

WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OCTOBER 17, 2008

J-School Receives Grant Toward Digital Conversion

Marshall University's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications has received a major grant from the State of West Virginia to help fund the conversion of its TV studio from analog to digital TV standards, as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The announcement of the \$800,000 grant was made during a news conference Oct. 15 on the Huntington campus.

At the request of Sen. Robert Plymale, chair of the Senate Education Committee, the West Virginia Legisla-

ture appropriated the money during the June 2008 special session for the School of Journalism's digital conversion. By February 2009, all full-power television stations must convert from analog to digital.

"It will improve production quality and techniques for the School and the University and enhance the educational experience of the students participating in TV production classes," Dr. Corley Dennison, dean of the School of Journalism, said of the conversion to digital.

The grant was announced in Studio A in the Communications Building. In addition to Plymale and Dennison, participants in the news conference were Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp and Kay H. Goodwin, West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts. West Virginia Public Broadcasting is an agency of the Department of Education and the Arts, which served as a conduit in transferring the funds to Marshall.

"This allocation is very important as we continue the ongoing effort to upgrade the facilities for future

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Judy Clark Named Employee of the Month

Judy Clark, Administrative Secretary for Physics and Physical Science, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for August, according to Amber Bentley, Chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since 2006, she was nominated by Dr. Maria C. Babiuc-Hamilton.

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Unveiling the oversize check symbolic of the \$800,000 state grant toward digital conversion of the television studio are (from left) President Kopp, Sen. Robert Plymale, Dr. Corley Dennison, and Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin.

Next Week's United Way Activities

October 22nd — 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Sodexo \$3.99 Zesty Taco Bar in the John Marshall Dining Room. Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets for the Sports Package Raffle: 2 tickets to the October 28th football game (Marshall vs. Houston); 2 Marshall University t-shirts and a hat. Tickets will be on sale in the 2nd floor lobby of the Memorial Student Center. The drawing will occur at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices are: 1 ticket for \$1.00; 5 tickets for \$4.00; 10 tickets for \$8.00; and 12 tickets for \$10.00. All raffle proceeds will be donated to the University's United Way Campaign. You may also complete a pledge card and pick up information about the Pumpkin Decorating Contest & Silent Auction. Visit the Web site at www.marshall.edu/unitedway for more information.



Judy Clark (center) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Stephen J. Kopp (left) and Dr. Nicola Orsini, chair of the physics and physical science department.

Marshall Purchase Card Coordinator Receives State-Wide Award

Melanie Gallaher, Marshall's purchase card coordinator, has been named the 2008 Purchase Card Coordinator of the Year by the State Auditor's Office. The annual award, given for outstanding service, was announced recently at a conference held at the Snowshoe Mountain Resort. Gallaher was selected from among state-wide purchase card coordinators.

Marshall currently has 325 cardholders, which translates into approximately 1200 transactions a month, according to Kelley Smith, Assistant Controller. "Melanie is responsible for the training and applications process for all new cardholders and currently oversees the required renewal training as well as the reconciliation of all transactions for our cards," Smith said.

"With the passing of new legislation that allowed for an increase in the single transaction limit from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and the expansion of card use for most travel expenses, the Pcard has grown to over 60 percent of the transactions handled through our office each month," Smith explained. "This is a big job for Melanie and her assistant Pam Early to handle and they do it with great efficiency. Melanie has worked hard to cultivate a good relationship with the State Auditor's Pcard staff in Charleston and she continually provides top-notch customer service to her cardholders."

Nominations Requested for Commencement Speaker, Honorary Degree Recipients

The University Functions Committee is requesting nominations for honorary degree candidates and commencement speaker. Individuals wishing to make recommendations are asked to send the name, along with supporting documentation, to Dale H. Shao, committee chair, as soon as possible. If there are questions or if additional information is needed, contact Dale H. Shao at ext. 6-2685 or shaod@marshall.edu. Qualifications include persons who have made or could be expected to make significant contributions to Marshall University, monetarily or otherwise, or persons sufficiently outstanding that they clearly deserve such recognition. In addition, nominations should be made for persons who can be expected to attend commencement in order to receive the degree.

Gallaher, who has been the MU Pcard coordinator for two years, said, "I was really excited to get this award. The program is growing every day, it's a real benefit to the university."

