

WE ARE... MARSHALL™

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HSTA Participants, Booth Scholars to Visit Huntington Campus

About 180 rising ninth- and 10th-grade students from throughout West Virginia will visit the Huntington campus July 13-18 to take part in the Health Sciences and Technology Academy (HSTA) Summer Institute. The same week, Marshall will welcome 115 Wayne County high school students as they take part in the annual Booth Scholars Summer Program.

HSTA is an internationally recognized, community-based program that provides academic enrichment for the participating students. It is offered in 26 West Virginia counties. The students take part in the program throughout the school year by being involved with clubs in their high schools.

David Cartwright, program director of the event at Marshall, said other summer institutes are at West Virginia University and West Virginia State University. The goal of HSTA is to increase the number of underrepresented and minority students who complete a postsecondary education in the health professions and remain in West Virginia as primary caregivers. The program was established in 1994 with 45 students from two counties.

Cartwright said the number of participating students attending "Fun With Science" is expected to more than double from last year's total of about 80 because rising 10th graders are included this year. Previously, the summer program was for rising 9th graders only.

The emphasis this year, Cartwright said, is on diabetes.

"West Virginia is the number one state for diabetes," he said. " 'Fun With Science' will expose the students to the dangers of diabetes. They will learn different things that can be done to prevent diabetes and then be able to teach their family members what they learned."

In addition, Cartwright said, "Fun With Science" will help students develop critical thinking skills and study skills that will help them as they advance through high school and college. Their days on the Huntington campus are important as they get closer to deciding where they will attend college, he added.

The Booth Scholars Program is composed of students with academic potential from a specific region of Appalachia, in this case Wayne County. It is designed to help them prepare for college and to have future success in higher education. In order to qualify for the program, the students must have at least a 3.0 GPA and an above-average score on the WESTEST.

The program began in 2001 at Pikeville (Ky.) College with students from Wayne County, Kentucky and Virginia participating. The Wayne County portion of the program moved to Marshall in 2004.

"The goal of the program is to open the students' eyes to the rest of the world, to expose them to different cultures and ideas and to make them hungry to learn more," said Brenda Napier, the program's director.

This year's theme for the program is "Living the Dream." It is directed to educate the students on subjects related to history since it is an election year. The students also will be involved in classes that are created to help them prepare for their specific needs in the future, and take part in social and cultural activities.

The first week of the program, the 25 freshman participants will be staying in Gibson Hall on the Huntington campus beginning July 13 while the 90 sophomores, juniors and seniors will be commuting to campus beginning July 14.

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Nancy Pelphrey Named Employee of the Month

Nancy Pelphrey, Development Representative in Alumni Affairs, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for May according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

She was nominated by President Stephen J. Kopp, Bill Bissett, Chief of Staff, Cora Massey, Assistant to the President, and Rhonda Mullins, Assistant to the Chief of Staff.

In their nomination they wrote, "When Nancy Pelphrey is on your project, you know that all the 'Ts' are crossed and the 'Is' are dotted. She is very organized and—simply put—she gets the job done well. You never

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President Kopp (left) presents the Employee of the Month award to Nancy Pelphrey.

Marshall Community Mourns Team Doctor Emeritus Jose Ricard

Funeral services for Dr. Jose I. Ricard, longtime team physician for Marshall athletics, took place Wednesday, July 9 in Huntington. Ricard, 81, died last Saturday morning at his home.

He served as the team physician for Thundering Herd athletics since 1981 and in recent years was named Team Doctor Emeritus. A native of Cuba, he fled communism and came to West Virginia in 1963.

He was a graduate of Havana University and fought in the war against Fidel Castro as a lieutenant in the Medical Corps from 1950-59.

Ricard worked as the Cuban Olympic Team Physician and was the Cuban Sports Medicine Director before escaping to the United States. Before coming to Huntington, he worked at the Saint Joseph Infirmary Hospital in Atlanta, Ga.

