

# WE ARE... MARSHALL™

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## Marshall Receives Royalties from Inventions

Marshall University has received its first-ever payment resulting from its effort to spur economic growth through support of intellectual property created by faculty.

Since December, Marshall has received two royalty checks from Ecer Technologies, LLC, of Lewisburg, President Stephen J. Kopp announced last week.

The checks were paid as part of a licensing agreement between Marshall and Ecer, which specializes in the creation



Participants in a Feb. 21 demonstration of the Light Emitting Ceramic Device (LECD) received framed dollar bills representing the first royalties received for the project. From left, Ron Graf, marketing and sales director of Firefly Lighting Innovations; Dr. Richard Begley, Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute; Dr. Andrew Rogerson, dean of the College of Science; Dr. Tony Szawlski, interim dean of the College of Information Technology and Engineering; Dr. Michael Norton, professor of chemistry; Charlotte Weber, director of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Flexible Manufacturing; and Don Osborne, Ecer Technologies.

and application of ultra energy efficient Solid State ElectroCermescent Lighting, the patented product for which the agreement was formed.

Speaking at a news conference called to announce the receipt of the checks, Kopp said, "Today we celebrate the opening of a new chapter in the continuing evolution of Marshall University." During the news conference Kopp was presented with a framed dollar bill representing the first royalty checks. Firefly Lighting Innovations of Roanoke, Va., is marketing the product.

"I predict this dollar bill will be followed by many more as Marshall intensifies its commitment to research-based economic development," Kopp said. "We are already working on future developments, so you can be certain that today is only the beginning."

"This technology was created via partnerships with the Nick J. Rahall Appalachian Transportation Institute (RTI) and the Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing, along with Marshall University. U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II said news of the royalty checks made for "truly a landmark day in the history of Marshall University."

Rahall thanked those involved in the entire process, dating back to the cooperative research and development that began in the late 1990s.

"I commend President Kopp, whose vision for Marshall molds research to an emerging marketplace and Senator (Robert) Plymale, director of the Rahall Transportation Institute, whose leadership in promising research promotes job development," Rahall said. "We are also again indebted to our own Senator Robert C. Byrd and the RCBI, led by the capable Charlotte Weber, who first understood the promise here, and then worked to help secure the initial \$2 million grant from the Department of Energy to develop this light technology. Thanks also to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and the Pittsburgh Gateways Corporation, who are helping bring this technology to market."

Rahall also had praise for "the inventors, the thinkers, and the experimenters, Dr. Richard Begley, associate director of RTI, and Dr. Michael Norton, and the companies Ecer Technologies and Firefly Lighting Innovations who are investing not only in this useful safety lighting technology, but in West Virginia."

Weber, director and CEO of RCBI, said RCBI is extremely proud to have played an important role in the project.

"It is truly exciting to think about the tremendous impact this new patent promises to have—lighting the way to new manufacturing jobs for West Virginians while reducing

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## Dena Laton is Employee of the Month

Dena Laton, Program Assistant II in Information Technology, has been named the February Employee of the Month, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Laton, who previously worked for five years in Music and Social Studies in the late 1980s, has been employed by IT since February 2002. She was nominated by Barbara



Dena Laton (left) receives her Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopp.

Winters, dean of University Libraries.

In her nomination Winters wrote that since becoming her administrative assistant in January 2006 Laton has added a workload for 25% of her time in addition to her regular duties.

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## ***Notre Dame Professor to Speak March 8 as part of Schmidlapp Lecture Series***

Dr. Gail Bederman, an associate professor of history and gender studies at the University of Notre Dame and an award-winning teacher, will speak at Marshall University at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8.

Bederman will speak in the Shawkey Room of the Memorial Student Center on MU's Huntington campus as part of the Schmidlapp Distinguished Lecture series.

