

WE ARE... MARSHALL™

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Tomblin to Give Commencement Address

Earl Ray Tomblin, the longest-serving Senate president in West Virginia history, will be the featured speaker at Marshall University's 171st commencement, Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp has announced.

Commencement begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in downtown Huntington.

"As both an alumnus and a respected state leader, President Tomblin is well deserving of this honor, the highest that Marshall University can bestow," Kopp said. "He has built an enduring legacy of outstanding leadership and public service as president of the West Virginia Senate. We thank him for his dedication to the citizens of West Virginia and for being a part of this year's commencement."

Tomblin, a native of Chapmanville in Logan County, has been president of the Senate since Jan. 11, 1995, having since been reelected six times. He began his legislative career in 1974, the same year he graduated from West Virginia Univer-

sity. He earned his Master of Business Administration from Marshall in 1975.

"Marshall University has honored me with its invitation to address the 2008 graduating class at its commencement exercises this year," Tomblin said. "I am particularly proud of the fact that this comes at a time when the Legislature gave its approval for the 'Bucks for Brains/Bucks for Jobs' program which will have a tremendous impact on future MU graduates.

"As an alumnus, it is also especially gratifying to be able to return to campus in a much different role. It is my great hope that the few words I will offer on this important day will have a significant effect on the graduates, and that they will consider committing themselves to lifetime careers in West Virginia. Our state needs their energy and intellect if we are to make the progress to which Marshall and our state government are also committed."

Tomblin has held just about every major Senate post, including Chairmanship of the Senate Finance Committee. During his legislative service, he has sponsored several important legislative initiatives including the School Building Authority, the state's Rainy Day Fund, tort reform, ethics reform, coal mine safety legislation and more recently, the 'Bucks for Brains/Bucks for Jobs' program.

Tomblin began his career as a public school teacher, while also developing private business interests. A devoted family man, he is married to the former Joanne Jaeger, a distinguished Marshall alumna who serves as president of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College. Their son Brent will be a senior next year at Sen. Tomblin's alma mater, Chapmanville High School.

Recognized nationally as one of the country's most capable and knowledgeable legislative leaders, Tomblin has

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Habitat House Dedicated April 24

Marshall University and the local Habitat for Humanity organization dedicated the Marshall Habitat House, which Marshall University students, staff and faculty helped build, April 24 at 1930 Artisan Ave. in Huntington.

Teddy Kluemper III, director of development and communications for Huntington Area Habitat for Humanity, said the recipient of the 64th Habitat home is Deidre Joplin, who will share it with her 4-year-old daughter, Aashana.

"We not only celebrate the completion of a project, but we celebrate the dream of home ownership," Kluemper said. "Because of the efforts of Habitat, Marshall University and the City of Huntington, we have successfully begun the

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Deidre Joplin (center), holding her daughter Aashana, speaks during the dedication of the Habitat House. At right is Teddy Kluemper III of the Huntington Habitat organization.

Marshall Community to Honor Sarah Denman

On Sunday, May 11, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center, Marshall University will celebrate the career of Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Sarah Denman. A brief series of presentations will occur midway through the event.

Individual congratulatory wishes will be collected and presented to Sarah at this event. To participate, please submit a one-page, 8 ½ x 11" letter to the Office of the President, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV, 25755. Letters must be submitted no later than May 8.

For more information, persons may contact the President's Office at ext. 6-2300.

Annual Faculty Awards Honor 15

Fifteen faculty members were recognized at the spring General Faculty Meeting on April 29. Five received teaching awards, seven received the Distinguished Service Award and three others received the Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award

Dr. David Mills, interim chair of the History Department and an associate professor specializing in the modern Middle East, is Marshall's Dr. Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award winner for 2007-08. In addition, Dr. Evelyn Pupplo-Cody, professor of mathematics, was awarded the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award. Dr. E. Del Chrol, assistant professor of classics, Dr. Phillip T. Rutherford, assistant professor of history and Dr. David Winter, associate professor of history, were recognized with the Pickens-Queen Award.

Mills, who has been at Marshall since 1996 received his B.A. in History (Honors) and Germanic Languages and Literature from the University of Kansas in 1990, and both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Modern Middle Eastern History from the University of Utah. Dr. Montserrat Miller, associate professor of history said, "David Mills' teaching is nothing short of astonishing. He is an outstanding colleague and a talented and committed professor." Dr. Robert Sawrey, professor of history, describes Mills as "a superb, well-rounded faculty member who takes all aspects of his work seriously and excels at all of them."

