

# WE ARE... MARSHALL™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JAN. 5, 2007

## Marshall to Conduct Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium runs Jan. 15 and 16 at various locales in Huntington, celebrating the life of the famed civil rights leader through a series of panels, forums, a theatrical presentation, an awards presentation and the traditional march.



*The life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be remembered in the 14th annual symposium Jan. 15 and 16.*

The symposium was established by Marshall University's Multicultural Affairs and is partially funded by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

"As we put on our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium with the theme 'Building a Beloved Community,' we seek to further Dr. King's legacy and quest for a society based on unity, love, peace, equality and justice for everyone," said

Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley, Marshall's vice president for multicultural affairs.

The symposium opens with a Focus on Youth program on Jan. 15 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the A.D. Lewis Community Center at 1450 A.D. Lewis Ave. Coordinators for the event are the Rev. Samuel Moore, president of the Huntington/Cabell County NAACP and co-chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium Planning Committee, and David Cartwright, associate professor at Marshall University.

A highlight of each symposium is the traditional march, which this year begins with a line-up at 4:30 p.m. at the Douglass Center at 1448 Tenth Ave. The march gets underway at 4:45 p.m., led by this year's grand marshal, Dr. Ken Hechler, a former West Virginia Secretary of State and a former Marshall University faculty member. Participants will walk to the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church at 1135 Fifth Avenue where, beginning at 6 p.m., the Fourteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium Memorial Service will take place.

The speaker for the service will be the Rev. Canon Eugene T. Sutton, an Episcopal priest who is director of the Cathedral Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage at Washington National Cathedral. Canon Sutton is a

frequent leader of ecumenical retreats and conferences throughout the country. He has led national conferences and seminars on preaching, prayer, personal spirituality and worship and has served as assistant to the bishop and chaplain of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey. An author of several articles on preaching and spirituality, he is a contributor to the book "The Diversity of Centering Prayer."



*The Rev. Canon Eugene T. Sutton will be the featured speaker at the symposium's annual memorial service.*

Following his remarks, presentation of the winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Competition will be made by Dr. Barry Sharpe, executive director of the Marshall University John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence and chairperson of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Competition. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

A theatrical production, "Fire Drill," featuring the Saltworks Theatre Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., will take place Jan. 16 from 10 a.m. until noon in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The show follows the story of four students—Keller, Brandon, Megan and

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## MU Foundation Board Elects Officers

The Marshall University Foundation, Inc., board of directors, in its fall meeting, elected a new chair and four new board members.

The new board of directors chair is Dr. Joseph B. Touma. He replaced Monica Hatfield, who completed her term as chair. Touma is a physician with River Cities Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists, PLLC.

The new board members are:

- Edward Morrison Jr., president of The C.I. Thornburg Co., Inc.;
- Kimberly Courts-Brown, regulatory project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- Philip E. Cline, president and general manager of the Radisson Hotel Huntington;
- Lawrence J. Tweel, managing partner with Greene Ketchum Bailey & Tweel.

"We are very pleased with the intellect, experience and diversity of the new board members," said John Kinzer, interim Chief Executive Officer with the

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# *We Are Marshall: A Note of Thanks from President Kopp*

The uplifting events of Dec. 12 will be etched in our memories for many, many years.

As president, I wish to extend my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone associated with the event planning, sponsorship and presentation of the Huntington premiere of "We Are Marshall." The evening was a magnificent showcase for our university, city and state.

It also was a compelling testament to the extraordinary power of people and organizations united by a common purpose. This endeavor was an immense and complex undertaking, one that required intricate and extensive coordination, collaboration and communication among people and organizations that ordinarily do not work together. The multiple venues involved produced many challenges, but we prevailed in ways that made us all proud.

The Marshall University Memorial Student Center was transformed into a grand and elegant showpiece decked in Marshall green and white with all the Hollywood trimmings. The adorning of the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center brought out the grandeur of this grand old lady of Huntington. And, the spectacular transformation of the civic arena to a gorgeous nightclub and entertainment venue was amazing.

