

# WE ARE... MARSHALL™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • APRIL 18, 2008

## Marshall Rededicates Memorial Fountain

Rededication of the Marshall University Memorial Fountain took place Wednesday, April 9, on the Memorial Student Center plaza on the Huntington campus.

Gov. Joe Manchin III, Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp and Michele Presteria Craig, a representative of the surviving family members, spoke during the ceremony, which concluded with the turning on of the fountain for the summer. The fountain is silenced each Nov. 14 during the annual memorial service honoring the victims of the 1970 Marshall plane crash.

Since January, the fountain and its foundation have undergone extensive repairs. Most noticeable is the new

granite surface, both inside and out, of the foundation; a copper catch tray for the water to flow into from the fountain; and a higher spray of water, similar to the original output when the fountain was installed in 1972.



Marshall voice student Blake Racer (at podium) prepares to sing the Alma Mater at the fountain rededication ceremony while Student Body President Dominique Elmore looks on.

## Welcome Center Renamed

Marshall University's Welcome Center is now known as the Joseph M. Gillette Welcome Center after the name change took place in an official ceremony on Saturday, April 12.

The center, located at 1601 5th Avenue, was named in honor of the father of Marshall alumnus Joe Gillette. Joe Gillette, who graduated from Marshall in 1973, and his wife, Pam, currently live in Atlanta, Ga.

Joe's father never attended Marshall but grew up in Huntington and often visited the campus to play softball and had a lifelong passion for Marshall according to his son.

"It was my dad's dream that I would go to Marshall University," Gillette said. "That dream was fulfilled. I later talked to my dad a lot about his love for Marshall and my love for Marshall grew even more. Then I started thinking about

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Pam (left) and Joe Gillette pull the cord revealing the new name of the Joseph M. Gillette Welcome Center, which honors Joe Gillette's father.

## Smith's 'FDR' Wins National Historical Literature Award

Jean Edward Smith, the John Marshall Professor of Political Science, has been chosen to receive one of the nation's most prestigious awards for historical literature.



Jean Edward Smith

He will be awarded the Francis Parkman Prize for historical literature for his book "FDR," a biography of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the Society of American Historians' annual black-tie dinner May 5 in New York City.

The prize is awarded annually for the best nonfiction book on an American theme published in the previous year.

Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and David McCullough, who wrote the Pulitzer Prize winning biography of John Adams which is the basis of the current HBO mini-series about Adams, are previous Parkman Prize winners.

Smith was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Ulysses S. Grant in 2002, the same year McCullough won the Pulitzer for his John Adams biography.

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# Drinko Fellow for 2008-09 Named

Dr. Maria del Carmen Riddel, professor of Spanish and chair of the Department of Modern Languages since 2002, has been named the Drinko Academy Fellow for 2008.

She has worked in the department since 1983, teaching everything from introductory language classes to Spanish culture, literature, history and honors courses.

"Being named a Drinko Fellow is a welcome recognition of my professional skills and of my intellectual capabilities and is quite an honor," Riddel said. "I am also humbled because I am surrounded by many colleagues who deserve this acknowledgment as much as I do."

Faculty members from various departments at Marshall are appointed annually as Drinko Fellows. They receive a stipend and carry reduced teaching loads for an academic year and summer to undertake original research or curriculum development. The announcement was made during the Drinko Symposium earlier this month.

During her fellowship Riddel plans to write a book about Cuban-Americans from materials compiled over the past five years while working with now-retired history professor David Duke. Their book will investigate and consider the cultural effect that Cuba and the United

## Staff Council Seeks Nominees

The Marshall Staff Council is accepting nominations for two vacant positions in the skilled crafts and service/maintenance EEO Groups 60/70. These positions are available because of resignations of unexpired terms ending June 30, 2009. Nomination information has been sent to group members.

Full-time or part-time permanent employees in a group who have completed at least one year of consecutive service at Marshall University are eligible to serve on the Staff Council. Group members may nominate themselves for the positions. Completed nomination forms must be returned to Charlene Hawkins in the Staff Council Office, 123 Morrow Library, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 5. Nominations will not be accepted after that date. Newly elected members will serve until June 30, 2009.

States have had on each other since Fidel Castro's rise to power in 1959.