Her topic, "Contraception and its Advocates in the USA, 1831-1965: A Revisionist History," reflects her research in the history of women, gender and sexuality in the United States. The lecture is part of the Marshall University Celebration of Women's History Month. It is made possible by the Schmidlapp Distinguished Lecture-series in Women's Studies sponsored by the Charlotte R.

### ***Bissett Serving as Chief of Staff, Sr. Vice President for Communications***

Bill Bissett has assumed the duties of Chief of Staff and serves as Senior Vice President of Communications for Marshall University.

"With his background in both the private and public sector, Bill is the right person to help us move Marshall forward," Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp said. "He brings great ability and professionalism to this dual role. I have been impressed by the leadership aptitude and acumen I have observed in Bill. He now brings these qualities to a very important leadership position in this administration. Bill Bissett will serve Marshall University, our students and staff exceptionally well as Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President of Communications."

Bissett, who received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Journalism from Marshall University, said he looks forward to the challenges of this new position with great expectation and enthusiasm.

"I greatly appreciate the confidence of President Kopp and will work hard to make his vision for Marshall a reality," Bissett said. "Marshall University played a tremendous role in the success I have had thus far in my career, and it is an honor to be a part of this institution's future."

Previously, Bissett served as Director of Public Relations on Marshall University's South Charleston campus.

Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, and the Organization of American Historians.

Bederman's book, *Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917*, "is a brilliant exploration of American culture at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century," said Dr. Greta Rensenbrink, assistant professor of history and interim director of Women's Studies at Marshall.

"It has altered the way historians have thought about the relationship among gender, race and power in the period," Rensenbrink said. "We are delighted with support of the Schmidlapp Fund, which is making this opportunity possible."

Bederman's current research centers on the earliest precursors of the English and American reproductive rights movement from Mary Wollstonecraft and T. R. Malthus through Fanny Wright and Madame Restell.

The program is free and open to the public.

### ***Exhibit Features Women Artists***

To help observe Women's History Month, an exhibition featuring artworks mostly from the Dahesh Museum of Art in New York, will be on display during March on the Third Floor of the Drinko Library.

The exhibit, "Overcoming all Obstacles: The Women of the Academie Julian and Other Women Artists in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century," is being prepared by Helen Majdalany.

The display will include Rosa Bonheur, Marie Hadad, Jeanne Thil and the ladies of the Academie Julian.

Rodolphe Julian established the Academie Julian in 1868 at the Passage des Panoramas, as a private studio for art students. At the time a government sanctioned art school did not allow women to enroll for study, but the new Academie Julian did enroll them. Women participated in the same studies as men, including the basis of art training at the time—drawing and painting of nude models, which was considered improper for women.

When problems arose from the co-education, Julian established four studios for women, but charged them twice as much as their brothers since most were from families that could afford such tuitions. Five studios were maintained for the men, who were generally from the working classes.

### ***Summer 2007 Graduate Tuition Waivers Now Available***

Applications for graduate tuition waivers for Marshall University's summer terms will be accepted through Friday, April 6 in the Graduate Dean's Office, 113 Old Main, on the Huntington campus and by the students' academic area offices on the South Charleston campus.

Priority consideration will be given to faculty and staff of the state's public and private colleges and universities.

Academic merit, which will be determined using grade point average and scores on required graduate admissions examinations, will be the major consideration in awarding the waivers that cover tuition. Students who receive waivers are responsible for paying student center and activity fees and some department specific fees by the University established due date.

Up to three hours of waiver for graduate coursework will be awarded to qualified applicants. These waivers do not cover E-courses.

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## **WE ARE... MARSHALL™**



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of March 16,

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## Profile: Sharon Gates

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Sharon Gates

Her name is Sharon Gates; her husband is Bill Gates. And yes, she's heard all the quips and wisecracks imaginable about that fabled name. But with her calm good humor she'll give you a pass even if you make yet another feeble witticism.

Her official title is program specialist, but she oversees the daily operation of the Learning Resource Center, which has been her home since she joined Marshall's staff 25 years ago. And she's eager to sing the praises of the center and the services it offers.