The evening was magical. We have received many laudatory accounts of the evening from many points of view. These personal stories have been very gratifying, but the credit belongs to the hundreds of people associated with the planning and organization of these events.

Thank you to each and every one of you.

The decision for Marshall University to partner in this movie production was not an easy one. After repeated meetings with the film's creators, McG and Basil Iwanyk, I became convinced that these creative

individuals were not only earnest in their dedication to telling our story in a sensitive way, but that over time their commitment to filming in Huntington would immerse them in our community in ways that would help them learn how to tell the story from the inside out.

That anticipated metamorphosis did occur, and they each have become a part of the Marshall community. For everyone who has seen the final product, you know they kept their word to us.

Regardless of the level of success this movie experiences, financial or otherwise, we know that very good things were accomplished here in our hometown by working together. To me, that may be the most important lesson learned from "We Are Marshall" — a better future is a spirit that emanates from within each of us and when we commit to it, the possibilities and what can be accomplished are endless. And if any proof is needed, on a beautiful December evening in 2006 our beloved Huntington became the capital of the movie entertainment world.

While many in this community still feel the terrible loss from Nov. 14, 1970, we can now add to our heritage a new chapter that celebrates our passion, strength and resiliency as West Virginians and as members of the Marshall family.

As we enter this New Year, let us build on this legacy and renew our commitment to fulfilling the promise of a better tomorrow for those we serve.

Sincerely,  
Stephen J. Kopp, Ph.D.

## *Faculty/Staff Achievements*

Composer *Michael Valenti*, who has served as Composer in Residence at Marshall, was inspired by the movie, "We Are Marshall" to write a solo piece for trumpet called "Remembering Marshall." He has presented it to the Department of Music and the original score will be permanently archived at Lincoln Center in New York City. Valenti, who resides in New York City, has been notified that another composition, "The Big Apple March," will be played at the dedication of the new Twin Towers Memorial Center.

South Charleston staff members *Martha Mazingo* and *Carolyn Quinlan* were among artists who had works exhibited in December in Charleston as part of the city's monthly Art Walk. Downtown galleries open their doors one weeknight a month, allowing people to walk to the various venues to view the works of diverse artists. The two exhibited collages made as part of a Humanities graduate class on the South Charleston campus.

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Jan. 19,

2007. Deadline is Jan. 12. 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: Valerie Bernard

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Valerie Bernard

Valerie Bernard's been on a fast track all her life and her philosophy is, if you're going to dream, do it big and make it happen! She dreamed about becoming a pro bowler and she made the tour. She wanted to be a teacher, a trainer of people, and she did that. She fantasized about writing a book and she did that too. In fact she's had two books published and another one with some Marshall people prominently

featured will be out next year.

And consider her career track at Marshall. After working primarily in the corporate world, she took a job at the career center in early December 2004 and three weeks later on Jan. 3, 2005, became the director after her predecessor retired.

It's been pretty much that way most of Bernard's life. She's focused and motivated, a disciplined dynamo who knows how to tap not only her talents and abilities but those of others as well. She's not afraid to make changes, she loves challenges and is always ready to step up and work. In fact, she had a successful career helping others realize their potential as well before she came to Marshall.

Her gritty determination to overcome obstacles and her creative approach to helping others achieve career success along with an unwavering can-do spirit, recently resulted in Bernard being named a "Young Gun, Class of 2007" by West Virginia Executive Magazine. Each fall the magazine prominently profiles 10 West Virginians whose accomplishments they believe have immeasurably added to the quality of life in the state.

A born and bred West Virginian, Bernard was reared in Point Pleasant by parents she credits for their unswerving support in every endeavor she's undertaken.