Riddel, a native of Spain, follows this year's Drinko Fellow, Dr. Wendell Dobbs, a professor of music. He and his wife Linda, also a music professor, formed the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps in 2007.

The Academy is named for the late Dr. John Deaver Drinko, a 1942 graduate and former managing partner of Baker & Hostetler, one of the nation's largest law firms. He and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Gibson Drinko, have been longtime supporters of academic programs at Marshall.

## Shows from Broadway to Complete Artists Series

The tales of two disparate families set a hundred years apart, each with its own unique charm, will finish out the 2007-08 Artists Series later this month.

Broadway's musical version of Louisa May Alcott's classic "Little Women," set in the Civil War era circa 1862, comes to the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center Wednesday, April 23, and "Hairspray," the big musical in every way about a would-be dancer in 1962, follows on Wednesday, April 30. Both have starting times of 8 p.m.

"Little Women" tells the familiar story of the March family as they face the trials of growing up, finding love and finally discovering the meaning of friendship and family. "Hairspray" is big in every way as it follows the adventures of a big girl with big dreams and even bigger hair. In 1962, 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto

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## Pullman Jazz Festival Set for April 26

The distinctive sounds of brass and jazz will fill the air in downtown Huntington when the Third Annual Jazz Festival comes to Pullman Square Saturday, April 26 from 2 to 7 p.m.

The event is held in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution and the International Association of Jazz Educators to observe National Jazz Appreciation Month.

Open to the public, the free event will take place on the Pullman Square "greenspace" and will feature local and regional jazz artists such as Bluetrane, the Marshall University Faculty Jazz Ensemble; the Zanter Trio, the MU 12 O'clock Big Band and guest artists Reggie Watkins, trombone, and Mike Tracy, saxophone.

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**WE ARE... MARSHALL™**



**MARSHALL  
UNIVERSITY**

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of May 2, 2008. Deadline is April 25. 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).

## Note of Thanks

The Runyon Family (Janice Runyon, Residence Services) would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Marshall community for their prayers, concern and gifts of furniture, clothing, household items, gift cards, checks and cash to assist us in "a new beginning." Almost everyone knows we lost everything in a house fire and everyone has been most gracious in assisting us in obtaining everything we needed to start over. We have settled in a rented house and again thank everyone for their kindness, prayers and words of encouragement. We feel that we have been truly blessed through this loss.

*Janice Runyon*

## Profile: Bob Collier

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Bob Collier

He helps students navigate their way through the thicket of financial aid and helps students and parents untangle what sometimes seems to be an impenetrable loop of red tape to finance a college education.

And it's all about giving good customer service while being a good steward for the university according to Bob Collier, the Assistant Director of Student Financial Systems in the Bursar's office

He's been at Marshall since 1989, the last 15 plus years in the Bursar's Office and it's rewarding for

him to help students receive degrees and pay for them, he feels. "I love Marshall and I'm here to bridge a gap of the bureaucracy that students and their parents have to go through to meet their financial needs," he says.

The Bursar's Office, he explains, acts as the "bank" for the university. "Simply put, we handle assessment of fees, billing and collections and distribution of revenue in our office. Among other duties, we oversee the collection of campus-based Title IV programs which mainly consist of Perkins loans. As part of loan administrative process we conduct the entrance and exit interviews. We're not involved in the process of awarding money; we follow through after it is awarded."

In addition Collier oversees the office's call center, works with third party entities and serves on committees for orientation, parent groups and other campus committees. But one of his main duties is to work on a front line basis with individuals who are having concerns after financial aid which has been awarded. Interacting with students is the part of his job he enjoys best, he says.

After his family moved to the Huntington area in 1969, he graduated from Barboursville High School and shortly thereafter went to work full-time for a bank. He took college classes, but put his degree on hold while he concentrated on a career in banking. After eight years in that field, and by then married with two children, Collier made the decision to return to Marshall full time to get his degree. It wasn't an easy choice to give up a thriving career, and he gives full credit to his wife, Darlene, who works for one of the TRIO grants at Marshall, for her support and encouragement during the two years it took him to get the degree. Shortly after graduation, armed with his banking experience and his Marshall degree, Collier was able to step into an accounting position in Marshall's state grants and contracts department. He came to the Bursar's Office three years later

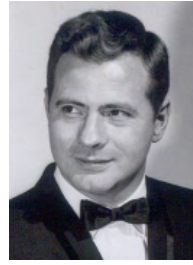
Two objectives of his office are to provide good service to the students and to make the financial process as accommodating as possible, he says, and technology has gone a long way toward making that happen. "As a student I remember standing in long lines that seemed to take forever. Now people can pay tuition and fees online 24 hours a day...we're so much better now as far as customer service is concerned and we've accomplished so much with many more students. We still have room for improvement, but it's much better now than in the past."

