

WE ARE... MARSHALL®

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Homecoming to Feature Marshall Traditions

Keeping and remembering cherished traditions is the theme of the 2009 Homecoming as "Traditions to Treasure" prepares a host of activities to welcome back alumni and visitors to the campus Oct. 1-3.

The festivities include the traditional parade, numerous reunion events, tailgating parties, a comedy show, post game parties and of course the football game against East Carolina which has a noon kickoff at Joan C. Edwards Stadium, on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Because of the early start time for the game, the Homecoming parade will take off from the Big Sandy Superstore Arena Thursday, Oct. 1 beginning at 7 p.m. and will wind its way to the Joan C. Edwards Stadium. This year's grand marshal will be Marshall football standout Troy Brown, former member of three Super Bowl Champion New England Patriot teams. He was the recipient of the 2006 MUAA Distinguished Alumni Award.

Friday will bring a full day of events, opening with the Coaches' Breakfast which will be broadcast live from the Erickson Alumni Chapter from 6 to 10 a.m. Prizes for the winners of the office decorating contest will be awarded during the breakfast.



A joint reception in support of the Nate Ruffin Initiative will be held by the Black Alumni Inc. and the MUAA from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Marshall CTC Culinary Institute in downtown Huntington.

As part of the Homecoming entertainment comedian Mike Birbiglia, a talk show regular and the star of two Comedy Central Presents, will bring his special brand of humor to the Veterans Memorial Field House, Friday evening at 8 p.m.

On Saturday several groups will host events to welcome back alumni and friends. In addition, runners can take part in the Alumni 5K Run, which begins at 8 a.m. at Pullman Square. This weekend is also Parents and Family Weekend, so to celebrate there will be an open house for parents at the H.E.L.P. Center from 9:30-11 a.m. The brunch under the tent tailgate commences at 10 a.m. at the Cam Henderson Plaza. Post-game festivities include the Boogie Fever Post-Game Party from 6-11 p.m. at Mac-Reedo's, located at the corner of Seventh Ave. and Eighth Street and The Step Show, sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council. For more information on the Step Show go to www.marshall.edu/NPHC.

President Kopp to Deliver State of the University Address at General Faculty Meeting

Marshall University President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp will deliver a State of the University address during the fall General Faculty meeting, which starts at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29 in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on the Huntington campus.

The agenda includes:

- Welcoming remarks by the Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Cam Brammer
- Singing of the Star Spangled Banner by Dr. Larry Stickler
- Announcements and the discussion of proposed amendments to The Constitution of the Marshall University Faculty by Brammer
- Introduction of faculty representatives by Dr. Brammer
- Introduction of new administrators by Provost Dr. Gayle Ormiston, and the introduction of 64 new faculty by Brammer and School of Medicine Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Dr. Robert C. Nerhood
- A State of the Faculty address by Brammer
- The State of the University address by Kopp.

All faculty, staff, students and members of the public are invited to attend. After the meeting a reception to honor the new university personnel will be held in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

New faculty representatives to be introduced are: Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF), Dr. Chuck Bailey; and MU Board of Governors, Dr. Larry Stickler.

Persons with new administrative positions to be introduced are: Dr. Monica Brooks, assistant vice president for information technology, online learning and libraries; Dr. Rudy Pauley, associate vice president for outreach and continuing studies; Dr. Chong Kim, dean, Elizabeth McDowell Lewis College of Business; Dr. Gretchen Oley, interim dean, College of Health Professions; Dr. Charles Somerville, dean, College of Science; Dr. Donna Spindel, dean, Graduate College; Dr. Mary Todd, founding dean, University Honors College; Dr. David Castleberry, associate dean, College of Fine Arts; and Dr. Jamie Warner, associate dean, College of Liberal Arts.

New faculty to be introduced are:

- College of Education & Human Services – Anthony Dixon and James Farmer

(continued on page 4)

American Legion Post Conducts Fundraiser for Honaker Scholarship

A recent fundraiser conducted by American Legion Post 16 in Huntington raised \$1,150 to be donated to the Marshall University Foundation for the John J. Honaker Memorial ROTC Scholarship at Marshall. The money was raised at a spaghetti dinner at the Legion.



From left, Lance West, vice president for development with the Marshall University Foundation, Dr. Chong Kim, dean of Marshall's Lewis College of Business, Capt. Michael G. Armstrong with Marshall ROTC, and Dr. Dan Evans, a Marshall University biology professor and vice commander of American Legion Post 16, pose with an oversized check of \$1,150 presented by Post 16 to the MU Foundation Sept. 18.