Take the bowling for example. In junior high school she had only a passing interest in the sport even though both parents belonged to leagues and bowled for pleasure. She occasionally bowled with a league her mother helped organize in Gallipolis, Ohio. But one Saturday afternoon she had an epiphany of sorts when she watched a pro tournament on television and later went with her mother to Columbus, Ohio, where she saw the pro bowlers at work.

"I knew right then that's what I wanted to do," Bernard remembers. "Incredibly my parents totally supported me. They got me a coach in Columbus and my mother drove me there every weekend so I could take lessons. Later I found a local coach, Jim Sturm from Dunbar, and he got me ready to join the pros."

For the next few years, her life was a whirlwind of travel and tournaments which often found her running through airports with a bowling ball tucked under each arm. She traveled from city to city all over the East in pursuit of her dream. Finally, the luster of the touring life wore off, so she headed back to Point Pleasant to figure out what to do with the rest of her life. She quickly enrolled as a non-traditional student at Marshall and went to work for Bell Atlantic Yellow Pages. Her diligence and creativity paid off when she was earned the company's highest award, the Trilogy and Purpose Award, which she won for creating the first quality virtual work group at the company.

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## Artists Series to Present 'Wonderful Town'

Two ambitious sisters, one a beautiful would-be actress and the other an aspiring writer and journalist, leave their quiet Ohio lives behind to follow their dreams of making it big in their version of a wonderful town—New York City, circa 1935.

The adventures of Eileen and her big sister Ruth are the basis of the award-winning musical, "Wonderful Town," which has charmed audiences and critics since its Broadway debut in 1953 and its successful revival in 2003. Now Huntington audiences can experience the hopes and aspirations of the sisters when the musical comes to town Monday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

The show follows wisecracking Ruth and bubbly Eileen through a series of adventures and misadventures involving a host of wacky denizens and citizens they encounter as they search for fame, fortune and happiness while living in bohemian Greenwich Village.

With music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, the musical is also noted for its jazzy dance numbers. After it opened in 1953, the highly acclaimed show swept the Tony Awards the next year winning for the Best Musical, Best Actress in a Musical (Rosalind Russell), Best Choreography, and Best Stage Design. The show also garnered several awards following its 2003 revival.

Tickets may be purchased through the Marshall Artists Series box office, located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. Information can be obtained by calling ext. 66656.

## MCTC Signs Agreement with Child Development Apprenticeship

The Marshall Community and Technical College and the West Virginia Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) Executive Council of the West Virginia Department of Education Technical and Adult Services Division have signed an articulation agreement creating a seamless transition for students to obtain an associate degree.

The agreement allows students who complete the ACDS training to be able to articulate the skills obtained into 12 credit hours in the Early Childhood Education Associate in Applied Science degree.

In a ceremony at the Memorial Student Center, the agreement was signed by Dr. Robert Hayes, interim president of the MCTC, Norma Miller with the West Virginia Department of Education and Suzi Brodof, state coordinator for ACDS.

Senate Bill 2525 requires West Virginia pre-kindergarten program teachers to have a minimum of an associate's degree in early childhood educa-

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## Valerie Bernard

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With her business savvy she seemed a natural to move up the corporate ladder but she lacked one essential the company required for their executives—a college degree. “After I won the award, I found out I couldn’t go any further in the company because I didn’t have a degree. So I said, ‘I’ll just give my two weeks notice,’ which I did and with a huge leap of faith I called my parents, told them I was moving from Charleston to Point Pleasant and I was going to enroll full time at Marshall to get a degree.”

Several years earlier Bernard had married and divorced and was now the single mother of a then three-year-old daughter, Darby. Now she was juggling being both a full-time mother and college student. Her perseverance paid off when in December 2000 she received a master’s degree in adult technical education and training.

Now, with degrees in hand, it was time to decide what career path she wanted to pursue. “I wanted to be a trainer, that I knew ... I like to watch people learn and then take their skills and go out and make money with them.”