With his easy manner he's good at dealing with people and putting them at ease, which is a must for his job. "The students I see have issues that need more time than just standing in line to pay fees. I try to help them with these issues and give service to those who are having problems"

His patience and good customer service skills have paid off. "I've had the opportunity to meet many stu-

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## Founder of Marshall Jazz Festival Dies



J.D. Folsom

J.D. Folsom, a longtime Marshall faculty member and founder of the Marshall University Jazz Festival, died earlier this month.

Folsom began teaching at Marshall in the fall of 1972 and retired from the faculty in 1998. He had a B.A. degree from Adams State College and an M.A. from Colorado State University.

Over the years the Marshall Jazz Festival has featured notable musicians and showcased many Marshall faculty. It annually has drawn enthusiastic large audiences.

## Sheweys Honored on Pathway of Prominence

The generosity of Mingo County business and education leader C. Fred Shewey and his late wife, Christine, was celebrated in a ceremony held earlier this month at Marshall's Pathway of Prominence.

The Sheweys were honored as the newest members of the Pathway of Prominence. Donors of \$1 million or more to Marshall are honored with a plaque on the Pathway, which is located in the center of the Huntington campus.

Following the Pathway event, Fred Shewey was inducted into the June Harless Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the Memorial Student Center's John Marshall Room. Delegate Mary Poling, chair of the House Education Committee, along with the Wayne County Board of Education, were also inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Shewey, Poling and the Wayne County board were honored for their positive impact on the state's education system and for their support in the development of West Virginia's first 21<sup>st</sup> Century Model School, according to Dr. Stan Maynard, director of the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development.

## Zimmerman Joins Foundation as Director of Planned Giving



Ed Zimmerman

Ed Zimmerman, a Marshall graduate and lifelong resident of Huntington, has joined the Marshall University Foundation, Inc. as Director of Planned Giving. He assumed his new position April 1.

Foundation Chief Executive Officer Ron Area said Zimmerman will be responsible for overseeing the development and administration of planned gifts for the university.

"I am very pleased to have Ed Zimmerman join the Foundation staff as Director of Planned giving," Area said. "His 36 years of experience in building relationships in the financial

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## PowerPoint Training Scheduled for April 24

Microsoft PowerPoint training will be offered Thursday, April 24 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Drinko Library 349, according to the office of Human Resource Services. Release time is available with a supervisor's approval.

Additional information and registration for training opportunities can be found on the Human Resources Web site at [www.marshall.edu/human-resources/td/CalTop.asp](http://www.marshall.edu/human-resources/td/CalTop.asp).

## Bob Collier

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dents over the past and I've had students who have come back or I've seen them on the street and they stop and thank me for helping them. That's such a good feeling. I know I'm not the only Marshall employee that this happens to."

And Collier knows full well about the old adage, "Be careful what you ask for, you may get it." But he approaches it with good humor and an optimistic outlook.

"All my life I've wanted to own a house with some historical significance and restore it while adding modern conveniences. Four years ago we bought a house in the Westmoreland section of Huntington and we've been working on it ever since."

Just as he had envisioned, the house has an enticing history and ties to one of the great sea tragedies of all time. The house is part of an estate once owned by a U.S. Senator from West Virginia named Hughes, whose wife was from one of Huntington's most prominent families, the Vincents. At age 19 the Vincents' daughter married a Pennsylvania man and the couple embarked on an extended honeymoon trip to Egypt. After three months abroad, for their return trip the couple booked passage on the most luxurious and fabled ship of the time, the Titanic. After the ship struck an iceberg and sank, the new bride, who was pregnant with a son, survived but her husband did not. Their child was born healthy several months later.