Technology Management Student to Participate in Science and Technology Policy Fellowship

Technology Management M.S. student, Janet Fraser, has been selected as a participant in the prestigious Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C. Fraser is assigned to the Transportation Research Board where she will conduct research on a variety of topics relating to transportation safety and emergency medical services. She is the only one of 26 fellows who was accepted without having completed an advanced degree. She also provided significant technical testimony at the Chemical Safety Board meeting in Institute, WV, April 23, 2009, on the 2008 Bayer CropScience Pesticide Waste Tank Explosion.

Honaker died in an automobile accident in summer 2000 just six months after being commissioned a second lieutenant in Marshall University's ROTC program. The scholarship was established in January 2001 in Honaker's memory. The recipient of the Honaker scholarship must be an outstanding ROTC Cadet at Marshall University.

The addition of the \$1,150 from the fundraiser brings the endowed fund total to \$4,650. Capt. Michael G. Armstrong with Marshall ROTC said the goal is to raise at least \$350 more to bring the scholarship fund total to \$5,000.

Contributions by check should be made payable to the Marshall University Foundation and earmarked for the John J. Honaker Memorial ROTC Scholarship. Checks may be mailed to Armstrong at 216 Gullickson Hall, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755.

Committee Seeks Nominations for Honorary Degree Recipients, Commencement Speaker

The University Functions Committee is in the process of soliciting nominations for individuals to be considered for commencement speaker at the spring graduation ceremony and/or a recipient of an honorary degree.

When considering an individual for nomination it should be taken into consideration that the recipient should be a person whose contribution to the university and/or humanity clearly merits such recognition.

The deadline for submitting a nomination is October 15. The nomination is to include supporting and biographical data and should be sent to the committee chair, Jamey Halleck, Division of Management, Marketing & MIS.

Channel 25 Premieres Hollis Retrospective

It's the season for television premieres and Marshall's cable channel 25 is having one of its own.

Journalism Professor Dan Hollis has won numerous awards for his videos showcasing some of the people, events and places of West Virginia. Now he has put clips of several of those videos together in a retrospective commemorating his first 10 years at Marshall.

The 30-minute show titled "A Collection" will air on Comcast Channel 25 at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday after "We Are Marshall Today" starting Monday, Sept. 21.

"We just thought it would be a fun thing to do, to go back and look at some of my favorite stories," Hollis said. "I certainly had fun remembering some of those times and people as I put this show together."

Some of the clips included in the showcase are the winning moment of the 1999 Mid-American Conference championship football game, a look at Bridge Day and the most recent video about this spring's Vandalia Gathering.

The show can also be found on youtube.com/HerdVideo.

Golf Course Offers Special Rates to Marshall Community

Esquire Golf Course, located near Barboursville, has established special golf rates for Marshall students, faculty, and staff. Under this program 18-hole rates are \$25 with cart, \$17 walking, and 9-hole rates are \$15 with cart and \$10 walking. For information on starting times and directions to the course call 304.736.1476.

WE ARE... MARSHALL®



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Oct. 9, 2009. Deadline is Oct. 2. 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: Sherri Stepp

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Sherri Stepp

Sherri Stepp gets asked all kinds of questions—the dimension of a dorm room desk, parking availability and regulations, student health and lots and lots of questions about financial aid and payment of tuition—but students aren't posing the questions. It's their parents who want to know. No matter what the topic, she's here to help find an answer.

Stepp's face and name are familiar to incoming freshmen and their parents, as she's one of the first people to greet them during orientation sessions. As the Parent Coordinator, her primary function is to be a liaison between the university and parents. When families don't know whom to contact for information or if they have questions in general, she'll steer them to the right department and persons.

"When they don't know whom to go to for answers they can contact me and I'll help them find the right person. Many times, I can answer their questions," she says. "I let students and their parents know about the services and options that are available here. I get asked a whole range of questions, just about anything. I do my best to make sure they don't feel like they're getting the run-around. When it comes to academic concerns, though, I try to encourage parents to refer their students to the appropriate academic advisors."