Mills will receive \$5,000 through a grant from Charles B. and Mary Jo Locke Hedrick. The award is named in honor of Charles Hedrick's father, Charles E. Hedrick, a former history professor and later chairman of the Graduate Council, and one of the founders of Marshall's graduate programs. This award recognizes a full-time faculty member who has a minimum of seven years teaching experience at Marshall and has a record of outstanding classroom teaching, scholarship, research and creative activities.

The Reynolds Award includes a \$3,000 stipend. Dr. Evelyn Pupplo-Cody, this year's recipient, has been a full professor in Marshall's Department of Mathematics since 1999 and came to Marshall in 1989 as an assistant professor.

Dr. Ralph W. Oberste-Vorth, professor and chair of the math department, describes her as "a team player, a dedicated educator, and a valuable asset to the department and the university." Pupplo-Cody said she hopes her students learn from her classes that anything worth doing is worth doing well.

Each of the three Pickens-Queen Award winners received a \$1,000 stipend. The award honors outstanding junior faculty. All

faculty members teaching on a full-time tenured or tenure track appointment who are at the instructor or assistant professor rank and who have completed one to five years of service at Marshall are eligible.

Dr. E. Del Chrol, assistant professor in the classics department, is in only his third semester of teaching at Marshall. Dr. Caroline Perkins, chair of the Classics Department who nominated him, said, "He is a world-class teacher and shows great potential as a scholar...He engages students well in active learning and his students love him." Student Rebecca Wise described Chrol as "an exceptionally gifted teacher who exhibits infectious love for his field."

Dr. Phillip T. Rutherford, an assistant professor of European History, joined Marshall's faculty in August 2006. Dr. Donna Spindel, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said Rutherford is engaging, smart and energetic, and "has the ability to challenge his students to do better than they think they can do." History student Amanda Stevens said Rutherford has done nothing short of transforming the European studies section of the history department, transfusing them with life and vitality.

Assistant Professor of History Dr. David Winter is in his third year at Marshall. "He is an experienced and exemplary teacher," Associate Professor Dr. Kat Williams, who nominated Winter, said about him. "His classroom is always filled with a mixture of seriousness and humor, which clearly makes it a

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Retiring Faculty Recognized

Seventeen faculty members, who are retiring with a combined 528 years of service, were also honored at the General Faculty Meeting April 29. They are:

- Dr. Gary Anderson, Physical Sciences, 27 years
- Dr. Elaine Baker, Psychology, 36 years
- Dr. C. Robert Barnett, ESSR, 36 years
- Dr. W. Blaker Bolling, Management/Marketing, 23 years
- Dr. D. Stephen Cupps, Political Science, 35 years
- Dr. Robert Edmunds, Communications Studies, 27 years
- Dr. Thomas E. Ellis, Psychology, 6 years
- Prof. Pamela W. Ford, Library, 33 years
- Prof. Robert Forg t, Accountancy & Legal Environment, 18 years
- Dr. Ron Gain, Biological Sciences, 39 years
- Dr. Mary Etta Hight, Biological Sciences, 32 years
- Dr. Carl Johnson, School of Education, 33 years
- Dr. John Larson, Chemistry, 40 years
- Dr. John McKernan, English, 37 years
- Dr. Charles Peele, Mathematics, 40 years
- Dr. Tony Williams, School of Education, 37 years
- Dr. Gary Wright, Physiology, 29 years

Note of Thanks

I would like to express my gratitude to the department of Communication Studies for the lovely arrangement brought to my home during my recent recovery from surgery. A special thank you to the following staff members who took the time out of their busy days to check on me through those six weeks: Nina Barrett (Accounting); Jill Burcham, (Purchasing); Bernice Bullock (Faculty Senate Office); and Leonard Lovely (Mailroom). Additionally, I would like to thank the Classified Staff Council and numerous other individuals for sending me get well cards and prayers.

Lu Ann South

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

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Profile: Debbie Watson

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Debbie Watson

She likes to carefully tend her garden of friendships along with the abundant flowers that flourish under her care. And if an occasional pebble pops up where it shouldn't be in life or in her soil, she's a savvy problem solver who will take care of that, too.

For over 30 years Debbie Watson has been with the School of Medicine, most of it spent as supervisor of receiving. A big part of her job is to ensure that the delivery systems run smoothly. She assists in maintaining the equipment inventory for the entire campus with the School of Medicine as the first priority. "We receive everything that is ordered by the School of Medicine or the College of Science, anything that is ordered by the researchers. That can include equipment and all types of research supplies," she explains.

