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Marshall to Observe Annual Constitution Week

Marshall University will observe Constitution Week 2009 with a variety of events on its Huntington campus. Although Constitution Week officially runs from Thursday, Sept. 17 (Constitution Day) through Thursday, Sept. 24 (John Marshall's birthday), the university has scheduled events from Monday, Sept. 14 through Sept. 24.

The Supreme Court will convene at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22 in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center and hear arguments. The roster and briefs for this session are posted on the Court's Web site, located at www.state.wv.us/wvsc/calendar/sept22_09ad.htm.

Dr. Alan Gould, executive director of Marshall's John Deaver Drinko Academy, which sponsors Constitution Week activities at MU, said some new events have been added to the Constitution Week agenda. The first of those is the presenting of the winners of the first Dan O'Hanlon Constitution Week and John Marshall Celebration Essay Competition at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17 in the John Marshall Dining Room, located on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center.

Next is a panel discussion titled "Blogging and the potential limits of the First Amendment," moderated by Chief Justice Brent Benjamin. It begins at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22 in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center and is open to the public. The panel discussion will be streamed live on Marshall University's Web site (www.marshall.edu) and televised live on Comcast Channel 25.

Another new event, "Congress on Campus," features former Congressmen Dawson Mathis, a Democrat from Georgia, and Ed Foreman, a Republican from Texas. Mathis and Foreman will be on campus Wednesday, Sept. 23 and Thursday, Sept. 24, meeting with various student groups, including political organizations and honoraries.

Traditional Constitution Week events begin at 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 14 with "An introduction to the game of quoits" on the west end of Buskirk Field. Quoits is an ancient and little-known sport related to horseshoe pitching

Marshall Research Community to Benefit from Federal Stimulus Award to State

Marshall University researchers and students will benefit from a \$2.6 million National Science Foundation grant to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

The cyberinfrastructure award, which was announced by U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller and Gov. Joe Manchin, will assist with scientific discovery by building capacity and promoting the use of high-performance computing cluster resources at Marshall University, West Virginia University and West Virginia State University.

More than \$1 million of the grant funds will be used at Marshall over the next three years to help upgrade computing networks and enhance immersive visualization capabilities

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that dates back to the early days of Olympic discus throwers. Quoits are donut shaped and as literature from the Drinko Academy relates, "If you can play horseshoes, you can play quoits." Gould said quoits was John Marshall's favorite game.

Teams are forming now to play in a quoits tournament that begins Tuesday, Sept. 15 and concludes Thursday, Sept. 17. Marshall faculty, staff and students may participate, and the deadline for team registration is 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14. For more information, visit www.marshall.edu/recsport/intramural.htm.

The President's Invitational Quoits Media Challenge, featuring Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp and members of the media, will take place at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. That event will be preceded at 11 a.m. by the cutting of the John Marshall Birthday Cake on the Memorial Student Center plaza.

Kay Scott Named Employee of the Month

Bonnie Kay Scott, Program Assistant for the West Virginia Autism Training Center, 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 for more than seven years, she was nominated by Gina Broce and Barbara Becker-Cottrill.

In their nomination they wrote, "As Program Assistant Kay is responsible for all word processing duties. She keeps the training center looking professional by consistently creating professional looking documents such as our bi-annual newsletter, our informational brochures,

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Kay Scott (center) receives her Employee of the Month award from Jim Stephens (right), Director of Human Resource Services. At left is Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill, who was among those who nominated Scott for the award.

Phillips Named to Lead Sustainability Department

Marshall University has established a Sustainability Department and has appointed Margie J. Phillips to lead the university's environmental and energy efficiency efforts,



Margie Phillips

according to President Stephen J. Kopp.

Phillips has served as Marshall University's Energy Analyst for more than 12 years. She began her job as Sustainability Manager earlier this month.

Kopp said the Sustainability Department at Marshall will help the university look for ways to conserve water and energy, reduce waste and incorporate green technologies and materials into its planning and operations.

"Universities can have a significant, positive impact on the environment through the incorporation of sustainable practices. We are under increasing pressure from our governments, students and communities to lessen our environmental footprint and we take that obligation seriously," Kopp said. "It is important for

Osborne Works on Display at Birke Art Gallery

Symbiosis, an exhibit of artwork by Erika Osborne, will be displayed at the Birke Art Gallery on the Huntington campus through Oct. 8.

The show opens with a reception in gallery on Monday evening, Sept. 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. Osborne will give a lecture concerning her work at 7 p.m.

