

WE ARE... MARSHALL™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JAN. 19, 2007

Marshall Responds to Emmons Tragedy

Following the fire that consumed the Emmons Jr. apartment building on Saturday, Jan. 13, the Marshall University community is mourning the deaths of three students and continuing to help those made homeless by the fire.

"This is a sad time for both Huntington and Marshall University," said Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp. "Having received confirmation that three of our students perished in this recent fire at the Emmons apartment building, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who are dealing with this terrible loss. We continue to work diligently to rebuild the lives of those students who escaped this tragedy, but do so with heavy hearts."

Twelve students have been relocated to Marshall's residence halls. Food and personal items are being provided through emergency funds. Other students are currently staying with friends and family. Additional relief efforts are being implemented to meet the needs of these students.

"We want to do everything we can to help any Marshall student whose life has been disrupted by this destructive event," said President Kopp. "It is impor-

tant to remember that these students, in most cases, have lost everything. Our foremost concern is assisting our students with their basic needs, including counseling, then addressing how they resume their education."

To donate to the student relief fund, persons may make checks or money orders payable to the Marshall University Foundation, Attention – Student Disaster Relief Fund. For more information, please contact the Marshall University Foundation at ext. 66264.

David McKenzie is Employee of the Month

David McKenzie, Postal Worker in Mail Services, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for December, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

He was nominated by Leonard Lovely, Mary M. Layne, Harold Jones, Karen Midkiff, Scott C. Hoppe, William A. Edwards, Rachael Williamson, Wanda Wells, Paula Beasley, Lisa Baker, Flo Harshbarger, Charlotte Allman, Amanda Standifur, Kris Standifur, John Bowen, Chuck Bailey, Marie McDowell, and Terry Dennis.

In his nomination Lovely wrote, "Most of the time David has a smile on his face and a joyful greeting. He always goes the extra mile to help anyone, whether it is a student, staff or faculty member. We have seen him on numerous occasions pay for something for someone else without a worry or care if he gets the money back. He runs errands on his lunch break for



David McKenzie (left) received his Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

Students Prepare for Undergraduate Research Day

Students participating in the fourth annual Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol will hold a practice session Friday, Feb. 2 from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Shawkey Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Students from the Department of Art and Design, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Integrated Science and Technology and Psychology will present 17 posters. All university employees are invited to visit the practice session on Feb. 2 and the event itself, which will take place at the State Capitol from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8.

Faculty members who have students who might be eligible for next year's event and who would like to see the kinds of work presented, are also being encouraged to attend.

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Marshall Science Professor Receives NATO Grant

Dr. Ashok Vaseashta, professor in the College of Science, has received an award in excess of \$80,000 from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that will enable him to conduct an advanced study institute (ASI) in Romania.



Dr. Ashok Vaseashta

The ASI, which takes place June 4-15, is titled "Functionalized Nanoscale Materials, Devices, and Systems for Chemical and Biological Sensors, Photonics, and Energy Generation and Storage." The grant is to be supplemented by several federal and international agencies to support student

participations from NATO and partner countries.

This is the second time Vaseashta has received a grant from NATO to conduct a study institute. He received a similar award by NATO in July 2003 to direct an ASI titled "Nanostructured and Advanced Materials for Applications in Sensors, Optoelectronic and Photovoltaic Technology" in Sozopol, Bulgaria in September 2004.

Graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and other scientists will hear lectures from 12 to 14 internationally known lecturers and several focused session speakers and present their own research work at the ASI.

In addition to the NATO ASI, Vaseashta is co-chairing an international symposium on Nanotechnology in Environmental Pollution Prevention with the Asia Pacific Nanotechnology Forum, Australia. One of the common themes of both meetings is the use of nanomaterials in detection, monitoring, and remediation of environmental pollution.

"The topic is of personal interest to me," Vaseashta said. He said that following the loss of a family member, possibly due to pollution, a couple of years ago, he got more involved in the topic. He since has delivered

several invited and keynote lectures worldwide promoting education highlighting the adverse affects of pollution and how these nano dimensional materials can help mitigate the problem.