Collier's home was built in the early 1920s from stones cut on the premises. They were salvaged from a large mansion that had burned down a few years earlier. For financial and other reasons, the family that built it never moved into the house and it was passed down through several owners, while the vast estate once owned by the Hughes and Vincent families was carved up into smaller and smaller tracts of land. Collier says they feel fortunate that the nearly an acre his house sits on today is the largest section left intact as a single residence.

And while the house has been a labor of love, it has indeed been a labor, he'll assure you. It's been four years and counting, and there are still lots of things to be done. But with the willing help of his family, there's been tremendous progress made to date. The three-story stone house boasts large rooms and high ceilings, pocket and French doors and original woodwork. The family has painstakingly refinished all the woodwork and spent three months scraping off years and years of wallpaper. He and son Bryon, a junior at Marshall majoring in finance and economics, have done a prodigious amount of the work and other family members have pitched in to help. Darlene, with her decorator's eye and creative flair, has been an integral part of the renovation.

In keeping with the house's historical roots, the Colliers are furnishing it with family heirlooms and items they've collected just because they like them. "We don't have items of any particular financial value, just sentimental things we like and appreciate," he says. "The house is an ongoing project; I don't know if it will ever be done but it gives me something to look forward to. I've told my kids they may not inherit a lot of money but they'll get an old house," he says, laughing.

In addition to Bryon, there is a daughter, Kiera Thacker, son-in-law Timothy, and the Colliers' pride and joy, seven-month-old Philip Thacker. The Thackers live in Chesapeake, Ohio, allowing the Colliers lots of grandson visits.

The church is a big part of the Collier family's life and they're active members of the Union Missionary Baptist Church in Chesapeake. They love the beach and their favorite vacation destinations are Hilton Head, S. C., and Pensacola, Fla. In addition, he likes working in the yard and hopes one day to be able to do some serious gardening.

But for now, there's always a busy schedule in the Bursar's Office and work on the house continues. He's very modest about his accomplishments and eager to give credit to others for their work. "I'm so fortunate and so blessed to be where I am and to do what I do," he says thoughtfully. "I want to be an ambassador for Christ and also an ambassador for Marshall University. I think about all the things I'd like to do when I retire but I've been here so long they probably will have to change the lock on the door of the Bursar's Office to get rid of me!"

## Smith's 'FDR'

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Since its publication last year "FDR" drew much critical acclaim and made the New York Times' Best Seller List.

Currently Smith is working on a biography of President Dwight Eisenhower.

## Welcome Center

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giving back and I told dad 'I'm going to do something special for you at Marshall.' The dedication of this building is really a promise kept."

Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., said the university is honored to rename the center after Joseph M. Gillette.

"Joe is thrilled and honored to be associated with the welcoming center and to help with the recruitment of students for years to come. We are grateful for Joe's and Pam's continuing generosity and support of Marshall University."

Joe and Pam Gillette have supported Marshall for many years. In addition to generous financial support, Joe Gillette has provided dedicated leadership by serving on many boards of directors. In 2006 he established the Joseph M. Gillette Scholar award, also named in memory of his father. The scholarship goes to a student selected to be a Yeager Scholar.

## Broadway

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TV's most popular show as she dreams of changing her world and winning the boy she loves.

Tickets for both shows are on sale at the Marshall Artists Series box office, located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. For ticket information call ext. 5-6656.

## Pullman Jazz

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Sponsors are Community Trust Bank, Marshall University and the American Federation of Musicians Music Performance Fund.

For additional information, visit [www.pullman-square.com](http://www.pullman-square.com) on the World Wide Web or contact Dr. Mark Zanter, associate professor of music at Marshall, by e-mail at [zanter@marshall.edu](mailto:zanter@marshall.edu).

## Zimmerman

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arena will be invaluable to the future of private gift support for the university...He is a welcomed addition to the university advancement team."

Zimmerman's background is in insurance and financial planning. He began his career as an agent with the Jefferson-Pilot Insurance Company in 1972 and in 1990 he established a sole proprietorship, Zimmerman & Company. He formed Zimmerman-Bates & Associates in 1992, which, he said, was the culmination of many successful years of enterprise and career growth in the insurance and financial services industry.

"I look forward to broadening awareness of planned giving opportunities at Marshall and to working with the gift officers and developing tools they can use," he said.