In addition to his family practice, Ricard held numerous positions in the Sports Medicine program. He taught in the Family Medicine Department in the Marshall School of Medicine, he was the director of the MU Athletic

Department Sports Medicine program and co-chairman of the MU School of Medicine Family Practice Sports Medicine Department. He was credited with being a driving

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In His Own Words

Dr. Jose Ricard wrote the following letter for the program of Marshall's Heritage Society Brunch in 2006:

My involvement with Marshall University started after the horrible plane crash tragedy of 1970, when we lost the entire football team, physicians' trainers, boosters and friends. I was one of the physicians requested by the late Dr. Leckie, president at that time of the Cabell Medical Society and Director of the Emergency Room of Cabell Huntington Hospital, to help in the rescue of survivors. Sadly nobody survived the crash.

Since that moment I became dedicated to Marshall University- helping in the creation of the school of Medicine, developing a strong Family Practice education, creating the Sports Medicine for Primary Care Specialist, becoming a Marshall University Honorary Alumni School of Medicine Alumni, and Emeritus Sports Medicine Director. I have been fortunate to see our university grow rapidly to a prestigious and well respected school not only in athletics, but in science, arts, and one of the top in rural medicine.

As a Cuban exile, now a United States citizen, and after living in this beautiful city of Huntington for 44 years, I consider myself a lucky man for being adopted by this wonderful state of West Virginia. My dreams are that Marshall University continue improving the Sports Medicine Program in order to give our student-athletes the best care in athletics, and continue the amazing success that we have accomplished now.

Dr. Jose Ricard

Thesis/Dissertation Grants Announced by Graduate College

Thirteen graduate students have been awarded summer 2008 thesis/dissertation research awards, according to Dr. Leonard J. Deutsch, Dean of the Graduate College. These \$500 scholarships are designed to provide financial support to help students complete their theses, Deutsch said.

The recipients and their advisors are:

- *Lamina Faye Maynard Queen Memorial Graduate Research Scholarship:* Sallie Richards for "Childhood Obesity and Latchkey Situations." Advisor: Dr. Paige Muellerleile, Psychology.
- *A second Lamina Faye Maynard Queen Memorial Graduate Research Scholarship:* Hunter Stark for "Robinson Jeffer's Metaphysics: Revaluating the Misanthropoc Charge." Advisor: Dr. Katharine Rodier, English.
- *F. Duke Haddad Thesis Grant:* Horace Reid Downer for "The Distributional Structure of a Guild of Woodland Salamanders of Genus *Plethodon* in the Valley and Ridge Province in West Virginia." Advisor: Dr. Thomas Pauley, Biology.

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Diabetes Program Receives Continued Recognition

The Education Recognition Program of the American Diabetes Association has awarded continued recognition to the Marshall University Diabetes Center.

The association said the Recognition Certificate reflects its conclusion that Marshall's staff is made up of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide patients with comprehensive information about diabetes management. The certificate also assures that Marshall's educational standards meet the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs.

Marshall's self-management teaching is provided by two certified diabetes educators: program coordinator Anise Nash, a registered nurse and certified pump therapist, and Tracy Hawthorne, a registered and

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of July 25, 2008. Deadline is July 18. 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: Merle Fleming

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Merle Fleming

When the Beatles sang about “strawberry fields,” they could have had Merle Fleming’s plump patch in mind. His strawberries are flourishing and lucky neighbors and friends are regularly invited to come on over and harvest the luscious berries.

Gardening is just one of the interests of Fleming, who is the Manager of Maintenance and Engineering for the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. He’s been with the med school since 1977, just prior to the entrance of the first class in 1978. And they’ve both gone through a lot of changes since those early days, he says. He cites one example. Then located in the old C & O Hospital, the school had 230 individual room air conditioners that were relatively easy to service. But when the med school moved offices to new quarters in 1998, Fleming found to his consternation that the new system for which he would be responsible was completely computerized. It was two weeks before the official opening and he hadn’t had exposure to computers except on the most rudimentary basis. Some would have panicked, but Fleming kept his cool, set his mind to it and mastered the system by the time the moving vans arrived.