According to the American Lung Association, Charleston, W.Va. ranks 16th in U.S. metropolitan areas polluted by year-round particle pollution. "One of the objectives of this research is to gather enough data to convince the policymakers to implement changes to reduce pollution sooner rather than later," Vaseashta said.

Yeager Scholars Alumni Meet Challenge Goal

In less than six months, Marshall University Society of Yeager Scholars alumni met a financial challenge that was expected to take three years. The result is the addition of \$150,000 to the Yeager Scholars program.

From June to early December 2006, 42 Yeager Scholars alumni and their families contributed \$50,005 to the "Triple Your Investment for Future Yeager Scholars Campaign," Bob Galardi, Director of Major Gifts for the Society of Yeager Scholars, said.

Raising the \$50,000 guarantees an additional \$100,000 from the Hugh I. Shott, Jr. Foundation, which provided the creative \$2 to \$1 challenge grant last summer.

"The Shott challenge truly ignited the alumni and their relatives to come together and meet the challenge," Galardi said. "The Shott Foundation challenge resulted in producing an entirely new group of donors to the Yeager program."

Galardi said the fact that Yeager alumni raised more than \$50,000 in such a short time proves that Society of Yeager Scholars alumni are becoming a "vital force" in providing private funds for the program. Galardi said

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Staff Council Seeks Nominations

The Classified Staff Council is accepting nominations for vacant positions in the Executive, Administrative and Managerial Group (EEO Group 10), Other Professionals (EEO Group 30) and Technical and Paraprofessional Group (EEO Group 40). These positions are available due to the resignations of Linda Bowen, Tammy Aliff and Kimberly Fry and will have unexpired terms ending June 30, 2007.

Nomination information has been sent to group members. Any full-time or part-time permanent employee in the group who has completed at least one year of consecutive service at Marshall University is eligible to serve on the Staff Council. Group members may nominate themselves for this position.

The completed nomination form must be returned to Charlene Hawkins in the Staff Council Office (123 Morrow Library) no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26. Nominations will not be accepted after that date.

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Feb. 2,

2007. Deadline is Jan. 26. 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: Solen Dikener

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Solen Dikener

He was a prodigy by any standard. The son of accomplished professional musicians, he began serious study of the cello at age 8 and by age 18 had earned a bachelor's degree from the Ankara State Conservatory in Turkey.

Today, Solen Dikener is an assistant professor of music whose playing has won accolades not just from the United States, where he has resided for the past several years, but from all over Europe,

where he has delighted audiences with his fluid command of the cello.

"I had musical parents who gave me guidance throughout my youth," he explains. "I did begin playing three years earlier than most kids and I practiced hard." The practice paid off. Still a youngster, he gave a special audition at the conservatory and was accepted into a very select class. "I was able to work individually with each teacher instead of being in a class with other students. It was an accelerated program which allowed me to get a degree at age 18."

His family has a rich musical background. Both his parents have retired now, but his mother was the principal second violinist for the Presidential Symphony Orchestra in Ankara, while his father was the principal trumpet player of Ankara's state opera company. His younger brother, Yaman, now is a professional pianist. It was his mother, Engin, who chose the cello as his instrument. "I was very happy learning the cello until I found out how much I had to practice—it was every day. I had to give up my street playing with my friends, we loved playing marbles, so that I could practice. I didn't like that," he says, laughing.

After graduating from the conservatory in 1986, he won a coveted government scholarship for foreign study, in part because he's fluent in several languages. He chose to go to Vienna, Austria where he stayed for a year and a half. The next stop was to France where he realized a long-held dream. It had long been his personal goal to study with Paul Tortelier, "the greatest cellist of the 20th century," he says. "To study with him was my ideal from the time I was a small child, and to actually study with him for three years, to have private lessons with him, was an incredible dream come true." In addition, he added to his academic credentials, graduating in 1990 from the Conservatory of Nice with a degree in Chamber Music.

