

WE ARE... MARSHALL®

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Recreation Center Nears Opening

With the Marshall Recreation Center on the Huntington campus set to open the first week of February, the Marshall community is being offered opportunities to take part in fitness activities during the upcoming year.

The new 123,000-square-foot facility will house swimming pools, a 1/7 mile running track, group exercise room, basketball, volleyball, racquetball, badminton and pickle ball courts in addition to a climbing wall. The facility also will be equipped with a wide range of exercise equipment including treadmills, step machines and weight machines in the 17,000-square-foot, two-floor fitness center.

The employee rate is available to current Marshall University employees, university retirees, and adjunct faculty with identification required. Full-time faculty/staff have the option to use payroll deduction for their memberships. Rates include: Marshall employee, \$38 monthly,

\$8 single entry, \$10 sponsored guest; spouse \$28 monthly, \$10 sponsored guest; dependent, \$28 monthly, \$10 sponsored guest (dependents must be 18 or older to sponsor guests.)

The first 100 members of the Marshall Recreation Center among the categories of employee, associate, alumni, friends & affiliates, and spouse/significant other/dependent and who pledge to be members for a 12-month period will become members of the Herd Hundred. They'll receive a "Fit Kit" and have priority locker selection for purchase. A flyer is available online at www.marshall.edu/ucomm/flyers/herd_hundred.pdf. Applications for membership can be found at www.marshall.edu/UComm/Flyers/Marshall_membership_application.pdf

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Janis Winkfield Named Employee of the Month

Janis Winkfield, Financial Aid Counselor Senior, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for December, according to Amber Bentley, Chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since September 1989, she was nominated by Kathy J. Bialk, Director of Student Financial Assistance; Shari Williams-Clarke, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs; and Maurice R. Cooley, Director of the Center for African American Students; Program.

In her nomination Bialk wrote: "Janis is very passionate about her work as a financial aid counselor and goes that extra mile to assist students in the pursuit of education at Marshall.

She is an excellent team player and works closely with other offices that help students that are academically and economically disadvantaged. Without hesitation she volunteers to work beyond the expected work week. She [comes] to

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The Marshall Recreation Center on the Huntington campus is scheduled to open in early February.

South Charleston Launches Cereal Drive

Marshall's South Charleston campus is coordinating a cereal drive to benefit Manna Meal of Charleston.

Through Feb. 27, the university will be accepting unopened bags and boxes of cereal in the lobby of the Marshall University Graduate College's administration building. Both organizations and individuals are encouraged to collect cereal for the drive. The lobby will be open to receive donations from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Saturday.

"We serve breakfast every day of the year and right now our cereal reserves in our pantry are running low. A drive like this one held by Marshall could really fulfill a need for many, many months," said Jean

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Janis Winkfield (left) received her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

Jazz Festival Celebrates 40th Anniversary with Sergio Mendes

Marshall University's Department of Music will present its 40th Annual Jazz Festival Jan. 29, 30 and 31, featuring legendary Brazilian artist Sergio Mendes.

"The Marshall University Jazz Festival has been an important part of West Virginia's artistic community since its beginning in 1970," said Dr. Ed Bingham, professor of music and director of jazz studies at Marshall. "It attracts nationally recognized artists and supports the MU Jazz Studies Program in its efforts to educate students, to entertain the public and to preserve the rich heritage of jazz."

Bingham said the 40th Anniversary event is dedicated to the memory of J.D. Folsom, founder of the Marshall Jazz Ensemble and its winter festival—one of the longest continuously running college festivals.

The featured artist, Sergio Mendes, will spin his magic with music from his newest recording *Encanto* (Enchantment). His latest performances showcase some of the maestro's most beautifully realized compositions from an unparalleled career. Sergio's singular blend of infectious rhythms and irresistible melodies from the great Brazilian songbook will delight the audience with a wide variety of styles.

