

# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

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## Lawrence Named Professor of the Year

Dr. Bonita Lawrence, professor and associate chair of mathematics, was named 2009 Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia earlier this month at a banquet in Charleston.



Dr. Bonita Lawrence

Lawrence, who was one of five finalists attending the banquet, received \$10,000 and a trophy. The runner-up received \$1,000 and the remaining three finalists received \$500 each.

The Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia each year honors an outstanding faculty member at a West Virginia college or university.

"[At Marshall] I have found a nice home where I can teach young people about the beauty of mathematics in such a way that is a creative outlet for me," Lawrence said. "I am happy."

"As a teacher, her most distinguishing characteristic is

her enthusiasm – enthusiasm for her students, for learning and for her great love of mathematics," said Dr. Gayle A. Ormiston, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Marshall. "In her classes, her enthusiasm translates into the expectation that everyone is

### Forensic Chemistry Professor Named to Editorial Board

Dr. J. Graham Rankin, associate professor of the Marshall University forensic science graduate program, has been named to the editorial board of the *Journal of ASTM International*.

One of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world, ASTM International is a source for technical standards for materials, products, systems and services.

A forensic chemist, Rankin will serve as associate editor of the journal's Medical, Health, and Safety section, which is expanding its coverage of forensic science. He brings to the position experience with developing new standards and improving existing ones. He incorporates ASTM standard methods in his teaching and research, and also serves on several ASTM committees, including Forensic Science, Homeland Security Applications and Environmental Standards. He is the co-chairman of the Criminalistics subcommittee, which develops standard methods used by forensic laboratories around the world.

Rankin says he looks forward to making contributions to the journal.

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capable of learning even the most difficult mathematical material."

Lawrence has been at Marshall since August 2001 when she was hired as an assistant professor of mathematics. She was promoted to associate professor in 2003, granted tenure in 2005 and promoted to professor in 2007. She received the Marshall University Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award for 2001 and 2006, the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award for 2004 and the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award in 2009.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1979 from Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., her Master of Science in Mathematics in 1990 from Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., and her Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences in 1994 from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Lawrence is an avid knitter and says she enjoys teaching and learning from others about the craft. She also is active in running, cycling, and rowing her sculling boat in the Ohio River. A volunteer with the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center in Huntington, she has been part of all the major refurbishing efforts that have occurred in the past four years. She is married to Dr. Clayton T. Brooks, who is also a member of the Marshall faculty.

### Women's Studies Director is New Chair of West Virginia Women's Commission

Dr. Kat D. Williams, director of Marshall University's Women's Studies program, is the new chair of the West Virginia Women's Commission.

Williams, who also is an associate professor of history at Marshall, served as vice-chair of the Women's Commission prior to becoming chair in January.



Dr. Kat Williams

A native of Louisville, Ky., Williams earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of Louisville, and a doctorate in history from the University of Kentucky. She has lived in West Virginia for the past 10 years.

Williams has served in numerous management and advocacy roles over the past several years.

"It is an honor to be chosen by the governor to chair this very important commission. Women of West Virginia rank near the bottom in political participation. We make 77 cents on the

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# Dickinson Appointed to Archives and History Commission

Jack Dickinson, bibliographer at Marshall University, has been selected by Gov. Joe Manchin to serve on the West Virginia Archives and History Commission. His term runs until June 2012.

Dickinson, who has been at Marshall for eight years, is bibliographer of the Rosanna A. Blake Library of Confederate History in MU's Special Collections, located in the Morrow Library on the Huntington campus.

"I feel honored to serve on the archives and history commission and I hope I can make a meaningful contribution to what they do," Dickinson said.

The West Virginia Department of Archives and History, Dickinson said, is the repository for the state of West Virginia's primary records, such as county records, census and military records dating back to the Revolutionary War, floods and coal mine accidents – "materials that don't exist anywhere else," Dickinson said.

