

WE ARE... MARSHALL™

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Celebration of Academics Begins April 3

Marshall University's fourteenth annual Celebration of Academics featuring the John Deaver Drinko Symposium and the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation, takes place April 3 and 4 at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.



Dr. Wendell Dobbs

Dr. Wendell Dobbs, Professor of Music and the 2007-08 Drinko Fellow, will be the featured speaker at the symposium, scheduled for Thursday, April 3 at 2 p.m. Dr. Julia Keller, a Marshall graduate and cultural critic at the Chicago Tribune, who was awarded a Pulitzer Prize, will speak at the Honors Convocation at 7 p.m., on Friday, April 4. Receptions in the lobby of the performing arts center will follow each event.

The topic of Dobbs' program will be "Music of Revolution and Destiny" and will feature vocalists Laura Simpson, Leah Weber and Mitchell Spurlock, accompanied by Dr. Leslie Petteys on piano. The newly formed John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps will also perform, featuring tunes from the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

Julia Keller was born and grew up in Huntington, where her father, the late Dr. James R. Keller, taught math at Marshall for many years. She earned



Dr. Julia Keller

a B.A. and M.A. in English from Marshall and obtained a Ph.D. in English Literature from The Ohio State University. In 2005 she won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing. Although the Chicago Tribune has won dozens of

Pulitzer Prizes during its long history, this was its first in feature writing. Her first job was as a reporter and editorial page editor at the Ashland Daily Independent in Ashland, Ky., and later she worked as a television critic at the Columbus Dispatch in Columbus, Ohio. She joined the Tribune in late 1998.

Her moving story about the 1970 Marshall plane crash, which was reprinted in the Winter 2000 issue of *Marshall Magazine*, has drawn universal praise for her sensitive account of the tragic event and its aftermath.

Keller's new book, "Mr. Gatling's Terrible Marvel: The Gun That Changed Everything and the Misunderstood Genius Who Invented It," will be published by Viking May 29. The book explores the cultural role of multiple-firing weaponry in the 19th Century World.

Both the symposium and the convocation are free and open to the public.

Jaymz Mynes Named Employee of the Month

Jaymz Mynes, IT Associate Senior in University Computing Services, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for February, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee for more than four years, he was nominated by Brent Maynard, Assistant Director of Systems Administration.

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Jaymz Mynes (left) receives his Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopp.

Montserrat Miller Receives 2007 Professor of the Year

Dr. Montserrat Miller, an associate professor of history at Marshall University, was named 2007 Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia.



Dr. Montserrat Miller

Miller, who was one of five finalists, received \$10,000 and a trophy. The runner-up received \$1,000 and the remaining three finalists received \$500 each.

The Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia each year honors an outstanding faculty member at a West Virginia college or university. The Professor of the Year award is presented with financial support from United Bank.

"This is not really about me or about any single individual," Miller

said. "The award celebrates higher education in West Virginia."

Miller said West Virginia colleges and universities "are nodes in a global network that some call the Republic of Learning."

"Through them we attract talented and committed professionals from far and wide," she said. "I'm surrounded by legions of disciplined professionals who've dedicated their lives to serving our students and our communities. They understand teaching to be a sacred trust, a privilege, and an honor. Teaching is a way of expressing hope for the future, it involves planting seeds that we may not live to see mature."

Miller has been a member of the Marshall History Department since 1996. She has won several awards during that time, including the Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award in 2007, the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher Award in 2006, and the Pickens-Queen Teaching Award in 1999.

She received a Ph.D. (1994) and M.A. (1990) in European Social History from Carnegie Mellon University, and an M.A. in History (1988) and a B.A. in International Affairs (1983) from Marshall.

She is a member of several organizations, including the American Historical Association, the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, and the European Business History Association.

Before coming to Marshall, Miller was an assistant professor of history at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and director of the World History Instructional Design Project at Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Sarah Denman, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Marshall, nominated Miller for Professor of the Year. She described Miller as "an outstanding teacher, a caring mentor and advisor, and a prolific scholar."

"Montserrat's classes are widely regarded by students as very hard and yet they are always fully enrolled," Denman said. "If you ask students why this is so, they will tell you that she is demanding but fair, inclusive, encouraging, and inspirational. They will tell you that they absorb her passion for history and learn to rise to her high expectations because she believes they can."

Hechler Documentary Premieres April 5

"Ken Hechler: In Pursuit of Justice," a two-hour documentary focusing on the life, career and legacy of the former West Virginia congressman and secretary of state, will have its first public showing on Saturday, April 5 on the Huntington campus.

Barbara Winters, dean of Marshall Libraries, said the documentary will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center's Don Morris Room. It is free and open to the public.

Country music singer-writer Lionel Cartwright, composer, performer and producer of the documentary's soundtrack, will perform during the event.

Created by filmmakers Russ Barbour and Chip Hitchcock, who began work on the project in July 2005, the film is a two-part, two-hour examination of the role of political office in 20th century America.