Fleming came to the SOM as a maintenance laborer but worked his way up to the supervisory job he has held for the past 13 years. With a staff of four, including himself, his department is responsible for the general maintenance of the buildings that house the various clinics and offices. They are a versatile group who take care of plumbing, heating, air conditioning, electrical and any other needs to keep the buildings up and running efficiently.

Fleming grew up in Wayne County and has strong roots in the area. In fact he still lives on the property where he was born and brought up and commutes to Marshall. Actually, there is a Fleming “compound” with his daughter Christy and her family living next door, his mother living next door to her and a brother living only a half mile up the road.

He and his wife Betty raise a big garden every year, but his pride is the strawberry patch he planted a few years ago. It’s produced a bounty of berries which he gladly shares with family and friends. “Last year we were getting about 10-12 quarts a day so I would just call up people and tell them to come on over and help themselves and they did,” he recalls. The

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Nancy Pelphrey

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have to check up on things when she is involved. If she sees a problem, she takes care of it and no one knows there was a problem. She follows through after the event, being sure that the following year is an even better event”

The nominators point out that the months of January through March are exceptionally busy ones for both the President’s Office and the University Communications Office because of the MU/WVU basketball game, visits with alumni clubs, the Marshall University Day at the Legislature, and the Legislative session in general. “Her involvement in each of these special events is a critical component that reflects positively on the entire institution,” they wrote. “Again it is her organizational skills that make these events look much easier than they actually are.”

The nomination concludes, “Nancy is a very positive person. She always looks out for others and is very intuitive. Nancy always has a smile and a kind word for everyone. We’re lucky to have Nancy Pelphrey at Marshall.”

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

Anderson Becomes Foundation CFO



Scott Anderson

Scott Anderson has joined the Marshall University Foundation Inc. as Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Ron Area, the Foundation’s Chief Executive Officer and Senior Vice President for Development, has announced.

Anderson, who earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Marshall in 1992, was a member of the Society of Yeager Scholars’ second class at Marshall, and recently was accepted into MU’s Executive MBA program.

He began his duties with the Foundation on Monday, June 2.

Anderson was CFO with CompreCare, a home care pharmacy and respiratory company in Huntington, from 2000 to 2008, and was a CPA with Hess, Stewart & Campbell in Huntington from 1994 to 2000. From 1992 to 1994, he was a staff accountant with Price Waterhouse in South Bend, Ind.

“We are absolutely delighted to have Scott join our management team of the foundation,” Area said. “His skills, expertise and experience will add significant value to our organization and help us in the growth and development of all aspects of the Foundation.”

Anderson said Marshall has been “a special place” to him since he arrived on campus as a student in 1988.

“I am just anxious to be a part of the team as the foundation grows,” he said. “It is an exciting time for both the foundation and the university.”

Merle Fleming

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berries are super sweet, so sweet a neighbor's child picking his own fruit for the first time asked Fleming if he had put sugar on them.

Music and the church are bedrocks of the Fleming family. They're a musical tribe. Betty and Merle sing in the choir at the Garrett's Creek Community Church, where Christy is the pianist and sometimes joins her father in a duet. Son Stephen, a junior at Marshall majoring in education, plays the guitar and sings in the choir as his time permits. In addition to their musical contributions, Merle is the Sunday School superintendent and Betty is the church treasurer.

Actually it was music that brought the couple together. In the 1970s Merle was making a name for himself in the field of gospel music. He had been a member of his high school choir and at the time they met he was singing bass in the New Jerusalem Crusaders Quartet, a popular group that regularly performed around the Tri-state. He's very modest about his musical accomplishments, but in fact, the quartet was good enough to record two albums of gospel music. Betty showed up at a performance and eventually became part of the group as well. Later, after members of the Crusaders went their separate ways, Fleming sang for awhile with other groups before giving it up to spend more time with his family. But he still loves music and it will always be a part of his life, he says.