He came to the U.S. in 1992 at the urging of a family member, also a cellist, to get other opinions on his playing. He made good use of his time, as usual, completing an M.A. degree in one year at Louisiana State University. He returned to teach in Turkey before coming back to the U.S. in 1995, where he entered the University of Michigan and began doctoral studies.

Dikener's reputation as a musician was growing and while he was still working on his doctorate he auditioned for Michigan's Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and won the spot of principal cellist. In 1999 he accepted a one-year teaching position at Central Michigan University, a job he approached eagerly.

"It was such a wonderful thing being a teacher and also an orchestra player," he says.

By this time he knew combining teaching and performing was what he wanted to do more than any-

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David McKenzie

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others. He seems to derive great joy from helping others in any way ... David is a very unselfish person. We think he contributes a very special quality to the university and to Huntington as a whole."

Layne praises his unselfishness and writes, "David is always willing to help someone out even if he is 'off the clock.' He always tries to make others feel better no matter what it takes." She recounts an incident where he stayed after work to help an employee get out a bulk mailing even though he had prior plans of his own.

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

Faculty Senate Seeks Items for 20th Anniversary Celebration

Officers and staff of the Marshall University Faculty Senate are seeking anecdotes, pictures, news articles, or other items of interest relating to the creation and first 20 years of the organization, as well as the writing of *The Constitution of the Marshall University Faculty*.

"We are planning a reception to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Faculty Senate on Feb. 26," said Dr. Larry Stickler, professor of music and chair of the senate. "The items we receive will assist us in creating scripts and displays for the event."

The reception is scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Shawkey Dining Room in the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus. It is the first of several events that week designed to honor faculty.

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, faculty members will participate in Marshall University Day at the Legislature, and at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28 in the Drinko Library 3rd floor atrium, plaques listing award-winning faculty will be unveiled.

Persons may send any items to Bernice Bullock, Memorial Student Center room BW14. If item(s) are to

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DIVA Jazz Orchestra Headlines 38th Annual Jazz Festival

Sherrie Maricle and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra, a band steeped in the history of jazz but infused with the progressive harmonies of today, will be featured in the 38th annual Jazz Festival Feb. 1-3 at Marshall.

Festival events, sponsored by MU's department of music, will take place in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Tickets may be purchased at the box office or by calling ext. 62787.

Dr. Ed Bingham, director of jazz studies, says the Jazz Festival has been an important part of West Virginia's artistic community since its beginning in 1970.

"It attracts nationally recognized artists and supports the MU Jazz Studies Program in its effort to educate students, to entertain the public and to preserve the rich heritage of jazz" Bingham said.

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Solen Dikener

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thing else, so he began a search for a full-time teaching position. He joined Marshall in 2000. Today, in addition to teaching, he is in his second year as the conductor of the Marshall University Symphony Orchestra and is also their teacher. "My professional life is very rewarding and satisfying; it is a nice balance," he says thoughtfully. "As a teacher you want to keep your performing abilities as much as you can, you want to keep in shape. As a performer you have an audience to connect with and as a teacher you produce new players."

In an effort to give back to his native country he's actively recruited students from Turkey and approximately 10 students from there have attended Marshall within the past four years. Some have graduated, some have gone on to further graduate studies, others are working professionally. "It's wonderful that we can give them an opportunity, especially for someone 5,000 miles away" he believes. "They have enriched our local cultural life and they have brought various aspects of multi-cultural education. I'm very grateful to Clark Egnor for his support for these students through the English as a Second Language program. He has been such a big help to them throughout their admission process."

He's a firm believer in spreading music education around and the MU orchestra allows him to do that. "I very much enjoy teaching the orchestra, exploring the symphonic repertoire. We take it on tour to regional schools and we have a continuing collaboration with the Woman's Club of Huntington in their educational concert series. The next concert will be March 13; it's an annual performance for Cabell County fifth graders."