Winters said the program also documents the development of Hechler's views on government and his commitment to helping individuals through public

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Office 2007 Workshop Scheduled for April 11

An overview of Office 2007 will be offered in the Drinko Library on Friday, April 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The course will focus on Word and Excel applications. Topics will include new ribbon toolbars, formulas, functions and styles. The workshop is recommended for anyone making the transition to the new version of Office. Release time is available with supervisor's approval, according to the Office of Human Resource Services.

Information about the workshop and a link for registration can be found at www.marshall.edu/human-resources/td/CalTop.asp.

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry

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Profile: Mary Layne

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Mary Layne

She's been down some pretty rocky roads, both literally and figuratively, and she's endured her share of stormy times, both on and off the road, but as Mary Layne sees it, the roads she's traveled and the turns she's taken have kept her on track. If she's met some roadblocks along the way, she's just plowed right through them with fortitude and grace.

And just like the post office's famous motto, "The mail must go through," Layne makes sure the daily Marshall mail runs on time and smoothly between the Huntington campus and several locations in Charleston. She's been the mail carrier for the past five years, and it's a job she relishes for its change of scenery.

The mail service begins in Huntington, where she helps sort and put up mail until 11 a.m., when she leaves for Charleston. After stops at the South Charleston campus at both the administrative building and the library, she sets off for the Higher Education Commission offices located near downtown Charleston, where she picks up mail that heads to the State Capitol, a few blocks away. There she's a familiar sight to state workers as she briskly hand delivers mail to first floor offices, giving and getting cheery greetings as she makes her way through the marble halls. Any mail that goes to other parts of the Capitol she deposits in their mailroom and picks up mail to be dropped off at the Higher Education offices on her way out of town. Two days a week she makes another stop at the Teays Valley Center in Hurricane. She's brisk and efficient and less than three hours after she's left, she's back in Huntington getting on with more mail chores.

The daily driving, particularly in adverse weather and dicey roads, could be daunting to some, but certainly not to Layne. In fact the driving is her favorite part of her job. "I like getting out; I've always liked to drive," she says. "It's really the highlight of my day, so I don't mind the driving at all."

And she's very good at it from all accounts. On a blustery and cold late February day, she deftly navigates the university van through interstate traffic and around the statehouse congestion. Weather is not a factor as far as she's concerned. Even when the Huntington campus was shut down for a couple of hours in the morning earlier this year because of icy road conditions, she still made her way to Charleston as usual. "The roads were slippery in some spots but I don't mind that. Bad weather really doesn't bother me," she says nonchalantly.

Actually she's always been happy to be on the road and she did a good bit of driving for her church, the Full Gospel Assembly in Huntington. For years she's been designated driver for family trips as well.

Her road to her current job was somewhat circuitous, and the path she took to get there was filled with hard work and determination. It found her working two jobs for most of her adult life while raising three children as a single parent. Born in Huntington, she graduated from Huntington High School and then attended CNA

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Jaymz Mynes

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In his nomination, Maynard wrote: "Jaymz has successfully completed the migration of the university e-mail systems to a new version with minimal disruption of e-mail service to the campus community. Jaymz has worked more than 50 hours of overtime over the past two weeks performing this migration during off hours, to minimize the impact of the migration to the e-mail users. Jaymz also spent many more hours planning and designing the new e-mail environment to ensure the university has a reliable and well performing e-mail system."

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

Memorial Fountain to be Rededicated

The Memorial Fountain in the student center plaza will be rededicated and turned on once again Wednesday, April 9 at 1:30 p.m.

For the first time in its existence, the fountain was removed from its base on Jan. 14 to undergo extensive repairs to the base. The rededication will mark the completion of the repairs and the annual return of the water to the fountain.

Marshall Community Urged to "WalkItUp"

If the old adage that a journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step, then a springtime mile-long walk around Marshall's picturesque Huntington campus can get you off to a pretty good start. It's all part of a campaign to promote the healthy aspects of walking and organizers say all it takes is 30 minutes a day to reap some pretty hefty health benefits. That's why the campus community is being urged to step up and get on track.

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Sutherland Named Executive Director of Big Green Scholarship Foundation

John Sutherland is the new Associate Athletic Director and Executive Director of the Big Green Scholarship Foundation. He replaces J.R. Gimbi, who moved to an athletics development position at Penn State University in January.

Sutherland has served as an assistant coach with the Marshall women's basketball program since 2000. In that role he spearheaded many successful fund-raising and marketing projects including the establishment of the "Locker Room Club," which raises more than \$100,000 annually for the women's basketball program at Marshall. He also oversaw several other successful initiatives.

Sutherland brings nearly 30 years of experience as a coach and fundraiser to the position. He graduated with a B.S. in Education from Kent State University and earned a M.S. in Sports Management from Marshall in 2006.

Mary Layne

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nursing home aide.. "I love helping people; I like taking care of them," she says. For 15 years she worked in nursing homes around Huntington and for a brief period, in Columbus, Ohio. She also worked in daycare, juggling two full-time jobs with taking care of her young children, always making sure she had some time to spend with them. For several years she worked nights at Prestera Mental Health Services as a behavior rehabilitation specialist assigned to the drug abuse wards. It was sometimes harrowing work and she saw things she wished she hadn't. "I had never seen what drugs could do until then. Watching people withdraw or coping with their additions was really an eye-opener. But I felt like I was helping people and that's what I've always wanted to do."