## Foundation Launches Facebook Page

The Marshall University Foundation, Inc. has a new Facebook fan page designed to keep Marshall University supporters and friends in touch with the priorities of the foundation and upcoming events at the Foundation Hall: Home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

The Marshall University Foundation, Inc. invites supporters, friends and alumni to become fans of The Marshall University Foundation on Facebook, located at [www.facebook.com/marshallfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/marshallfoundation). Fans are the first to receive announcements of major gifts to the university and upcoming events in the new Foundation Hall, as well as access to photographs of the new facility. The page is designed as part of an effort to increase communication with donors and friends while promoting the new Foundation Hall: Home of the Erickson Alumni Center, which opened to the public in February.

Foundation CEO Dr. Ron Area said he hopes the new page will increase the foundation's communication efforts.

"We are most interested in the opportunity social media sites provide in helping communicate with our donors and the Marshall community," Area said. "This is also another excellent way to acknowledge the contributions made by many of our loyal supporters. We want to say thank you to those who continue to assist our work in advancing the university. Facebook provides another effective way to do this."

The Archives and History Commission serves as the state review board for the Archives and the State Museum, reviews and approves grants, and nominations for state historical markers and nominations for the National Register of Historic sites.

Dickinson has authored 12 books on the Civil War over the past 25 years and co-authored with his wife three books on the railroad history of southern West Virginia.

"More than half of the research on those books came from the West Virginia Archives," Dickinson said. "I feel like I understand and appreciate the things the Archives have and what they do. My hope is that those two parts of my life (author and bibliographer) have given me the background needed to serve on the commission," Dickinson said.

## Tuba and Euphonium Day Scheduled for April 10

The Department of Music will host its first Tuba and Euphonium Day beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 10. The event will be under the direction of Dr. George Palton, who teaches tuba at Marshall.

"The day will include performances, clinics, and conclude with a mass ensemble," Palton said. "Bring your horns!"

Guest artists will include Lloyd Bone, euphonium, (assistant professor of music at Glenville State University); Zach Collins, tuba (assistant professor of music at Indiana University of Pennsylvania); Sean Greene, tuba (assistant professor of music at Lincoln Memorial University); the Ohio University Tuba Euphonium Ensemble, directed by Jason Smith; and the Capital University Tuba Euphonium Ensemble, directed by Tony Zilincik.

The day's activities will include a performance of the winner of the 2010 Ralph Taylor Award in Composition, *Soaring*, by Andy Francis. The award is sponsored by the Marshall University chapters of the International Tuba and Euphonium Association and the Society of Composers Inc. and is named for Dr. Ralph Taylor, an emeritus faculty member at Marshall who is an avid amateur low brass musician and supporter of the arts in Huntington. The judging panel consisted of Oystein Baadsvik, international tuba soloist; Velvet Brown, associate professor of tuba and euphonium at Penn State University; and Jason Smith, associate professor of tuba, euphonium, and theory at Ohio University and editor of the *Journal for the International Tuba Euphonium Association*.

Palton is originally from Cleveland, Ohio, and earned his doctorate in tuba performance from the University of Kentucky. He is an active tuba soloist and his accomplishments include being named winner of the tuba artist competition at the 2006 International Tuba Euphonium Conference. As a teacher, he is very active in the public schools in addition to his work at Marshall. Palton is known for his arranging and development of pedagogical materials and has numerous publications with the Tuba-Euphonium Press, Cimarron Music, and in the *Journal for the International Tuba Euphonium Association*.

Admission is free and open to the public. For further information about this event or music at Marshall University, call 304-696-3117 or e-mail Palton at [palton@marshall.edu](mailto:palton@marshall.edu).

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of April 2, 2010. Deadline is March 26. 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](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).

## Profile: Helen Majdalany



Helen Majdalany

She traded the bustle of New York City and the intriguing halls of the United Nations headquarters for the serenity of Huntington and a quieter life on the Marshall campus.

But for Helen Majdalany, a Program Assistant in the Department of Theatre, that journey began in pain and grief as she and her family struggled to deal with an unfathomable tragedy. A native of Beirut, Lebanon, the multilingual Majdalany had spent 30 years in New York City, using her language skills in a

variety of jobs at places that included the United Nations and private companies. Life as she knew it ended in 2003 when both her sister, Nouhad Majdalany Hanna, and her brother-in-law, noted Huntington cardiologist and Marshall medical school faculty member Dr. Joseph Hanna, died when the helicopter on which they were passengers crashed while on a tour of the Grand Canyon.