Her position, a relatively new one, began Feb. 1, 2005. "There always were orientation activities; I just got added to the mix," she says. Stepp is certainly well qualified for her duties, coming from both sides of the university. She has an undergraduate degree in journalism and a master's degree in adult education from Marshall and spent 15 years working in the Financial Aid office before taking this job. The financial aid experience has been particularly useful, she says. "That knowledge has paid off because I get a lot of financial aid questions, but I know when to stop as I've been gone from that office for a while. But I know whom to send people to for answers."

Two separate weeks in the summer are set aside for orientation sessions for incoming students and there's another day just prior to the start of fall classes. "During these sessions we start out with students and parents together, with President Kopp welcoming them and a few presentations from various university services. Then the students leave to take part in other activities and I remain with the parents to explain my role and to answer questions and offer information on how to contact me in the future. Orientation can be an information overload for parents, so I emphasize that once they go home, they can always contact me if they have questions."

Many of her inquiries concern academic or financial matters, but during the school year she occasionally gets inquiries from parents who say they haven't heard from their student for a while and they ask her help in checking on them. In cases like this, Stepp says, "We contact the residence hall staff to check on the student, but we don't do anything intrusive. We just leave a message from the parent."

(continued on page 4)

Kaufmann Project On Display at U. of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Daniel Kaufmann, a photographer who just joined the art and design faculty in the College of Fine Arts, has been chosen to participate in *Residual Reality*, an exhibition at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The exhibition began Sept. 10 and will continue through Oct. 1.

"Residual Reality" presents photo collages, virtual environments, sculptures and video installations. It highlights artists such as Robert Heineken, Joyce Neimanas and Ken Josephson, who are not photographers



"House Home #5," a work by new faculty member Daniel Kaufman, is part of a project being exhibited at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

in the traditional sense but rather artists who used photographs to make art and invented visual images that are not documents of the world. While they do deal with existence and observation of the concrete, they use photography in ways that challenge process, rules and forms.

"Participating in the Residual Reality exhibition has been a wonderful opportunity for me, as an artist who enjoys pushing the boundaries of photography," Kaufmann said. "The range of participants in the exhibition represents ... artists who have challenged the medium of photography from the 1960s to the present."

Originally from north Florida, Kaufmann received his B.S. from Florida State University and his M.F.A. in

(continued on page 4)

Modern Languages, Classics Faculty Participate in Foreign Language Teachers Association Meeting

Four members of the Marshall Department of Modern Languages and Classics took part in the West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers Association (WVFLTA) annual conference September 18 and 19, 2009, in Elkins, WV. Dr. Christina Huhn, Assistant Professor of Spanish Education, Dr. E. Del Chrol, Assistant Professor of Classics, Dr. María Carmen Riddel, Professor of Spanish, and Dr. Nancy Stump, Professor of French were active participants in the 41st annual conference.

Huhn serves as vice-president of WVFLTA, a statewide organization that promotes the study and teaching of world languages in West Virginia. Brad Martin, a 1979 Marshall graduate currently of Elkins, WV, is the organization president.

The conference, entitled **Renewing our Vision: Proficiency over Mastery**, was held at Davis and Elkins College and Elkins High School in Elkins, WV. Huhn was Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and Riddel spoke about Marshall University Department of Modern Languages ongoing summer study abroad programs in Spain and France, as well as the recently added Masters Degree in Spanish. The Latin and Classics department also provided information on their degree programs.

(continued on page 4)

Sherri Stepp

from Page 3

In order to keep families up to date about services to Marshall, she puts out publications just for them. In a magazine for the parents of freshmen, she highlights the services that are available as well as information about academic programs. She writes many of the articles but she welcomes articles written by other staff members, students and parents as well. She also edits a guide for parents with information about Marshall, which is distributed at orientation sessions. And, demonstrating her versatility, she's a perceptive photographer who takes most of the photos used in the publications.

In addition to orientation, Parent and Family Weekend is another very busy time for her. It usually takes place, when possible, on the same weekend as Homecoming, so this year it will be Oct. 2 through 4. "We try to make it a festive event for parents, an event they'll want to come to. There will be a picnic and pep rally on Friday evening and a tailgate party Saturday morning. We usually have 500 to 600 people attend the various activities."

Stepp wears another hat as the director of the John Marshall Emerging Leaders Institute (JMELI), a program that selects applicants from the incoming freshman class and works with them throughout their years at Marshall. Now entering their fourth year, the group of approximately 23 students meets weekly on Friday afternoons to do team-building exercises and to hear speakers talk about leadership skills, time management, vision, ethics and other subjects. The group will soon be welcoming additional students.