"This is a state-wide award and only one is given each year," Smith said. "I am very proud that this honor was bestowed upon her. She deserves it."

First Recipient of Homer Hickam Sr. Scholarship Named

The first recipient of a Marshall University scholarship created for the children and grandchildren of West Virginia coal miners and mine rescue team members has been named.

Cameron Ross Stover of Lake, W.Va., was selected as the initial recipient of the Homer Hickam Sr.-Red Helmet Scholarship. Established earlier this year by Homer Hickam Jr., the Marshall University Foundation Inc. scholarship honors Homer Hickam Sr., a coal miner and the father of the New York Times bestselling author. The senior Hickam was instrumental in developing the first mine rescue team units in West Virginia.

A junior majoring in business, Stover is the son of the late Terry Wayne Stover, who worked for Sharples Coal Company, and the grandson of William O. Stover, who also was a coal miner.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a West Virginia undergraduate student.

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'Kool and the Gang' Ticketholders Can Receive Free Dance Lesson

Faculty and staff can not only purchase two half-price tickets to the upcoming Kool and the Gang Dance Party, but ticketholders can also get a free shag dance lesson as well.

Kool and the Gang, featuring the number one Shag Band from Myrtle Beach—Jim Quick & Coastline—will appear at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena Friday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Faculty and staff can purchase the two half-price tickets by bringing their staff ID's to the Marshall Artists Series box office Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. Faculty and staff ID must be presented at the door prior to the event, which is an Artists Series presentation.

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Family Campaign Wraps Up

Make Your Dollar HERD, the 2008-2009 Marshall Family Campaign sponsored by the Marshall University Foundation, ended earlier this month with nearly 200 donors and \$30,000 in commitments. Contributions will help fund staff/faculty development, provide scholarships to talented and deserving students, provide equipment for classrooms, and much more, according to Rebecca Samples, assistant vice president for development.

"Although the formal campaign has ended, our efforts to promote the growth and development of Marshall University continue," Samples said. "If you have not participated, we encourage you to do so by completing a payroll deduction form and returning it to the Office of Development. As always, your gift can go toward the university's areas of greatest need or to the college or area you select."

Samples and Nancy Pelfhrey, coordinator of alumni programs, expressed thanks to sponsors of the campaign: Marshall University Ticket Office; Marshall University Artist

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WE ARE... MARSHALL.



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

an issue date of Oct. 31, 2008. Deadline is Oct. 24. 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: Frank Gilliam



Frank Gilliam

When snow flies and drifts pile up knee deep on a raw January day, that's not necessarily a bad thing, says Marshall ecologist Frank Gilliam. In fact as far as the health of the soil is concerned, all that snow is actually a good thing.

He should certainly know. He's been studying plant ecology and the cycling of plant nutrients within terrestrial ecosystems for most of his career. It's been a labor of love that has brought him international recognition, capped off by a trip to China this summer where he was the guest of a team of Chinese scientists.

Growing up in Lexington, Ky., Gilliam is familiar with the Appalachian region he has studied so rigorously. After earning a B.S. in biology from Vanderbilt University and a Ph.D. from Duke University, he initiated a study at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro that looked at the interaction of fire on longleaf pines in the Weymouth Woods Sandhills nature preserve. Just as snow can have beneficial effects on ecosystems, conversely so can fire on some organisms, particularly some types of trees.

"This area...supports a unique ecosystem dominated by longleaf pines. These are grand trees--they look very southern, very relaxed--but they are a most interesting species because they are maintained by fire," he explains. "The trees have adapted to fire and they're also dependent upon fire....Longleaf pines actually need fires to survive. Fire acts as a weed-removal, natural-cleansing agent because it eliminates the competing vegetation like grass or shrubs and that allows the pines to flourish. That's why controlled burning is a part of preservation efforts." Gilliam is saddened that through habitat alterations and destruction only five percent of the original extent of longleaf pines exist today. "It is very much an endangered ecosystem."

At the other end of the thermometer, he is excited about the major research project undertaken by two of his students who are studying the effects of freezing on nitrogen content in the soil. "Snow is a natural insulator, if the ground is covered it won't freeze. One of the effects of global warming will be less snowfall and we've already seen that," he says. "It's a paradox of global warming that without snow as an insulating blanket the soil will freeze allowing the microbes to lyse, or break up, which can impact the amount of nitrogen in the soil. This is an important study and we're the first group to look at forests of West Virginia."

