

WE ARE... MARSHALL™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JANUARY 25, 2008

Med School Physicians Contribute to Reference Work on Impairment

A newly revised American Medical Association reference book used internationally for impairment evaluations contains significant contributions from two physicians of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

Dr. Mohammed Ranavaya, professor of occupational and environmental medicine in the Department of Family and Community Health, was one of five associate editors for the book, the AMA's "Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth edition." Ranavaya was the primary author of three chapters, including the instructions for using the rating system and the chapter relating to lung disease and other disorders of the pulmonary system. He oversaw the development of other sections of the book as well.

Dr. Paulette Wehner, professor of cardiovascular services and program director of Marshall's adult cardiology training programs, was the primary author of the book's chapter on heart disease and other problems of the cardiovascular system.

Released this month, the 654-page book is a detailed road map for determining how much impairment, and ultimately the disability, an illness or injury has caused in a person.

Ranavaya said the workers compensation programs of about 40 states, including West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, are required to use the AMA Guides as their basis for determining long-term benefits for job-related injuries or illness. The guides are used extensively by the federal government and in some auto accident and personal injury cases, and also are widely recognized in Canada,

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JoAnn Black Named Employee of the Month

JoAnn Black, IT Consultant Senior, Computing Services, is the Marshall University Employee of the Month for December, according to Jim Stephens, Chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since November 2004, she was nominated by her supervisor, Stephen J. Robinson.

In his nomination Robinson wrote, "JoAnn has continually gone above and beyond in her role as the Help Desk Coordinator. She never complains and often

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Sellards Joins Board of Governors



Michael G. Sellards

Michael G. Sellards, President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary's Medical Center, has been appointed to Marshall University's Board of Governors by West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III. Sellards' term runs through June 30, 2010.

Sellards, a Huntington resident, replaces former vice chair Menis E. Ketchum, who resigned from the board on Jan. 2, citing commitments to his campaign for the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

"Mike Sellards is a very capable executive, experienced in areas of medicine, and the St. Mary's organization that he leads is a major economic force in an area of great interest to Marshall University and the state of West Virginia," said Robert L. Shell, chair of Marshall's board. "We are privileged to have someone of his caliber serving on our board."

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JoAnn Black (right) receives her Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopp.

Career Services Adds Stoler, Midkiff to Staff

Two new staff members have joined Marshall University's Career Services, according to Denise Hogsett, Career Services director.

Debby Stoler and Glen Midkiff, both Marshall graduates, are returning to their alma mater, Stoler as Assistant Director for Development and Outreach and Midkiff in the new position of Events and Publicity Coordinator for Career Services.



Debby Stoler

Stoler has an extensive background in sales and marketing with the Hershey Company and most recently with The Herald-Dispatch in Huntington.

"Debby will fill an important role at Marshall University as she continues to develop (continued on page 4) needed relationships with employers large and small that are looking to connect with our students for entry-level positions," Hogsett said. "She will be developing plans of action for employers to increase on-campus presence and educate

students and faculty about the company and employment opportunities."

In addition, Stoler will work to develop meaningful internships, facilitate interest in informational/recruiting sessions, encourage attendance at job fairs, develop a speakers bureau, and work with faculty to obtain their input involving career opportunities and internship requirements, Hogsett said.

"Being a lifelong Huntington resident and Marshall alum, I definitely 'bleed green,'" Stoler said. "I am so pleased to be an official part of the university that has always been a part of my life. I look forward to forming beneficial relationships with employers and faculty that will help bridge that first step from education to career for our students."



Glen Midkiff

Midkiff returns to Marshall University after beginning his career at Michigan State University and then moving on to be Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life at the University of Louisville. He has an undergraduate degree from Marshall and received his Master of Science Degree in Adult and Technical Education from Marshall in May 2000.

"Glen brings with him a wealth of experience in education and training, which will assist members of the university community with event planning

and other services we offer," Hogsett said.

His major role will be to increase awareness among students of career events and opportunities as well as the coordination of events for the Career Center and evaluating the effectiveness of each event, according to Hogsett.

'The Producers' Arrives Feb. 2

The record-breaking, twelve-time Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *The Producers* comes to the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center on Saturday, February 2 at 8 p.m.

The Producers, written by comedic legend Mel Brooks, portrays the antics of the unsuccessful producer and his hapless accountant as they hatch a plot to produce a flop. Together they try to raise more money than they need for the doomed show, *Springtime for Hitler*, and then pocket the difference. The pair butter up elderly ladies for funds, find the wackiest playwright and audition the most bizarre actors in an effort to make their get-rich-quick scheme a reality.

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Combs Retirement Reception Set for Jan. 29

The School of Extended Education invites members of the Marshall community to a retirement reception for their dean, Donovan Combs, Tuesday, Jan. 29 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the John Marshall Room Restaurant in the Memorial Student Center. For further information, persons may contact Pat Campbell at ext. 6-6649, or by e-mail at campbelp@marshall.edu.