Osborne's artwork deals directly with cultural connections to place and environment. She has exhibited extensively throughout the United States and has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, locally, nationally and internationally. Her work has been highlighted in regional publications along with national art magazines such as *Art Papers*, *Sculpture Magazine* and *Southwest Art Magazine*. Osborne received her B.F.A. from the University of Utah in painting and drawing and her M.F.A. from the University of New Mexico. She is on the faculty of West Virginia University.

Birke Art Gallery, located in Smith Hall, is open Mondays through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information contact Jaye Ike, Special Projects Coordinator for Marshall's College of Fine Arts, by phone at 304-696-3296 or by e-mail at jaye.ike@marshall.edu.

Marshall to have an accessible office with a leader who will keep us moving forward as we look for ways to become more environmentally sustainable.

"This goal is more than just what type of light bulbs we purchase or the volume of paper we recycle. Those things are important, but I am certain that the economic, social and environmental benefits of a sustainable Marshall University will reach far beyond the physical boundaries of our campuses and into our communities, region and, ultimately, our state. I am excited to see the effect that this department office will have on the entire Marshall University community."

Phillips has been affiliated with Marshall University since 1977 as a student, staff or part-time faculty member. She earned a Regents Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995, a master's degree in safety in 1996, and currently is pursuing an Education Specialist degree in adult and technical education with a minor in environmental geography.

Phillips will be involved in all aspects of sustainability on campus encouraging environmental responsibility in every corner of the university from purchasing decisions to landscaping and cleaning products to lighting fixtures. She said she is particularly excited to work with environmentally passionate students to develop worthwhile energy-saving initiatives.

"My pledge is to continue to research and develop methods to save energy while enhancing and preserving the environment for our community," Phillips said. "I've seen the desire to be environmentally responsible in our students; I hear it in the voices of our faculty and staff; and I know we can work together to discover feasible ways to lessen the environmental footprint of the university."

Mark Cutlip, director of Physical Plant, says Phillips' promotion to Sustainability Manager is a natural progression for her and a great fit for the university.

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MU-ADVANCE Receives NSF Funding

A group of faculty members at Marshall University has been awarded \$750,000 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to continue a successful initiative to increase the number of female science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) faculty members at the university.

Dr. Marcia A. Harrison, professor of biological sciences and the principal investigator on the grant, will use the funds to further innovative recruitment, retention and policy efforts undertaken at the university over the past three years.

The MU-ADVANCE program was established in 2006 with a \$1.2 million grant awarded through NSF's Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers (ADVANCE) program. The new funding will extend the program for two additional years.

Harrison's MU-ADVANCE co-investigators include Dr. Beverly C. Delidow, associate professor of biochemistry and microbiology; Dr. Patricia Y. Logan, associate professor of information technology and engineering; Dr. Elizabeth E. Murray, associate professor of integrated science and technology; and Dr. Judith A. Silver, professor of mathematics.

During the initial phase of the project, Harrison and her colleagues worked with teams of faculty, staff and administrators to analyze and review existing barriers to the success of female STEM faculty, and to develop new programs and policies to increase the representation and advancement of women.

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Sept. 25, 2009. Deadline is Sept. 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: Eric Lassiter

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Eric Lassiter

His scholarly studies have taken him from the plains of Oklahoma, where he lived and studied with the Kiowa Indians, to the very heartland of the U.S., where he wrote an award-winning book about a town with the pseudonym of Middletown.

Dr. Luke "Eric" Lassiter is the Director of the Graduate Humanities Program and Professor of Humanities and Anthropology; he came to Marshall in 2005 from Ball State University. Author of five books, four edited volumes, and more than 45

scholarly articles, his broad research has included a number of on-going projects with the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, a series of partnerships with African Americans in Muncie, Ind.—the site of the famous "Middletown" studies—and now collaborative research with a range of groups across southern West Virginia.

And for the past three years he and Graduate Humanities faculty and students have been engaged in an ambitious project to document and showcase the historic Glenwood estate.

If his academic plate is very full these days, that's nothing at all new for this dedicated scholar. His passion for research began as early as his high school days in Danville, Va., when he developed an avid interest in Native American issues, an interest that stayed with him through his college years. He eventually forged a set of relationships with the Kiowas, an Oklahoma southern plains tribe. During his college years, his summers were spent living in the community, recording and researching their language, song, and narrative traditions.

Eventually he would study Kiowa song full time, moving in 1993 to southwestern Oklahoma where he researched and wrote his doctoral dissertation on the Kiowas. He completed his dissertation in 1995 and in 1998 published *The Power of Kiowa Song*. Later a second book would follow, which, he says, was "about Kiowa churches and a unique kind of hymn that blends Kiowa song with Euro-American hymnody."