One advantage of living so close to his daughter is that the Flemings have plenty of time to spend with her children, Morgan, 11 and Maria, almost five. The families like to picnic and they've gone on beach vacations and other outings together. With his love of the outdoors, Fleming particularly likes to build a big fire and invite relatives and friends to gather around and roast hot dogs. "Those are some of our best times," he believes. "We talk and talk and just enjoy ourselves. Sometimes the bonfires last well into the night. It's a good time for everyone to share their special thoughts."

Fleming approaches both his work and his life with forthrightness and a positive attitude. He's a patient troubleshooter when the need arises and he never hesitates to take on challenges. But he always manages to give generously of his time and talents to others.

"I just like to stay busy with my work and my life," he says reflectively.

Diabetes Recognition

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licensed dietitian. Nash is a graduate of the Holzer School of Nursing and Ohio University. Hawthorne earned her dietetics degree at Marshall.

The American Diabetes Association requires that recognized diabetes education programs meet the standards on an ongoing basis and provide documentation every three years to support a high level of practice. Marshall's program was originally recognized in 1992.

HSTA, Booth Scholars

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The second week will be a travel week for all 115 students. They will leave for Boston on July 21 and return on July 25.

"Our theme is 'Living the Dream,' and Boston is a historical city," Napier said. "We have students here interested in MIT and Harvard, and we will be touring both of those schools."

Napier said the program has made tremendous progress and more students want to become involved each year.

Thesis/Dissertation Grants

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- A second *F. Duke Haddad Thesis Grant*: Abdelhak Haffoudhi for "The Absurd and the Quest for Meaning in Naguib Mahfouz's Existential Novels: A Reflection of the Sociopolitical Situation of the Time." Advisor: Dr. Katharine Rodier, English.
- *Elizabeth and Scott Sheets Thesis Award*: Casey Bartkus for "Turtle Assemblages of the Ohio and lower Kanawha Rivers in West Virginia." Advisor: Dr. Thomas Pauley, Biology.
- *Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Lowe Thesis Award*: Amanda Spriggs for "Distribution and Status of Northern Leopard Frog, *Rana pipiens*." Advisor: Dr. Thomas Pauley, Biology.
- *Mark and Monica Hatfield Thesis Award*: Sean Reese for "Transparency and Temperature Effects on Benthic Trawl Efficiency in Large River Habitats." Advisor: Dr. Tom Jones, Biology.
- *John and Janett Casto Thesis Award*: Caitlin Swecker for "Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria in the Ohio River: Is Their Distribution Determined by Sediment Dynamics?" Advisor: Dr. Charles Somerville, Biology.

The remaining students received *Graduate College Advisory Board Thesis Grants*:

- Sean Collins for "Ecological Review of Tropical Aquatic Ecosystems and Watershed Evaluation Protocol Development." Advisor: Dr. Tom Jones, Biology.
- Bradley Musser for "Trawling as an Alternative Method for Collecting Benthic Fishes in Large Rivers." Advisor: Dr. Tom Jones, Biology.
- Keshav Pokhrel for "Maximizing Present Value for the Monopolist on the Time Scale." Advisor: Dr. Bonita A. Lawrence, Mathematics.
- Justin Weiss for "Habitat Structure and Population Dynamics of the Eastern Box Turtle at Beech Fork Lake." Advisor: Dr. Thomas Pauley, Biology.
- Kayoko Yamauchi for "Assessment of Adult ESL Learners' Preferable Learning Styles: Implications for an Effective Language Learning Environment." Advisor: Dr. Howard Gordon, Adult & Technical Education.

Dr. Jose Ricard

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force that led to the establishment of a medical school at Marshall as well as the MU Sports Medicine Hall of Fame.

He and his wife, Amy, established a scholarship which is annually presented to the outstanding student-trainer at Marshall.

Ricard had received many accolades and honors over the years for his contributions to Marshall athletics, including being named to the MU Sports Medicine Hall of Fame. In 1986 he was named the "Doctor of the Year" by the West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians.