are my girls."

And the "girls" have distinct personalities, just like people, she says. "They are very affectionate, they look for me and come up to nuzzle me. They have their good days

(continued on page 4)

Mary Anna Love

from Page 1

helps you with anything ... Everyone should have a staff member like her ... a real team player."

Baden said Love is punctual and often extends her work day to assist faculty and students as needed. "She definitely supports the mission of the university in her transactions with students, staff, faculty, administrators and the public." Baden says Love often takes on chores outside her job duties in order to accommodate the staff and students and to keep the department running smoothly.

Combs says, "She is always kind and supportive to our students and to the faculty. She works late, comes in early, helps to do things not in her job description, assisting with student projects, helping faculty with special projects; all with a smile on her face. She is easy to talk to, has a great sense of humor and tends to take everything in stride."

In her nomination, Fox wrote, "Mary Ann always goes the extra mile to make sure everything she does is done correctly Although she works under the School of Nursing, Mary Ann always volunteers to help me with my projects ... Marshall got a gem when Mary Ann came to work here."

Stotts wrote, "Mary Anna is an exceptional person. ... She anticipates your needs. She is very caring and goes out of her way to help you."

Turner noted "She unselfishly goes out of her way to do work for the faculty and interact with students."

Love is very much a team player and a quick learner, always willing to take on extra responsibilities, said Welch. "She is willing to do whatever is needed for faculty or the school without complaint... She is kind to all students, faculty, other staff and administrators. Mary Anna truly cares about others' successes and challenges, both in and out of the confines of the school."

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

Japanese Exchange

from Page 3

because that would mean students are no longer using it to talk and share their culture."

The site is titled "Hiroba," which is a Japanese word used to mean "open square." It offers a place for students who are either from Japan or interested in Japanese culture to share cultural practices and beliefs. Students can share photo albums from travel, meet conversational partners to practice language skills, or find traditional Japanese recipes.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

Dr. Michael Norton and Dr. Michael Castellani of the Department of Chemistry recently served as external reviewers for the departments of chemistry at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and Western Carolina University.

Dr. Jaroslava Miksovská, assistant professor of chemistry, had an article, "Spectroscopic and Photothermal Study of Myoglobin Conformational Changes in the Presence of Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate," published in *Biomacromolecules (Journal of the American Chemical Society)*, in Vol. 7, Feb. 2006, pages 476-482.

Mary Wolfe

from Page 3

and their bad days . . . When you're around them so much you can always tell." That means that if Fanny, for example, gets up on the wrong side of the stall some morning, Wolfe knows to give her a wide berth until her grumpiness goes away.

To the delight of her grandchildren, Cole, 4, and Aliva, 2, the horses coexist with an assortment of other animals, including a pygmy goat Mary was given as a special Valentine's Day gift from her husband. All the children, including her husband's grandchildren, find endless delight in romping through the fields and exploring all the wonders the farm has to offer. "They love it here," Wolfe says, "They can run, play in the hay, explore and have adventures, roam and romp, and just be kids."

Wolfe came to the graduate college in August, 1986 and has always worked in the admissions office. She had previously worked for various state agencies and later, while employed by a construction company at the John Amos plant in Putnam County, began dating her first husband John Meeks. A well known and much respected football coach in the Kanawha Valley, in 1994 he coached his South Charleston High School team to the state championship with their son, Jason as the quarterback. John Meeks died in 1996, leaving behind Mary and their two children, Julia, who was a senior in college, and Jason, a high school senior. It was a tough time, Wolfe admits, one that she got through only with the lots of help from her children, other family members, friends and her coworkers.

"We are so close in our department," she says reflectively. "We've all had our share of bad times. Like a family we share each other's tragedies but also the triumphs. I love the people I work with and the people I work for. They've all been wonderful to me and they're always there when I need them."

With her marriage to Dale Wolfe a few years later, Mary's life got back on track and the couple realized a long-awaited dream when they moved to their farm two years ago. She's even upbeat about the daily hour-long drive to and from work each day. "I don't mind it at all," she says cheerfully. "It my quiet time. I can collect my thoughts and plan and organize."

In her early days in the admissions office she and her coworkers routinely did their share of traveling. Under a paperwork system that seems straight out of the Flintstone era now, the admissions office, along with the finance office and assorted faculty members, loaded up vans in the spring and fall and headed down the turnpike for various points in southern West Virginia. They left on Friday and spent the weekend meeting and registering students in Beckley, Bluefield, Athens, Princeton and Summersville. This entailed transporting, among other paper records, mammoth books of cumbersome computer printouts. It was a harried time for the staff but it was much appreciated by students, who had the staff and faculty come to them before the era of computers made instantaneous contact a reality, Wolfe says.

Today virtually all admissions transaction can be done by computer, she says. Catalogs and schedules are now available online and an application for admission will soon be online as well. "Just a click of a button and we can do everything. We've really come a long way."

"The technical changes have certainly made my job easier," she says, "but I miss the interaction with students that we used to have . . . I like meeting students in person and talking with them and luckily some still do come through here."

After some very dark days, her life is going well for her now. "I'm so happy with my life right now. I've been so lucky to have had two wonderful men in my life. I have wonderful children, step-children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren and we're expecting another grandchild in September. My parents are in good health and live on the adjoining farm. I have the best coworkers and the best supervisor in the world. This is the greatest time of my life. My children are my pride and joy; they've turned out to be what every parent dreams about."

But that's no accident, she says mischievously, "I tell them, after all, they've got great bloodlines!"

Teacher-Lecturer

from Page 1

the A.D. Lewis Community Center's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award.

Thomas brings a wealth of experience to the Teacher-Lecturer series. Before coming to Cabell County schools, Thomas taught at Matewan Grade School in Williamson, W.Va., where she established the school's first special education classroom. She established the Community black History Bowl, now in its 16th year, at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Huntington where she is a member. Thomas has been active in several professional and civic groups, including serving as chair of the West Virginia Women's Commission and serving as a commissioner of the Huntington Housing Authority.

When asked a question from the audience at a previous presentation as to why she has remained a special needs teacher rather than moving on to a regular elementary classroom, she replied with enthusiasm, "I just love my job, I really love my job!"

For more information on the Teacher Lecturer Series in the College of Education and Human Services, contact Dr. Jane McKee at ext. 2859, or e-mail her at mckeej@marshall.edu.

ROTC

from Page 2

helped significantly to ensure the success for future graduates. He further credits the headquarters of the West Virginia National Guard with providing support to the program through recruiting and training assistance.

"The manner and frequency of this support is too numerous to count," he said. "With the ongoing support of these many agencies, Marshall Army ROTC will continue to attract, train and commission the very best officers and contribute to the University's vision of national prominence."

Third House

from Page 2

Virginia Public Broadcasting; Scott Finn, Phil Kabler and Tom Searls of The Charleston Gazette; Allison Barker of The Associated Press; Larry McCay of WQBE News; Kennie Bass of WCHS-TV, and Bob Brunner of WOAY-TV. First Lady Gayle Manchin also made a special appearance for the final sketch.

Campaign

from Page 2

Haymaker, a Marshall graduate now living in Lexington, Ky., described serving as national chairman of the campaign as "an awesome responsibility." He praised the campaign workers and those who have contributed and will continue to do so in the future. "One of the things I've said so frequently is, don't forget those who gave the money," Haymaker said. "I just happened to be in the leadership position."

As in most capital campaigns, most of the funds that were donated to the university came as specified gifts for individual projects or scholarships.