Exposing children to classical music is a must, he firmly believes. "When we nurture them at an early age they can go on to become a concert audience. We want them to feel that when listening to classical music, they're not listening to 'foreign' music."

With all the musical star power in the family, as might be expected Dikener and his wife Yesim, a pianist who is an accompanist and the director of the preparatory music school at Marshall, are proud of their two talented daughters. Eliz, 6, is studying violin, and Sesil, 12, is already an accomplished cellist who plays in the Marshall Symphony Orchestra.

Traveling is a passion for the family, Dikener says. "We love going to different places, particularly to urban areas where there are educational activities for the girls such as museums and concerts." And of course there are the eagerly awaited trips back to Turkey to visit family and friends. "Being the first generation of immigrants—Yesim is also a native of Turkey—our daughters have no family here," Dikener says. "Because of technology we can connect with them in many ways but nothing is like seeing our families in Turkey in person."

One exciting venture the family recently embarked on is the summer music camp, Akademi Datca, they initiated last summer in Turkey. Located in a small resort town of Datca by the Aegean Sea, the camp sports a beautiful location with an international clientele. "We have limited the camp to 50 people in strings and piano," Dikener, who is the artistic director, says. "It's work, but we get to be with other international people ... We consider it a family vacation."

The transition from Turkey to the United States has been a relatively easy one, he maintains. "The hardest thing Mediterranean people like us have to deal with is the social aspects of American life. We are used to living in a crowded urban area where it is the custom at the end of the day or during the day to sit down with friends and have a cup of coffee. That's probably what we miss most."

However, the Dikeners are comfortable with the life they've made in this country. "This country is wonderful to welcome people out of nowhere, to value that person and to give them an opportunity like mine," he feels. "It is rare to find this anyplace else. It is such an open-minded society. It's fantastic."

Yeager Alumni

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because gifts continue to come in, the total amount raised by Yeager alumni might surpass \$75,000.

The Shott Foundaion was established in 1984 by newspaper publisher Hugh Ike Shott Jr. The Foundaion has made donations in the past to Marshall, including the establishment of one of the first endowments made to the Yeager Scholars program in 1986.

Faculty Senate

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be returned, lenders are asked to be sure to label them with name and address.

For further information, contact Bullock at ext. 64376.

DIVA Jazz Orchestra

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Sherrie Maricle and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra are based in New York City and play contemporary, mainstream big band jazz composed and arranged by band members and other renowned writers. DIVA's special sound is a result of its repertoire being composed expressly for the individual personalities of the musicians themselves.

Additional contributions to the Jazz Festival include performances by Bluetrane, Marshall's faculty jazz combo; Zanter+; the MU Jazz Ensemble with guest artist Sherrie Maricle; Bridgeport High School, and the Thundering Herd All-Stars.

A recent addition to Marshall's jazz program will make an appearance during this festival. Dr. Sean Parsons, the newly appointed professor of jazz piano, will be performing each night. Parsons will direct the Thundering Herd All-Stars and perform with Bluetrane and Zanter+.

The members of Bluetrane have been busy working on their first CD. *Things I've Herd* highlights original compositions by Parsons, Zanter and Saunders and will be ready for release at the festival.

In keeping with the educational mission of the MU Jazz Festival, student ensembles from across the region will perform during the event. Each group will receive feedback from members of DIVA in a concert-clinic format.

The Bridgeport High School Jazz Ensemble, along with Bluetrane and MU Jazz Faculty will perform Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.; admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.

Several schools will be participating in educational sessions during the day on Friday, Feb. 2. That evening Zanter+ will perform at 7 p.m. and the MU Jazz Ensemble with Sherry Maricle will take the stage at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.

The Festival will close Saturday, Feb. 3 with a concert beginning at 7 p.m. featuring the Thundering Herd All Stars and Sherrie Maricle and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.

For more information, contact Bingham at ext. 63147.