And Watson is a good problem solver when the need arises. She's efficient, extremely organized, straightforward and not afraid to tackle things head on with her calm demeanor. "Luckily things run pretty smoothly around here and we rarely have problems. But when something does come up, I like to take care of it. I like solving problems and I don't duck responsibilities. One good thing about being here for so long is that you learn who the resources are. If I don't know the answer to something, I know the person I can call who does."

She grew up in a small town in Ohio, just 18 miles north of Ironton near a dairy farm owned by her father's family. It was a near idyllic childhood, she recalls. "I spent most of my time running the hills and catching anything that didn't run from me. I always had a pony to ride and I was in 4-H, so I did all kinds of projects...raised all kinds of animals, including rabbits and steers. My father lives there now and it's a great place to visit. I have so many wonderful memories."

After high school, Watson worked for a time for a mining equipment company in Huntington before coming to the new Marshall med school, which in 1977 was just gearing up to welcome its first class. She worked for the director of purchasing in quarters located in the old Doctors Memorial Hospital before moving on to become the supervisor of receiving. She speaks with pride of watching the medical school grow and flourish. "The growth has been phenomenal," she says. "We started out with a small clinical area in the old hospital, and now the clinical area has explained to Cabell Huntington Hospital and there are satellite offices as well. It's grown tremendously since its original concept."

And Marshall is a family affair as well, as her brother, Joe Justice, is a longtime electrician on campus.

She's delighted that she's been able to carry some remnants of her rural roots to a decidedly urban

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Elmore to Serve as Interim Science Dean

Dr. Wayne Elmore, associate dean of the College of Science and professor of Biological Sciences, has been named interim dean of the College of Science.

Elmore assumed his second term as interim dean on May 1. Dr. Sarah Denman said she and President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp "are very appreciative that Dr. Elmore will once again help lead the College of Science in a transition period. He will most certainly provide the same outstanding leadership as he always has for both the college and the institution."

Elmore replaces Dr. Andrew Rogerson, who resigned. Elmore previously was interim dean from 2005 to 2006.

"This is a very dynamic time for the College of Science," Elmore said. "We are completing an extensive curricular revision, our research programs are growing rapidly, and the freshman science enrollment grew by 20.6 percent this year. We cannot allow momentum to slow while we find a new dean. With the support of the faculty and chairs, the College of Science will go forward with plans to recruit new faculty, grow enrollment, and build a unique quality research environment. . . Science is the way to the future and our college will be at the forefront of that movement."

Elmore has been at Marshall since 1976, when he was hired to teach in the Department of Biology. He was employed for three years at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario before coming to Marshall. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Western Kentucky University and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in biology from Vanderbilt University in 1973.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. George Davis, assistant professor of political science, has been selected as one of 25 scholars to participate in the 2008 NEH Summer Institute Regional Studies in the Humanities Appalachia Up Close. The institute is made up of professors from regions throughout the country interested in how regional perspectives comment on wider national and global issues and how regional material can enhance the undergraduate curriculum. This opportunity will allow Davis to enhance his teaching by incorporating more regional concerns into his political science classes at Marshall and also will provide the background for a research project tentatively titled "Up from the Mountains: Place, Power, and Grassroots Politics in Central Appalachia."

Four members of the Department of Classics presented papers in the annual meetings of the Classical Association of the Middlewest and South in Tucson, Ariz. on April 16-19. Presenters and their papers were Chad Brown, graduate student, "Weaving Webs and Singing Songs: The Reaffirmation of Kleos for Helen and Achilles in the Iliad;" **Dr. Christina Franzen**, assistant professor, "The Rhetorical Branding and Dismemberment of Catiline in Cicero's Catilinarian Orations;" **Dr. E. Del Chrol**, "Apuleius Metamorphoses: A Master's View of a Slave Narrative;" and **Dr. Caroline Perkins**, "The Figure of Elegy in Amores 3.1: Elegy and Poeta, Elegy as Puella, Puella as Poeta."

Prof. Jean Edward Smith gave the banquet address to the Democratic caucus of the United States Senate at their annual retreat on April 11 at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Va. He discussed his latest and critically acclaimed book, *FDR*.