Located in Jenkins Hall, the Learning Resource Center originally began as a facility for students and teachers in the College of Education and Human Services. But today the center has expanded its base of operations and its services are available to departments throughout the university as well as the surrounding community.

"We have such things as computer and graphics labs where students and faculty can make transparencies, bulletin board graphics, signs, posters, all sorts of things," Gates says. "We just purchased a new wide format printer to make posters, signs and banners and we can make copies of CDs and DVDs and label them. If people don't know how to use the equipment, we'll show them. We try to help students, whatever department they're in."

And, she points out, the center is economical for the users. "We have a small store where we sell some supplies. If someone needs just a few sheets of construction paper or a single poster board, they can get it here. They don't have to buy a whole pack of paper that they don't need."

Gates grew up in Wayne County, one of eight children and graduated from Crum High School, now merged with Fort Gay High School to form Tolsia High. It was an easy choice for her to attend Marshall, where she got a two-year degree in media technology. The program was a good fit for her and when a job opened up at the LRC, she joined the staff as an audio-visual technician. Her main job then was to keep the equipment up and running and to make sure the students and faculty got the services and equipment they needed. Tech savvy, she was good at her job and just as good at dealing with the people who came to the center for help.

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## Dena Laton

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Winters has high praise for her excellent organizational skills and she adds, "She regularly and substantially exceeds my expectations with little or no supervision."

In addition, Winters says, "The sheer amount of work that Dena handles is amazing. She completes travel arrangements and reimbursements for all IT staff, an overwhelming job in itself. She also records minutes of all IT meetings, including meetings of the IT management group and the campus-wide IT Committee (ITC), comprised of faculty and administrators. Much weighty business is conducted in these meetings, and they tend to be long and to include a lot complex technical data and concepts. The minutes seldom need major revision and are always delivered on time. Her 'output' is consistently high in quality."

The nomination continues, "One of Dena's salient qualities is the ability and willingness to learn quickly and 'on her feet.' In an area as fast-changing as information technology, it is impossible to overstate how important this ability is. Not only does she have good skills, but she willingly applies them—suggesting new policies and procedures as a need emerges rather than waiting until the need is overwhelming. As the person at the front of the IT office, Dena maintains a friendly manner, even when under severe pressure, and she does it with a sense of humor."

And the nomination concludes, "In short, Dena Laton consistently displays characteristics that the university prizes and that support the university's goals."

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

## Correction

Because of the editor's error, the name of the January Employee of the Month, Robert "Bob" Easthom, was misspelled. We apologize for this error.

## Black Heritage Stamp Unveiled

The 2007 edition of the United States Postal Service Black Heritage Commemorative U.S. Postage Stamp was unveiled at a ceremony on Marshall's Huntington campus this week.



The Ella Fitzgerald stamp was unveiled at Marshall Feb. 26.

The stamp, which honors Ella Fitzgerald who was widely known as "The First Lady of Song," is the 30<sup>th</sup> subject in the Postal Service's Black Heritage stamp series. Her stamp portrait is based on a photograph taken around 1956.

"Marshall University welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Huntington U.S. Postal Service in observing the 2007 unveiling of the Ella Fitzgerald stamp," Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley, vice president for multicultural affairs, said. "She was

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## **Sharon Gates**

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Today she's the center's lone full-time employee, aided by graduate students and work-study students. Currently, an instructional technologist is housed at the LRC and maintains the computer equipment used by the COEHS.

Avid football fans, Gates and her husband attend most of Marshall's games. "When Marshall was in the MAC we went to all the away games as well but now that the away games are farther away we can't go to them," she says regretfully. As much as they love cheering the Herd on, they also have a passion for the theater and are faithful concert goers. They regularly purchase season tickets for the Marshall Artists Series, the Paramount Arts Series in Kentucky, and a Cincinnati, Ohio series that brings traveling Broadway shows to that city four times a year. Eclectic in their musical tastes, the couple regularly attend rock concerts in Columbus Ohio and Cincinnati "We love those concerts!" she says.