Mendes ruled the pop-charts in the 60's and 70's with his groundbreaking rhythms and addicting scores with records and singles like "Brasil '66," "Mas Que Nada,"

and "The Look of Love." Sergio recently roared back on the scene with his album "*Timeless*," a collaboration with **Black Eyed Peas** producer/songwriter will.i.am. "Timeless" merged the Latin and African sounds of Brazil's urban music, samba and bossa nova, with American urban music.

In keeping with the educational focus of the festival, Mendes will meet with the student participants for a master class on Saturday, Jan. 30. This opportunity will allow young musicians to learn firsthand about the music and career of this musical icon.

Additional contributions to the festival include performances by Bluetrane, Marshall's Faculty Jazz Combo; guest trombonist Dave Dickey; The MU Jazz

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Palmer Publishes Book on University History Departments

Dr. William Palmer, a professor of history at Marshall University, has written a book titled "From Gentleman's Club to Professional Body: The Evolution of the History Department in the United States, 1940-1980."

Palmer, who has been at Marshall since 1984, said he spent about four years researching and writing the 298-page paperback. It is published by BookSurge Publishing of Charleston, S.C., and is available on Amazon.com.

The author of five books, Palmer published "Engagement With the Past: The Lives and Works of the World War II

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'Sweeney Todd' Arrives Feb. 5

A musical tale of madness and mayhem with a most macabre menu is heading to the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center as the award-winning "Sweeney Todd" takes the stage Thursday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m.

With music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, this production features an ensemble of 10 musicians/actors. It spins the story of an infamous barber, Todd, who takes up with his crafty neighbor, Mrs. Lovett. The two embark on a plot to slice their way through London's upper crust.

The show ran for over 500 performances on Broadway and was later made into a successful movie directed by Tim Burton which featured Johnny Depp in the title role.

For ticket information call the Artist Series Box Office at ext. 6-6656.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Thomas E. Wilson, professor of physics, is a coauthor of a paper titled "Evaluating the Barten SQRI for Predicting Small Visual Display Character Recognition," which will be presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2009 Annual Meeting May 3-7 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The work represents first results from a clinical trial involving visually impaired persons that was recently conducted at the Veterans Administration Rehabilitation Research and Development Center on Excellence in Decatur, Ga. This work has evolved through a collaboration between Professor Dr. Ron A. Schuchard, Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Center at the Atlanta Vision Loss Center, and Mark Uslan, Executive Director of the American Foundation for the Blind Technology and Employment Center in Huntington (AFB TECH). Wilson provided the physical optics experimental design (based upon testing for a correlation between the Barten SQRI integral and the corresponding recognition of single digit characters) for the study. The paper concludes that "Combined measures of individual contrast sensitivity with image display characteristics may be better outcome measures of the effect of vision loss on performance with small displays than standard visual function measures."

Dr. Elsa Mangiarua served as a judge at the 2008 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Biomedical Students in Orlando, Fla., held Nov. 5 - 8. ABRCMS is one of the largest professional conferences for biomedical and behavioral students. The next ABRCMS will take place in Phoenix, Ariz., in November 2009.

WE ARE... MARSHALL.



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

an issue date of Feb. 6, 2009. Deadline is Jan. 30. 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: Crystal Stewart

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Crystal Stewart

Just call her the answer lady, because if there's one thing Crystal Stewart doesn't like to do, it's pass the buck.

"We get lots of phone calls, some meant for our office, others meant for other places, but I hate to transfer anyone or keep them waiting so I try to find what the caller needs myself or I put them in touch with someone who can help them," says the Program Specialist for Distributive

Education Technology. There's no passing of the verbal buck for her if she can help it. And her helpful attitude and her willingness to play sleuth and to track down information has earned her kudos from grateful callers.

Stewart has worked in her department since graduating from Marshall in 1998 with a degree in accounting. Attending Marshall was a no-brainer, she says. "I grew up in Huntington, I'm a hometown girl. Marshall was the obvious choice--coming here was what I looked forward to when I was growing up."