One Friday afternoon she searched the Web for information about the Dale Carnegie training course in which she was interested, called their corporate office in New York City and was referred to a man named David in Roanoke Virginia. She was interested in getting some soft skill training in West Virginia but was told there were no Dale Carnegie trainers currently in the state. On impulse she asked David if she could meet him for lunch in Roanoke the following Monday. He agreed, she met him, explained her goals, and by the end of the day she was hired as the director of West Virginia operations for the Dale Carnegie Course. She stayed with the company for a year before leaving in 2002 to form her own company, Executive Training Center, Inc. using expertise she had acquired as a certified Og Mandino independent facilitator. In the years that followed she taught the Og Mandino principles, which are based on 10 scrolls designed to bring out the best traits in individuals, not only in 13 counties in West Virginia but across the U.S. as well.

Finally, tiring of the rigors of traveling and wanting to spend more time with her daughter, Bernard began looking for a career opportunity closer to home and was delighted when a job opportunity opened at Marshall. She’s an enthusiastic cheerleader for the Career Center. “We’re here for everyone, students, alumni, even prospective students. We don’t turn anyone away..”

With a new marketing plan she created, the center saw registration go from 900 to 5,880 students in a year. Employer relations growth went from 63 companies to more than 120 companies. With a 93 percent placement rate in the spring of 2006, she believes, “The companies have been very pleased with the caliber of students they are meeting at Marshall.”

“When I make a presentation I always encourage students to go to school while they’re young; don’t wait as I did. I tell them you can be a non-traditional student as I was but it’s harder. But whatever it takes, don’t give up, just do it!”

2007 looks to be another banner year for Bernard. She’s undergone a recent name change and gained a new family after her marriage on December 16. It was a gala affair when she and Darby, “eloped” with Larry Massile and his two children, Derek, a MU freshman and 21-year-old Brittany, to Tennessee where they shared a true family wedding. And she’s looking forward to the publication of her third book, *Lessons on Leadership I’ve Learned from My Friends*.

Bernard is passionate about preaching the benefits of education wherever she goes. She knows from hard experience that degrees not only hold the keys to success, they can open doors to professions of all kinds. “People can take away everything you have, your money, possessions, material goods, but they can never take away your education,” she says with her characteristic fervor.

## Symposium

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Michael. It depicts the events preceding, during and following a fire drill at their school. During the drill, the students discuss issues in their lives and learn how to deal with them in a positive way.

Christopher Green is serving as co-chair of this year’s symposium planning committee along with Moore. Other members of the committee include Phillip W. Carter, David Cartwright, Maurice Cooley, Edward Dawson, Leah Clark Edwards, Dominique Elmore, Rebecca Glass, Loretta Hagler, Stephen Hensley, David Johnson, Sara Ramezani, Sylvia Ridgeway, Benjamin Sandy, Barry Sharpe, William Smith, Roy Terry, Jocelyn Williams, and Barbara Winters.

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

## Foundation Board

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foundation. “I look forward to working with them and the rest of our board.”

In other news from the fall meeting, the foundation earmarked \$5 million to Marshall University to be used for a new engineering complex and/or the Marshall University Institute for Interdisciplinary Research.

The foundation also allocated \$600,000 to Marshall, one-half of which will be used for student recruitment and enrollment growth. The other half will help launch a marketing/public relations campaign, for which the university has retained a national firm.

“We’re very pleased to be able to provide these much-needed funds to the university,” Kinzer said. “They are available as a result of the generosity of our donors with unrestricted gifts and the favorable returns on our investments.”

## MCTC Agreement

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tion/child development and to continue their education to ultimately hold a teaching certification in an early childhood related field by the year 2012.

This agreement will provide an avenue for early childhood professionals to achieve these goals and ensure that all early childhood education personnel are highly qualified to provide education and care to West Virginia’s young children.

Previously the Memorandum of Understanding between Marshall Community and Technical College and Marshall University College of Education and Human Services for the seamless transfer of Early Childhood Education students was signed.