The relationships formed in the Kiowa community have lasted to this day, and Lassiter still makes several trips a year to visit—and work with—one of his key collaborators with whom he's worked from the very beginning: former Kiowa Tribal Chair Billy Evans Horse. They're writing a new book together on Horse's life history.

This collaborative approach to research and writing began in college and then graduate school as Lassiter developed an ethnographic approach that became known as "collaborative ethnography." Simply put, he explains, that means that members of a community participate closely in the research process (shaping research questions, for example), and more importantly, in the writing and production of that research in whatever form it might take. His book, *The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography*—which is in a series on writing and publishing from the University of Chicago Press—covers the history of this method in the social sciences and humanities, but, he says, it all goes back to his work with the Kiowas.

After receiving his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he was a visiting assistant professor at Transylvania University before accepting a faculty position at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. It was during this time that he became involved with, and was a fellow at, the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, an experimental center that partners faculty and students with community organizations in the Muncie community. "This is an extraordinary center for teaching and learning, which allows faculty and students from a variety of disciplines to work together on an interdisciplinary project, one that is responsive to a commu-

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Kay Scott

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signs, display board items and forms, just to name a few. If we have a question about a computer program, Kay is the person we go to with questions and she is always willing to help. She not only performs these duties for the staff in our Huntington office, but also for our staff who are located across the state. She remains very calm under pressure."

In addition, they note that when staff from all over the state come to the campus for quarterly all-agency meetings, "She handles all their requests for assistance and makes sure they do not leave until she has done everything she can for them. In addition to her program assistant/word processing duties, Kay serves as our 'first backup' receptionist. When our regular receptionist is out of the office...Kay very cheerfully fills in. With her friendly demeanor and willingness to assist everyone, callers often comment about how friendly and helpful she is to them."

In closing the nominators express high praise and appreciation for not only Scott's efficiency but also her dedication to her job. "Kay has an extremely responsible attitude toward her job and has an excellence attendance record. She has a very special rapport with all our staff and all of our students...We all appreciate Kay and all she does for the Autism Training Center and we feel very fortunate to have the privilege of working with her."

She was presented with a plaque and a check for \$100 by Jim Stephens, Director of Human Resource Services.

Deadline Nears for Reynolds, Pickens-Queen Faculty Awards

Nominations for two faculty awards, the Pickens-Queen Teaching Award, which recognizes teaching achievement by newer faculty members and the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award, are being sought. Nominations for both awards, which can be made by students, faculty and alumni, will be accepted through Sept. 25. Nomination forms and criteria can be accessed at www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/facultyresources.asp.

The Pickens-Queen award, established through a gift from Glenn and Carol Queen and Ethel Pickens, recognizes the importance placed on teaching at Marshall University and provides encouragement and incentive for teaching achievement by newer faculty members. The awards for 2009-10, including cash awards of \$1,000 each, will be presented to three junior faculty members at the Spring General Faculty meeting in April 2010. All faculty members engaged in teaching on a full-time, tenured or tenure-track appointment at the current rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor who have completed 1 to 5 years of service at Marshall University are eligible; a person is first eligible to apply at the beginning of the 2nd year and may apply at the beginning of the 6th year.

The Marshall and Shirley Reynolds award was established to recognize and give evidence of the importance placed on superior teaching at Marshall University and to provide encouragement and incentive for teaching achievement. The award for 2009-10, including a cash award of \$3,000, will be presented at the spring General Faculty meeting. Eligible faculty members must: be tenured or tenure-track; be at or above the rank of Assistant Professor; be engaged in teaching full time; and have a minimum of 6 years of service at Marshall; (a person is first eligible to apply at the beginning of the 7th year).

Eric Lassiter

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nity-defined issue or need. There have been a number of award-winning projects which have come out of the center including theatrical productions, films and books."

In fact one of the award-winning projects was Lassiter's. The city of Muncie, once designated "Middletown," he explains, was the topic of a famous set of studies originally conducted in the 1920s and '30s that exhaustively examined the changes that occurred as Americans migrated from rural to urban areas. Researchers sought to study the consequences of these changes—such as moving from farming to factory work—in order to discover key cultural norms and to better understand social change. Researchers have studied and written about Muncie to this day. But one aspect of the city that had never been fully researched or explored extensively was the importance to the region of the African American community.

Along with his wife, Elizabeth Campbell, who at the time was working very closely with Muncie's African American community, and a committed state legislator, Hurley Goodall, Lassiter and a group of students began research that would ultimately result in the book, *The Other Side of Middletown: Exploring Muncie's African American Community*. According to Lassiter, more than 75 people worked on the project, including faculty, students, and community participants. The book won the prestigious Margaret Mead Award in 2005.