As an undergraduate she was a student assistant for Instructional Television Services. At the time that unit included the Satellite Network, which was one of the chief providers of distance education. After graduation she worked through MURC with the network until 2001 when she became a full-time Marshall employee. After the Satellite Network moved from the Charleston area to the Huntington campus, and after the retirement of her supervisor, Stewart was named program specialist.

"I have a very broad job. Distributive Education is anything servicing education at a distance using technology," she says succinctly. "We help support different areas of Instructional Technology Services, the Center for Instructional Technology and the MU Outreach Center and included in that is MU Online. We also help service many technological needs on all of MU's campuses."

As part of her job Stewart helps schedule distance learning classes, interactive classrooms and MU Online classes while working with budgets for all three divisions. In addition she works as a liaison with faculty and administrators, helping them get in touch with the right people. And she does purchasing and invoicing for her department while overseeing the PARs.

"I worked in IT for so long that I learned the ins and outs of technology," she admits. "We went from doing satellite courses and public television courses to doing interactive and e-courses. As technology develops you learn as you go and I'm glad I do utilize my accounting degree in much of my work."

She's right at home working with technology. "I have always been fascinated by technology ... I love

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Janis Winkfield

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campus on the weekend and, without prompting, has worked late hours to get the job done for students. Janis has done so much to retain high-risk students. Her dedication and commitment to students is exemplary."

Williams-Clarke adds, "Ms. Winkfield exemplifies true dedication to the goals and ideals that characterize Marshall University; her dedication to advocating and supporting students has no bounds ... I credit her with singlehandedly retaining numerous students by eliminating financial aid barriers utilizing her expertise, innovation and dedication to the success of all Marshall students."

Cooley wrote that in his position as Director of the Center for African American Students' Programs, he frequently encounters students who have complicated financial aid and attendance issues and that to resolve these issues with maximum results it often requires intervention by highly knowledgeable and dedicated staff who have an interest in the success of the students. "Janis Winkfield has been my shining star on so many occasions, and her efforts have consistently exceeded in what one would ordinarily expect to assist students." He recalls an occasion when a student who was experiencing financial aid problems couldn't afford adequate clothing, Winkfield contacted a woman's business organization to provide clothing and gifts to the student.

And he concludes, "Janis is just an exceptional employee at the university and deserves to be recognized for her consistent dedication, everyday, in every situation, and truly from her heart ... She has turned many students' lives around by her dedication and commitment to overcome obstacles to a meaningful education."

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

Lassiter Edits Journal on Collaborative Research in Anthropology

The first volume of a journal edited by Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter, director of the Graduate Humanities Program at the Marshall University Graduate College and professor of Humanities and Anthropology, has been published by the University of Nebraska Press.

The journal will be published annually. Volume 2 is scheduled to be released in October 2009, according to Lassiter.

He said "Collaborative Anthropologies" is a forum for dialogue on collaborative research in anthropology and closely related fields.

"But, importantly, the journal goes beyond the kind of interdisciplinary collaboration that implies 'collaborative research' as that between academic colleagues or two or more professional researchers," Lassiter said. "Although it includes discussion about these kinds of collaborative research, the journal has a special focus on the complex collaborations between and among researchers and the communities with which they work."

He said many anthropologists have done this kind of collaborative research for a long time, and he cites as an example his "Other Side of Middletown" book, written by a team of faculty, students, and members of the African American community in Muncie, Ind.

The journal is available for \$61 for institutions and \$36 for individuals. For more information, contact Lassiter at 6-1923.

Crystal Stewart

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computers and technology is wonderful when it works," she quips. "And it changes so quickly. I can look back and remember when cell phones were box-sized. But it empowers people to get an education who never had the opportunity before. They can take a class online or in their home town without driving an hour to get to class."

Currently she's excited about Wimba, a new entry into the stable of distance delivery that allows students to remain in their homes and interact with other students wherever they are located using a computer, webcam and microphone. "You can take a class from your home and be completely connected. The instructor can lecture, put you into groups or conduct class just as though you were sitting together in a classroom. There are changes going on all the time and there's a learning curve that makes it fun because there is always something new to learn," she says enthusiastically.