WE ARE... MARSHALL™



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Feb. 8,

2008. Deadline is Feb. 1. 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.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Martha Mozingo, Coordinator of Sponsored Grants, and *Lisa Daniels* and *Jennifer Wood* of MURC, have passed the exam to become a Certified Research Administrator (CRA). They join Panda Powell, also of MURC, as the only West Virginians who have earned that designation.

The exam is given by the Research and Administrators Certification Council, which is an independent nonprofit organization formed in 1993. Its role is to certify that individuals, through experience and testing, have the fundamental knowledge necessary to be a professional or sponsored administrator.

Profile: Yetty Shobo

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Yetty Shobo

Her melodious voice, with its lyrical English accent, seems evocative of the sunny plains of the African country she left behind for an academic odyssey in the U.S.

Yetunde Shobo, fondly known as Yetty to her friends and colleagues, is the latest recipient of the Minority Faculty Fellowship, which was established at the graduate college to aid doctoral students finish work on their dissertations.

A native of Nigeria, Shobo, a graduate of Lagos University, came to the U.S. in 1998 to pursue advanced degrees. She spent two years at Princeton University where she received a master's degree in Public and International Affairs, and then headed for Little Rock, Ark., where she worked for three years for the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. Eager to continue her education, she enrolled at Penn State University where she's pursuing a Ph.D. in Human Development, Family Studies and Demography.

She's shared her experiences growing up in Nigeria with faculty and staff at the South Charleston campus, impressing her audiences with her animated manner and infectious humor. It's been a glimpse into a culture that has many similarities to the U.S. but also has some marked differences.

"There is a lot of western influence in Nigeria," Shobo said. "We speak British English, so some of our words are different. For example, it took me a while to realize that 'biscuit' was a bread and not a cookie," she says, laughing. "In Nigeria we have summer all year 'round; we have only two seasons, rainy and dry. Here it is so beautiful with the change of seasons; I love seeing the leaves change color."

Growing up in the town of Abeokuta—about 45 minutes away from the previous capital city of Lagos—and the only daughter in a family of four, Shobo and her family are members of the Yoruba tribe, which she describes as one of the three major tribes in Nigeria. "There are probably 250 tribes, but only three main ones, in the country and we each have our own customs and traditions," she says. Education was always a primary objective in her family. Her mother, now retired, taught math and fine arts in the secondary school Shobo attended. Two of her brothers are teachers as well, while the third is studying geology. Her father, a retired government employee, also taught a few years early in his career.

In Nigeria, schools are funded by the government but not always well, she says. "Many of the buildings are old and overcrowded now because of the increase in population. In some states, education is free up to grade 12 and in others it's only to grade 6 so you have to pay to go to schools after that. And transportation is not provided...In rural areas it's not uncommon for kids to walk 3-5 miles a day to school." She went to a private school through grade 6 and then attended public schools until she graduated.

Still, with all the obstacles, parents put a high premium on education for their children, Shobo says. "In Nigeria there is a big emphasis on education. Nearly everyone wants to go to college. In the survey I did for my dissertation I found mothers overwhelmingly want their children to have doctoral degrees. That's not always a

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JoAnn Black

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works late in order to help get things done. This fall semester with the new security initiative in Residence Halls (Cisco Clean Access) and our very short staffed Help Desk...she has done more than she has been asked to and hasn't complained at all. She is in my opinion why we have done as well as we have so far this semester...She is one of the main reasons why we are not completely overwhelmed this semester."

And he adds, "She has worked late almost every evening to help students, faculty and staff fix any and all problems they may have had and I have never had to ask her to do any of this. JoAnn is the most loyal, dependable, and hardest working employee I have ever had. I truly appreciate everything that she has been able to accomplish."

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

Classified Staff Council Nominations Sought

The Classified Staff Council will hold an election to choose representatives to complete several vacant unexpired terms. Nomination forms have been sent by campus mail to groups in which vacancies exist.

Groups with vacancies include: Group 10, Executive, Administrative & Managerial, one position; Group 30, Other Professionals, one position; Group 40, Technical/Paraprofessional, two positions; Group 50, Clerical, one position; Group 60/70, Service/Maintenance, two positions.

Nomination forms must be received in the Staff Council Office no later than Friday, February 8 at 4 p.m. Nominations will not be accepted after that date.

Those elected will serve until June 30, 2009.

Birke Gallery Opens Spring Calendar

The Birke Art Gallery has opened its spring exhibition calendar with *Adnate*, a two-person exhibition of works by Drew Goerlitz and Ali Della Bitta. The exhibition will run through Thursday, Feb. 7.

Adnate means "grown to a usually unlike part, especially along a margin." Sculptors Goerlitz and Bitta mix the durable, industrial media of large-scale sculpture with delicate, ephemeral materials to create sculpture and installation works that explore the ever-changing relationship between man and nature, and between the finite and infinite.