The Gateses enjoy traveling and they particularly like traveling with other family members. They've been all over the country and they have a goal they hope to reach soon. "We want to go to New York City and take in a Broadway show. We've never done that. We figure that will be a great experience." And, no matter where they travel, they always look for local sightseeing opportunities. They love browsing through museums, for instance, and will visit one any chance they get. And when she has some rare free time, Gates is loves to read and work on cross-stitch creations.

Her job at the center doesn't give her a lot of free time. She's available when needed after working hours and she'll pitch in wherever she's needed. Her main goal is to make the center's resources as user friendly as possible. "We keep it staffed until 6:20 p.m. Monday through Thursday and that gives the student helpers time to get to their classes and also gives students who use the center's resources time to come here and get what they need. I encourage people to come in and ask about our services. We're happy to give people a tour if they want to know what we're all about. We can show them the equipment we have on hand and how to use it. We keep our charges low so people can afford them."

Gates ticks off some of the services offered. Faculty for instance, can check out laptops and projectors, as well as equipment to take to conferences. The student helpers can deliver requested equipment to classrooms, set it up and make sure it's working properly. "One good thing about the center is that it keeps individual departments from having to buy their own equipment. This cuts down on duplication," she explains.

She's friendly and eager to help, and her can-do attitude puts people at ease. Nothing is too small for the staff's attention, she says. "We try to be helpful wherever we can. If you lost a pencil and need a new one, we'll get one for you. That may seem trivial but it's not if you have a class in a few minutes and a test to take and no pencil. If you need to know something about what we do, just ask us. We're here to help everybody."

## **Royalty**

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energy costs for the nation's businesses and consumers," Weber said.

ElectroCeramescent Lighting, also known as LECD (light-emitting ceramic device) is a flat ceramic-on-steel light-emitting bulb or device useful in signs for transportation and traditional advertising. Advantages of the new technology include improved durability and visibility during inclement weather and at night with smaller power requirements, according to Begley who, along with MU chemistry professor Dr. Michael Norton, was involved in the research and development of the product.

Begley and Norton joined researchers from Alfred University College of Ceramics in New York, and Meadow River Enterprises, Inc., a Lewisburg, W.Va., small manufacturing firm in developing the ceramic-on-steel light-emitting device.

## **Tuition Waivers**

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Huntington students interested in being considered for a tuition waiver based on financial need criteria should pick up a form in the Graduate Dean's Office, 113 Old Main.

Students who previously held waivers must reapply to be considered for summer term waivers. Please note that recipients of waivers will no longer need to go to the Graduate College office to pick up their approved tuition waivers.

Applicants who are awarded waivers will be notified by mail or e-mail. All awarded waivers will be processed electronically and posted to students' accounts within 10 business days of approval and registration. Applicants are responsible for any amount not covered by the waiver. These balances must be paid by the tuition/fee due date as established by the university.

All graduate students must be registered for summer classes to receive the waivers and to have the payments posted to their accounts. Unless special arrangements are made, waivers for students who are not registered by May 1, 2007 will be assigned to other qualified applicants.

## **Black Heritage Stamp**

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one of America's remarkably talented human beings whose impact on society will persist long after this occasion."

Ella Jane Fitzgerald (1917-1996) had extraordinary vocal range and flexibility which, combined with her gift for pitch, rhythmic sense and flawless diction, made her a favorite of fans, songwriters and other singers.

Fitzgerald broke many racial barriers. She was the first black artist to appear in various exclusive clubs around the United States, including the famed Copacabana in New York in 1957. She sang at the inaugural gala for President John F. Kennedy in 1961. She won 13 Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts in 1987, and in 1979 she was one of five artists awarded Kennedy Center Honors. In 1989 the Society of Singers created an award for lifetime achievement, named it the "Ella" and made her its first recipient.