"We visit the University 101 classes at the beginning of the year to recruit students into this group and we participate in the campus organization fair and have interest sessions in the freshman residence halls," she explains. There is a selection process with a goal of recruiting qualified students. "We're looking for leadership potential, students who have the desire to get involved in student organizations because that's what we want them to do. This is another opportunity for me to remain connected with the students. When I took on the JMELI role, it gave me the chance to be involved with students again."

Stepp grew up in Chesapeake, Ohio, where she lives with her husband Eugene and daughter, Kelsey Goodall, a senior at Chesapeake High school. While attending Marshall as an undergraduate she worked in the financial aid office and after graduation was employed by the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program for three years before returning to work at her alma mater.

The Stepp household is a lively one, with the two dogs and three cats that have found their way to this compassionate home. They take in strays and feed the hungry animals that show up at their doorstep. "We're softhearted; we just can't turn an animal away," she says with resignation. The family likes to take short trips as time and schedules allow, and fortunately, her parents Larry and Olga Sumpter live nearby and take care of their menagerie.

Stepp sings with a worship team at Rockwood Baptist Church but she speaks about her singing ability with deprecating humor. "There's no talent involved here; the Bible says to make a joyful noise, so I do make a noise of some kind." And she shows another creative side with the array of colorful scrapbooks she crafts around family trips, Kelsey's activities, and other events.

And come next year, for the first time she'll be on both sides of the podium, experiencing the orientation process through the eyes of a parent as well, as Kelsey plans to attend Marshall.

"I feel lucky that I'm doing what I really want to do," she says. "Years ago I saw an ad for this kind of position at another university and I thought, 'I want that position,' and now I have it."

General Faculty Meeting

from Page 1

- College of Fine Arts – Miyuki Akai Cook, Daniel Kaufmann, Natalie Larsen and Eric Ruegg
- College of Health Professions – Muhammad Amjad, Susan Booton, Andrea Criss, Penny Daniels, Nancy Elkins, Klara Kovacs and Jeremy Mullins
- College of Information Technology and Engineering – Paulus Wahjudi and Isaac Wait
- College of Liberal Arts – Kevin Cline, Jamie Hickman-Weaver, Jane Hill, Nicholas Kelling, Cheryl Lentes, Genevieve Meyers, Cody Mullins, David Peavler, Rachel Peckham, Paula Sanchez-Rebollo, Anara Tabyshalieva, Jennifer Tiano, Cynthia Torppa and Jill Treftz
- College of Science – Leonard Hand, Derrick Kolling, Jeffrey Kovatch, Seungjin Lim, Carl Mummert, John Sammons and Suman Sanyal
- Elizabeth McDowell Lewis College of Business – Rolland Fields and Doohee Lee
- Marshall University Graduate College – Andrew Burck and Lori Ellison
- W. Page Pitt School of Journalism & Mass Communications – Christine Ingersoll
- Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine – Rene Battista, Vincent Battista, Amy Chambers, Holly Dudash, Holly Dyer, Carol Foster, Kausar Jabbar, Jung Han Kim, Benjamin Lafferty, Richard Matthews, Jeffrey Miles, Magdalena Muchlinski, Steven Novotny, Adenrele Olajide, Omolola Olajide, Peter Ottaviano, Eva Patton-Tackett, Sarah Price, Travis Salisbury, Rajesh Sehgal, Maria Serrat, Wei-ping Zeng and Margie Zdrojewski.

For more information on the General Faculty meeting, contact Bernice Bullock with the Faculty Senate at 304-696-4376.

Kaufmann

from Page 3

Photography from the University of New Mexico. His most recent work explores the relationships among living spaces, construction of identity and consumerism. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including the Pingyao Photography Festival in China.

"We're excited to bring someone of Daniel Kaufmann's caliber to the Department of Art and Design at Marshall University," said Byron Clercx, chair of the Department of Art and Design. "This rich exhibition features nationally renowned photographers with emerging new voices in the field, like Kaufmann's. Daniel's highly detailed photographs of domestic spaces challenge viewers to reconsider how (their) identity is constructed through metaphoric and material objects."

Modern Languages

from Page 3

Marshall remains the only campus in the state to offer degrees in both Latin and Greek.

Conference participants represented world language educators at all levels from around the state. In addition to representation from both public and private universities, world language teachers from throughout the state participated.