Debbie Watson

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setting. At the family home she shares with her husband, Ike, in Spring Valley, she has valiantly tried to raise a vegetable garden, but unfortunately the assorted and determined critters which populate the area view it as a luscious free buffet. Deer, squirrels, raccoons and even an errant small bear one time munch their way freely through their garden. It's frustrating, but luckily for the intruders she maintains her sense of humor. She can tell about the night a family of raccoons totally wiped out their flourishing corn crop. "It was 4 a.m. and my husband and I were standing on the porch just listening to the corn being torn apart. We've tried for years to have a nice garden; we just wouldn't give up. But now he's thrown in the towel. He says, let's just go to farmers' market and buy our produce. So we're not planting a vegetable garden this year. We're hoping to sit out a year and throw them off track. Maybe they'll get out of the habit," she says, laughing.

But her flower gardens are a different matter. She chooses and tends them carefully. "I really like just getting out and getting my hands in the dirt," she says. It's rewarding for the family to see their yard bloom and blossom with her specially selected assortment of perennials.

The Watsons' two daughters, Ashley and Christy, live close enough to visit regularly. The couple delights in their granddaughters Emmy, 13, and Whitney, 6. A third granddaughter, Hattie, is due in September. In fact, last year Debbie and all the girls went on a "just-us-girls" trip to the beach. They had so much fun they're doing it again this summer, and it looks as those these trips are going to become a cherished family tradition.

That's fine with Watson. She and her husband have always loved to travel; it's a big part of their lives. They've been all over the U.S., taken trips to Mexico and their next big trip will be a cruise to Alaska. "There are just so many places to go and so much to see, I never get tired of going to new places and experiencing new things," she says with her usual enthusiasm.

The Watsons maintain a busy schedule the year around. Both she and Ike are active in their church, the Spring Valley Freedom Baptist Church, where she's an assistant Sunday School teacher and helps with the Teen Kid ministry, while her husband drives a van to pick up children. And both are involved with rental properties they own, which can require a lot of time and attention.

She approaches life with unbridled optimism and she would much rather seek out the positive than dwell on the negative. Now, as she contemplates her more than 30 years at the Marshall med school, she can certainly think good thoughts and take pride in the strides the SOM has made since those first formative years.

And just as she carefully tends her cherished gardens, she also tends the friendships she's formed with coworkers over the years. "I've really enjoyed my job; it's been one of the most positive experiences of my life working here. I've made lifetime friends. I love working with my coworkers, at the med school it's easy to become close to everyone. In fact, I've made some best friends here. That's an added bonus. I know that down the road when I retire, my connections with Marshall will continue long after I leave because of these wonderful friendships."

Tomblin

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held a number of important positions including those of chairman of the Southern Legislative Conference and chairman of the Council of State Governments.

Faculty Awards

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comfortable place for students." Student Rebecca Wise said she is extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from Winter. "His eagerness to help students is warm and genuine and students can tell," she said.

To qualify for Distinguished Service Awards, persons must have at least 20 years of service at Marshall University, a record of distinguished service to the university and/or college, and a record of distinguished teaching as evidenced by peer, administrative and/or student evaluations. The Distinguished Service Award winners, each of whom will receive \$1,000, and their years of service are:

- Dr. Martin Amerikaner, Psychology, 20 years
- Dr. C. Robert Barnett, Exercise Science, Sport and Recreation, 36 years
- Prof. Kathryn Chezick, Communication Disorders, 37 years
- Dr. Ronald B. Childress, School of Education, 33 years
- Dr. Stan Maynard, School of Education, 28 years
- Dr. Tony Williams, School of Education, 37 years
- Dr. Gary Wright, Physiology, 29 years

A Distinguished Service Award was also given to Dr. Sarah N. Denman, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, who will retire this month.

To be eligible for the Distinguished Artists and Scholars Awards, faculty members either must be tenured or hold tenure-track appointments. The purpose of the award is to recognize distinction in the fields of artistic and scholarly activity on the part of the Marshall faculty. The senior recipients of this award receive \$2,000 apiece while the junior recipient receives \$1,000. The 2007-08 Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award were given to:

- Dr. Yoram Elitsur (Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, pediatric gastroenterologist), senior recipient in the field of Science and Technology
- Dr. William Palmer (College of Liberal Arts, History) senior recipient in the field of Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities, Education and Business
- Dr. Ronda Sturgill (College of Education and Human Services), junior recipient among all faculty.

Also recognized at the meeting was Dr. Montserrat Miller, who was named the 2007 Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia in March.

Habitat House

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process of turning a once-blighted neighborhood into an area that our new partner families can call home!"

Guest speakers at the dedication were Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp; MU student Megan Barbour; David L. Michael, Huntington Area Habitat for Humanity Executive Director and CEO; Steve Nord, Huntington Area Habitat for Humanity board president; and Huntington Mayor David Felinton. Refreshments and a tour of the house followed the dedication.