Layne's hard times really began when her husband left the family when her youngest daughter was just five days old. "It was hard but we made it," she says softly. "Between me and God, I was able to raise my children by myself."

Today she takes great pride in her children, now adults out on their own and doing well. Clarissa, 23, is an LPN who is taking classes at Marshall and doing bridgeover work to become an RN. Brett, 22, works for an inventory company in Charleston and Joyce, 21, is a student at Berea College in Berea, Ky., studying accounting. Then there is Clarissa's son, Trevon, 2, who is as his proud grandmother says, "The light of my life."

She came to Marshall by working through a temporary services agency, where she was assigned to a housekeeping department. She liked the job, but found it required her to work on Sunday. Her church has been the bedrock of her life, her support system, and she sorely missed attending Sunday services. "The church is the center of my life; I've been in it all my life. I used to cry because I wanted to go to church and I had to work," she says. Sympathetic co-workers helped her look around for other Marshall jobs, and finally she was hired full-time in housekeeping at the School of Medicine. She was there for a year when she saw the posting for the mail carrier's job which she felt sounded intriguing, so she applied and has been there ever since.

Shortly before she came to Marshall a momentous event happened to Layne's family. They were chosen to be the recipient of a Habitat for Humanity home. It was a life-changing event for all of them, according to Layne. To qualify for a Habitat home the owner must put in 300 hours of equity, she explains—100 must come from the homeowners and the other 200 hours can come from volunteers working on their behalf. She soon found herself helping lay the foundation, putting up drywall, shingling the roof and painting. And for the most daunting task of all, she laid the tile for her kitchen floor. "That was the hardest thing I had to do," she says, able to laugh now at the memory of hours and hours spent on her hands and knees.

It wasn't easy finding time between her two full-time jobs to labor at her house but she never wavered in working toward her cherished goal of becoming a homeowner. Since then she's given back even more, voluntarily working on houses for others and she plans to help her sister, who has just qualified for a Habitat home. She's delighted that Marshall is involved in the program which she supports wholeheartedly. "I wouldn't have the home I have now without the program," she admits.

Devoted to her family and her church, and with the bad times finally left in the dust, she's ready to move on to the next phase of life. "I'm happy with my life at this point. I like my job and I'm working toward a goal I've had for a long time. When my kids were growing up I tried to spend as much time as I could with them, even though I worked two jobs. My sister helped me a lot. I tried not to miss too much of their lives. After all, getting your children on the right foot is what it's all about."

Hechler Documentary

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service and political office. Considerable insight is provided by Hechler's former colleagues, including such notable public officeholders as U.S. Senators Tom Harkin, Bob Dole and George McGovern, as well as U.S. Congressmen John Brademas and James Symington. The documentary also features labor historians, reporters and several of Hechler's former students, staffers, constituents, friends and family.

The production also makes use of archival photographs, motion pictures and sound recordings, including rarely viewed film.

Winters said Marshall University's partnership role in the project included assisting the filmmakers in accessing materials located in the Ken Hechler collection on the Marshall Libraries and providing an intern to work with the filmmakers during the research and filming phases.

Walk It Up

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As part of the WalkItUp campaign to spread the word through the community about the benefits of walking, Marshall is sponsoring a one-mile campus walk Tuesday, April 8 beginning at 1 p.m. to be led by President Stephen J. Kopp.

The event is one of several scheduled throughout the area in a campaign being promoted by West Virginia's two largest local health departments, Cabell-Huntington Health Department and the Kanawha/Charleston Health Department. WalkItUp is a multi-faceted physical activity campaign to promote walking as a means to build a sense of well being. The Surgeon General of the United States advocates 30 minutes of physical activity each day and walking has proved to be an ideal way of meeting that goal. In fact, individuals can begin with as little as 10 minutes of exercise a day and incrementally increase it as endurance and motivation rise.

"This event will be a fun way to raise awareness for exercise and healthy lifestyle changes," said Heather Smith, Marshall program coordinator for the Fitness Center. "We hope to bring Marshall students, staff and faculty together to show how great it feels to improve your health and how easy it can be."

Health professionals point out the advantages of a regular walking routine. Walking builds muscles, it helps to relieve stress and alleviates symptoms of depression

It can help bones, muscles and joints, help reduce high blood pressure in those who already have high blood pressure and helps reduce the risk of diabetes.

And they point out, it's inexpensive, it can be done any time of the day or evening, in groups or alone. Although walking can be a life-time activity, the WalkItUp campaign with its emphasis of raising awareness of the health benefits, runs from April 8 through May 16.

Elizabeth A. Ayers, public health educator with the Cabell-Huntington Health Department is the WalkItUp coordinator. Mark George of Pepsi is donating water for the walk.

For additional information, contact Heather Smith at 63653 or by e-mail at wyatt6@marshall.edu