In fact it was his ongoing research involving the effects of nitrogen on plant life that caught the attention of Chinese scientists who, after reading his scientific publications, invited him to be their guest in and around Guangzhou, where they were conducting similar research.

Gilliam was privileged to study the pristine 400-year-old Dinghushan Forest, a rare tract which, under the supervision of Buddhist monks, has been protected from any kind of agriculture, forestry or other human activity.

In addition, the extensive South China Botanical Garden, one of the largest of its type in the world, consists of a series of smaller gardens each with its own ecological stamp. Among others there's an Australian garden with native plants including towering Eucalyptus trees, a magnificent magnolia garden where imported tulip trees from the U.S. have bred with native Chinese trees to form hybrids, and tract that features several acres of camellias. The centerpiece is a glassed-in conservatory where

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Judy Clark

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In her nomination Babiuc-Hamilton wrote, "[When I was a new faculty member], Judy was always there for me when I needed something and did right away all that I asked her, taking care of all the things that I had to set up for a new job."

Babiuc-Hamilton praised Clark for her work and rapport with students, saying that none were ever turned down no matter what problem they asked her to solve. In addition, she adds, "She has a cheerful and pleasant disposition and does things that she is asked to do, right away."

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

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Jennifer Mak, associate professor and program coordinator in the Division of Exercise Science, Sport, and Recreation, with Dr. D. Floyd Jones, and Dr. Dana Brooks from West Virginia University, had a paper published, "Examining Sport Management Programs in the United States" *Sport Management Review*, 11, 77-91. Mak presented five different papers in four different conferences this summer and she also attended the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. In May, she presented her paper "A case study of consumer satisfaction: Timberline Resort Reality" at the *Administrative Sciences Association of Canada Annual Conference* in Canada with Dr. D. Floyd Jones from West Virginia University. She also presented her paper "Perceived physical competence and physical activity participation for children in Hong Kong" at the *American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) 55th Annual Meeting* in Indianapolis with Professor Siu Yin Cheung from Hong Kong Baptist University. In July, Mak presented two papers "Sport fandom motives of collegiate baseball spectators" and "The Impact of Physical Activity across the East and the West" with her colleagues from Indiana University, Plymouth State University, Hong Kong Baptist University, and Beijing Sport University at the *16th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Comparative Physical Education and Sport* in Macau. In August, she presented her paper "Gender differences in sport fandom," at the *2008 International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport* in China which was sponsored by the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympics Games Committee, with Dr. Carina King from Indiana University, Mr. Nathan Kosek from Stetson University and Dr. Hongwei Guan from Ithaca College. In addition, Mak received the *Scholar Award* from the Midwest District of American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and the *Award for Excellence in Scholarship* from the College of Education and Human Services at Marshall University.

Dr. Jose Morillo presented a paper, "From Old Jacket to New Jacket: Spanish Films in Post Franco Spain" on Oct. 10 at the MILC at Wilmington, N.C.

Family Campaign

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Series; Marshall University Department of Theatre; President Stephen J. Kopp; Marshall University Alumni Association; Marshall University Parking Office; University Fund; Marshall University Bookstore; University Communications; MARCO; 93.7 the DAWG; Pepsi Bottling Group; Snyder's Potato Chips; Memorial Student Center Administration and Staff; Magic Makers Costumes.

Frank Gilliam

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scientists simulate a series of diverse environments including arctic, arid desert and tropical rainforest.

A paper he wrote last year examined the effect of nitrogen-laced rainfall, snow or fog on plant growth and diversity. He likens the effect to home gardeners over-fertilizing their gardens.

"Excess nitrogen in rainfall is basically pollution," Gilliam explains. "It ... gets into the atmosphere and falls to the earth as rain with the result that it over-fertilizes the plants...There is less diversity and species are disappearing, not because they're being dug up or destroyed but because they can't handle the extra nitrogen."

Actually both West Virginia and Marshall University have a connection to China's research. Marshall researchers, including Gilliam, have been studying a forest in Tucker County for over 20 years. The nearly 90-acre tract has been set aside so that the effect of nitrogen on a forested ecosystem can be studied on a large scale. With funding through the National Science Foundation and under the auspices of the National Forest Service, it has been an invaluable outdoor laboratory, according to Gilliam.