"That award was quite an honor, and it was such a surprise . . . By far, it was the most transforming experience for me as a teacher and a scholar."

He was drawn to the Graduate Humanities program at Marshall because it offered increased opportunities for collaboration, and for closely linking community and curriculum through outreach, projects and partnerships with, for example, school districts and school organizations. He hasn't been disappointed.

One of the projects on which he has been working is the three-phase Glenwood Project, which has required a major amount of work on his part as well as on the part of other Graduate Humanities faculty and students. "Glenwood's importance is that it provides a window into the history of not only the Kanawha Valley but also West Virginia," he explains. Several of the owners of the estate, which at one time took up the biggest part of Charleston's entire west side, were important not only to the city and state but to the nation as well. Fortunately they left a treasure trove of historical documents behind. After two years of collecting information, writing papers and holding symposiums, the faculty and students created and constructed an elaborate traveling exhibit which has been circulating to schools, libraries, churches, and other public venues since last February and will continue its travel until mid-January, 2010.

There's certainly no downtime in his schedule. In addition to his numerous publications, he was recently named editor of a new journal, *Collaborative Anthropologies*, an annual publication that features work like his with the Kiowas and in Middletown. Then there is the upcoming celebration this semester of the 30th anniversary of the Graduate Humanities Program that will include the publication of an anthology featuring creative and scholarly work by faculty and students involved with the program over the past 30 years. Add to that, he and wife, a folklorist who is currently writing a doctoral dissertation in English Composition, are working to meet a publishing deadline for a new book on teaching ethnography. It's a tight schedule but he thrives on it. "I take a traditional approach to academe, scholarship, teaching, and learning; but I also have a deep interest in how the academy is changing and where it's going. To be honest, though, my work is my life. I consider that being a teacher-scholar is a full-time job. It's a life calling, so I'm willing to spend 24/7 on it."

His work ethic came from his family, he believes. "My family on both sides were farmers in Eastern North Carolina, since before the Revolutionary War. They were hard-working people who carried the mentality of that hard work and discipline into their daily lives. My parents were in the first generation in over 175 years to leave the farm and go into other professions."

His father was a pediatrician; his mother worked as a music teacher, homemaker, counselor and therapist. Both are now retired. Lassiter grew up with three older brothers and a younger sister. He remembers they were a very lively family who as adults went in very different directions. "Now that could be the subject of an anthropological study!" he says with a hearty laugh.

Federal Stimulus Award

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ties. Dr. Tony Szwilski, professor of engineering and director of the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences, will coordinate the project for Marshall.

According to Dr. John Maher, vice president for research and executive director of the Marshall University Research Corporation, the grant will be used to establish advanced high-performance computing and visualization resources at Marshall and to assist with connection to other high-performance computing systems and resources around the world, allowing faculty researchers – and their students – to collaborate in real time without geographic limitations.

"Engineering and scientific research today require computing infrastructure that will allow faculty to work with very large data sets and complex computational systems. This project will give our researchers tools to make them more competitive for outside funding, and will allow them to work with colleagues across the country and around the world," said Maher. "We are pleased to be part of this collaborative."

The award was funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Phillips

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"She has been tracking utility usage and researching ways to save on utility costs since she started at Marshall," Cutlip said. "She has saved the university thousands of dollars and has obtained several grants to finance energy efficiency projects on the Huntington Campus . . . I am certain she will inspire good environmental stewardship in all of us."

The Sustainability Department will be located within the University's Physical Plant. A portion of Phillips' salary will come from the student-initiated Green Fee, which was proposed by members of the Student Sierra Coalition and the Student Government Association during an SGA-sanctioned election in 2008. The initiative was presented by President Kopp on behalf of the students and passed by the Board of Governors this summer. The \$5 student fee also will be used to fund sustainability projects on campus. A group of students, faculty and staff, called the Greening Marshall Committee, will make recommendations for projects to Phillips.

For more information, contact Phillips at 304-696-2992.

MU-ADVANCE

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Harrison said, "The ADVANCE program nationally is quite competitive, so this extension demonstrates that NSF believes what we are doing here at Marshall is working. We now plan to turn our attention to sustaining our efforts long term by ensuring continued growth and institutionalization of the program."

President Stephen J. Kopp congratulated MU-ADVANCE leaders for the recent milestone.

"On behalf of the entire Marshall University community, I salute Dr. Harrison and her co-investigators for securing this significant additional funding for MU-ADVANCE," he said. "The successes of this exemplary program in large part are due to the exceptional leadership and commitment Marcia and her colleagues have brought to this important initiative. I truly look forward to working with them to continue the momentum ADVANCE has created across our campus."