Note of Thanks

My family and I would like to thank the Marshall University community for the prayers we received during our time of sorrow. My three-month-old granddaughter, Elissa Marie, passed away on Christmas morning and now lies in the arms of God.

Arissa Prichard

Shobo

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reality. We have large numbers of people who have bachelor's and master's degrees but there are not always jobs to fit their educations. That's why we have people working in jobs that they are overqualified for and why we have a brain drain to other countries."

Growing up in Nigeria, Shobo was part of a tight-knit family and extended family. "Nigerians believe in teaching children to be respectful. Teachers are revered and respected. You never call your elders by their first name. And you grow up doing chores from a very early age... You grow up working." As an example, Shobo cooked her first meal at age 8—"a disaster," she says, laughing—but by age 10 was turning out tasty meals for the family table.

Shared responsibilities include siblings taking care of one another, particularly younger ones. "Backing babies" is a widespread tradition which entails swaddling an infant on the back rather than the front as is more customary in this country. Boys as well as girls can be seen backing babies. "It gives babes a sense of security, they know they are safe and warm. And you know where the baby is all the time. Besides it leaves the hands free to do chores. Even fussy babies calm right down when they are 'backed,'" she says.

If there are two differences between her native land and the U.S. it's probably in the attitudes toward weight and age. "The standard of beauty is different between the two countries. Being plump is desirable in my tribe and I never fit in... people kept calling me skinny, which wasn't meant as a compliment... I wore size 0-2 clothing. When I came to this country and saw all these thin people, I fit right in. I thought, 'Wow, I'm in heaven!'" However, since her marriage two years ago she's ballooned up to a hefty size 4, which has made her family very happy.

This emphasis on weight hasn't led to universal obesity, Shobo says. "We get so much exercise; we walk everywhere. Only for long distances is an auto used. Our diet is very high in carbohydrates and we do a lot of physical chores."

Elders in her country are revered for their wisdom and life experiences and are taken care of by family members, she says. "You know you're going to be there someday, so you take care of the elderly. The concept of nursing homes is unknown in Nigeria... We don't have the fear of aging that I see here."

The family is at the center of all celebrations, she points out. Weddings are festive affairs, spread out over days or even weeks. "The marriage is really about the families more than the individuals. Families marry rather than individuals." Her own gala wedding to McMillan Nzombola, a native of Zambia, took place at a church in Little Rock in 2005 and was attended by several members of her family, including her mother, who made the trip from Nigeria. It was a traditional Nigerian wedding spread out over two days. As customary, the groom brought a "brideprice—or bridewealth" to her family as compensation for the loss of her to another family.

Now deeply immersed in completing her dissertation, Shobo is looking down the road for what may lie in store for her next. She's grateful for the opportunity to be the Minority Faculty Fellow and she hopes to pursue her dream of becoming an instructor in higher education. (In fact, as part of the fellowship, she's teaching a class on African Families, which is being offered through the graduate Humanities program.) She discovered the fellowship after her husband, a mining engineer then located in Morgantown, was transferred to the Charleston area. "It was such a blessing that it was available and I'm so grateful for the opportunity it's given me," she says. And as for the dissertation, it's coming along well but "I just want it to be out of my life!" she says with the fervor of a graduate student nearing the end of a long academic journey.

Med School Physicians

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Australia, South Africa and the European Union as a tool to measure impairment.

In addition to incorporating the latest in medical knowledge, the new edition of the guides has been significantly restructured.

Details about the guides can be found at <https://catalog.ama-assn.org/Catalog/home.jsp>.

Sellards

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Sellards, who has been in his current position at St. Mary's since 2000, was Executive Director/CEO of Pleasant Valley Hospital in Point Pleasant, W.Va., from 1982 to 2000. He is a native of Huntington.

"Marshall University is the most important factor in the future growth and success of the Huntington area," Sellards said. "I look forward to joining the MU Board of Governors and helping continue a long tradition of excellence in higher education, research and community development."

Sellards is affiliated with numerous professional and civic organizations. He is a delegate with American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board 3, and a member of the West Virginia Hospital Association Board of Trustees, the Premier Quality Improvement Committee, the Huntington Medical Community Foundation Board of Trustees and the Tri-State Health Partners (Physician Hospital Organization) Board of Directors.

Sellards is chair of the United Way of the River Cities board of directors. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees in Huntington, the Advantage Valley Board of Trustees, the West Virginia Business Roundtable, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Health Care Policy Committee, West Virginia Vision Shared and the West Virginia Council for Community and Economic Development.

The Producers

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The show holds the record for the most Tony Awards in Broadway history, including Best Musical, Best Original Score and Best Choreography and was the inspiration for two hit movies.

Ticket information can be obtained by calling the Marshall Artists Series box office, located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, at ext. 66656, or visiting www.marshall.edu/muartsr.

Career Services Staff

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"I am thrilled about coming home to my alma mater, which has made such a positive impact on my life," Midkiff said. "I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to Marshall because the university has invested so much in me."