"We're adding nitrogen to an entire watershed with a helicopter three times a year. We want to know how the nitrogen moves through the soil and how plants respond to it. . The Chinese are studying the same thing only on a much smaller scale. They spray small plots. It's a good simulation; we're just doing it on a larger scale. And now the Chinese team is familiar with West Virginia."

One of the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to enjoy the local cuisine. "There were great quantities of food served but it is all very healthy food. I didn't see any obese people at all. The Chinese serve vegetables at every meal, even breakfast. They don't have anything like toast or jelly or anything sweet. I loved everything I had, even lotus stems which were sliced and cooked."

Gilliam said he received a warm welcome in Guangzhou. "The Chinese were wonderfully warm and I made fast friendships even in such a short period of time. It was difficult to say goodbye."

Back home he stays busy with his research and classes, where his classroom prowess won him the prestigious Dr. Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award in 2002. And his research efforts are ongoing. He hopes that at some point there can be a further exchange of researchers, including graduate students, between China and Marshall.

Somehow he has found time to be the organizer and coordinator of the Boy Scouts Merit Badge College, which annually brings several hundred scouts to campus. Having the scouts on campus is a good way to showcase Marshall, he believes.

But as passionate as he is about his work, his true passion is his family, Gilliam says. About his wife, Laura, who currently is the executive director of River Cities United Way, he says, "I'm always in awe of what she does. She is very much a community organizer." Both their daughter, Rachel, now a senior at Huntington High School and son, Ian, who is a freshman there, seem to have inherited their parents' energy and drive. Both also have exhibited considerable athletic prowess, Rachel as a member of the varsity track team, and Ian, who is now hoping to make the HHS varsity tennis team. The family is active in the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church.

They look forward to their annual beach vacation and other jaunts as they arise. There are time constraints for the entire family, but Gilliam hopes they will be able to do some international travel in the future. But for now, he can look back at this summer's China trip with fondness and some humor. He did notice one characteristic that wasn't present in China's other large cities.

"Unlike Beijing and Shanghai, Guangzhou...is not an international city. There are not many foreigners to be seen. As a tall, balding West Virginian, I definitely stood out in a crowd!"

J-School Grant

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Marshall students as they pursue careers in broadcast journalism, much like (CNN correspondent) Joe Johns was able to do," Plymale said. "I'm certainly glad that Governor Manchin and the legislative leadership recognize that."

Dennison said the funding to upgrade Studio A will enable journalism and mass communications students to work in digital high definition productions that will be the same technology the students will encounter in the marketplace.

"This allocation is really workforce development as students are able to work in the same TV format they will face in the commercial marketplace," Dennison said. "The students, faculty and staff of the Marshall University School of Journalism and Mass Communications are very appreciative of the efforts of Senator Plymale, the Legislature, Governor Manchin and all involved in making this technology available to us.

"With the FCC mandate forcing all TV to go digital in February of 2009, it was essential that the School and the University stay current with industry trends," Dennison said.

Goodwin praised Plymale for his efforts in securing the funds for Marshall.

"This venture is a wonderful example of Senator Robert Plymale's special ability to recognize projects that will be beneficial to West Virginia's college students as we strive to provide new opportunities and keep our graduates in West Virginia," she said.

Hickam Scholarship

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Homer Hickam Jr. is best known for his award-winning classic *Rocket Boys: A Memoir* that was made into the critically acclaimed film *October Sky*. His latest novel, *Red Helmet*, is a love story set in a contemporary West Virginia coal mining town.

After learning that Stover will be the scholarship recipient, Hickam said, "Great news. Cameron is clearly a very deserving student."

"I'm pleased that we can honor my father and the work of mine rescue teams with this scholarship at Marshall," Hickam said earlier this year when the scholarship was announced. "Marshall is the university that services the Appalachian coalfields more than any other."

Dr. Lynne Mayer, Resident Development Consultant with Marshall's Office of Development, said, "This effort by Homer Hickam Jr. to honor his father is a wonderful and lasting tribute."

Free Dance Lesson

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A free Shag dance lesson will be offered Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Jeslyn Performing Arts Center at 1030 Fourth Avenue in downtown Huntington for those who have purchased Kool and the Gang Dance Party tickets.

The Carolina Shag is a slotted swing dance that is described as sharing many figures with the "jitterbug" and east and west coast swing. The Shag is the official state dance of South Carolina.