She's a soft touch where animals are concerned, with a very big heart for the defenseless. These days she cares for a menagerie which includes Pickle, a rescued dog; Monty, a cat that she adopted from an animal shelter; and an unnamed foster cat which periodically turns up at her door. "I snatched Monty from the chamber of death just in time. I can't leave any animal out in the cold."

But it's not all technology for the enterprising Stewart. She has a strong creative bent, which she displays in two of her favorite pastimes, photography and scrapbooking. "I love art, so photography was natural," she says. "I took a continuing education class in photography and I was hooked. I really like black and white photography; that's where you can be so creative." She takes photos of anything that catches her eye and always has a camera ready to shoot when she and her boyfriend, Matt, travel.

With an eye for both detail and artistic possibilities, she can let her imagination soar with scrapbooking. In addition to composing colorful and intensely personal mementoes of her life, she has created a living record that is the envy of her grandmothers. "They love to come to my house and look through my scrapbooks," she says laughing. "That's kind of a twist because usually you're looking through your grandparents' things." To date she's done five "big" books, which mostly run chronologically, and three "small" ones, which commemorate special events such as a major trip. And her stash of materials isn't likely to run dry. "I've got a trunk full of stuff to use," she adds. "And if it sparkles, I love it!"

And there's socialization among dedicated scrapbookers, which she relishes. "A group of us get together about once or twice a month to participate in things we call "crops" We share ideas and exchange materials. It's a great way to get new ideas while having fun."

She continues to marvel at the technological changes which have taken place in her job just since she started. "It's amazing how far we've come in delivering classes. The old methods were very cumbersome and limiting. Now people can take Marshall classes all over the world. We have students in Asia, for example, who are enrolled in classes and now we have totally synchronized audio and video. My theory is that we're here to make these changes easier for people. That's what my department is for."

Recreation Center

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To qualify for spouse, significant other, or dependent rates, a person must satisfy two of the following criteria: proof of joint financial responsibility, same last name, marriage license along with verifying identification for the employee.

In addition, those insured under PEIA who meet certain health criteria are eligible for support for a portion of Recreation Center fees.

Cereal Drive

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Simpson, director of Manna Meal, a nonprofit soup kitchen created in 1978 and housed in St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston.

Manna Meal feeds an average of 250 individuals daily. It is not a governmental program and relies on the financial generosity and volunteerism of individuals, religious communities, corporations, organizations and businesses.

To coordinate a large donation, please contact Kathy Zimmerman at 6-1992 or kzimmerm@marshall.edu.

Jazz Festival

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Ensemble and the Thundering Herd All-Stars. In addition, the Bridgeport High School Jazz Band will open the Jazz Festival on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 8 p.m.

A complete schedule of the jazz festival is available at www.marshall.edu/www/pressrelease.asp?ID=1500. Most events will take place in the Jomie Jazz Center on the Huntington campus, but Mendes will perform at 8 p.m. Jan. 31 in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. Tickets for this festival finale are available from the Marshall Artists Series in person at the box office or by calling ext. 6-6656. Adult tickets are \$60 and \$45. Full-time Marshall University students are allowed one free ticket each. Part-time Marshall students and youth under 17 years of age receive their tickets at half price.

For additional information on the Jazz Festival, contact Bingham at 304-696-3147.

Palmer

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Generation of Historians" in 2001. It was a comparative study of about 25 historians, British and American, born between about 1910 and 1925, whose careers and works were shaped primarily by the Great Depression and World War II.

"When I finished writing the book, I realized I had a lot of material left over, most of which involved changes in the composition and professional direction of history departments, and I decided there might be another book there," Palmer said. "I was able to supplement my earlier research with additional interviews and research archives."

Dr. David Pittenger, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said Palmer's book is an important contribution to the study of the history of higher education, especially Departments of History.