The loss was devastating, not only to the family but to the community as well. The couple was well known locally for their charitable and community work. Without hesitation, Helen left her job and life in New York and quickly moved to Huntington to comfort and aid the family, especially her nephews, William and Afif Alain. Although both young men were in college in other states at the time of the tragedy, Majdalany says the closeness of the family cannot be understated.

"I can't describe how close the family was. My sister was so devoted, and my brother-in-law and the boys were extremely connected. The loss was so deep and devastating for the whole family. I thought I could help by moving from New York to Huntington to take care of the household and to just be there for them, so I promptly did it and I've never regretted it."

Growing up in Beirut, Majdalany, like most other Lebanese children, she says, was trilingual, with Arabic and French as her first languages and English as a third. From early on it was apparent she had a special affinity for languages and she eventually added additional ones, including German, to her repertoire. While attending college she worked full-time to help support herself. After completing a B.A. in history, she taught at the Lycée Francais, and also earned a master's degree in contemporary history from the Ecole des Lettres Superieures - University of Lyons in Beirut. Soon after she won a scholarship to study socio-economics in Paris.

"Going to Paris was such a welcome change. It broadened my life experience by exposing me to that rich culture ... In Paris I enjoyed visiting all sorts of exhibits, book fairs and museums, especially the Louvre. I also frequently flew to the U.S. to visit my older brother in New York, and my sister Nouhad and her family, who were then in Houston."

Eventually Majdalany settled in New York. She first worked at the Mission of Algeria to the United Nations, then moved to a business-to-business network venture on Wall Street and lived the "dot com" experience. Later, she worked at a French company's headquarters in midtown Manhattan, and then spent two years in the department of Art and Humanities at Teachers College - Columbia University, which included 12 programs and some 140 faculty, lecturers and instructors. "That was a lot of fun," she remembers.

A skilled translator, in her free time Majdalany has translated five books, including books of poetry and short stories from Arabic into French. She's modest to a fault

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## Undergraduate Game Design Program One of Nation's Top 50

Marshall University is one of the 50 best undergraduate institutions in the U.S. and Canada to study game design, according to The Princeton Review, one of America's most widely known education services and test preparation companies.

The Princeton Review developed its "Top 50 Undergraduate Game Design Programs" list - the first project of its kind - in partnership with *GamePro*, one of the most respected brands in the video game industry, reaching more than 3 million gamers a month.

The list is reported in *GamePro's* April 2010 issue and on the Web sites of The Princeton Review ([www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)) and *GamePro* ([www.gamepro.com](http://www.gamepro.com)). It ranks eight programs for top honors and lists the remaining 42 programs in alphabetical order.

Of the roughly 500 programs at which students can study game design in the U.S. and Canada, The Princeton Review selected these 50 programs based on a survey it conducted in 2009-10 of administrators at institutions offering game design coursework and/or degrees. The comprehensive survey numbered more than 50 questions and covered areas from academics and faculty credentials to graduate employment and career achievements. Criteria include curriculum, faculty, facilities and infrastructure. The Princeton Review also looked at data on scholarships, financial aid and career opportunities.

Brian M. Morgan, associate professor in the Integrated Science and Technology Department at Marshall University, is pleased with the distinction.

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## Student-Run Agency Fights Hunger with 5K Run/Walk

Helping Hungry Hearts (HHH), a student-run public relations agency in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Marshall University, is working with the Huntington Area Food Bank (HAFB) to help alleviate hunger in the area by sponsoring several events this spring, including the first annual Outrunning Hunger 5K Run/Walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 10 at Pullman Square in downtown Huntington. Registration for the 5K run/walk begins at 8 a.m.

For individuals or groups interested in participating, Helping Hungry Hearts has launched its Web site at [www.marshall.edu/helpinghungryhearts](http://www.marshall.edu/helpinghungryhearts). The site provides additional race information, including a printable registration form for the race. Early registration by April 7 costs \$15, and registration on the day of the race costs \$20. Race participants will receive a T-shirt, and awards will be given to top overall finishers in their respective age divisions.

All proceeds will help the HAFB further its mission to serve 91,000 hungry people in 17 counties in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

For more information about Helping Hungry Hearts or the Outrunning Hunger 5K Run/Walk, visit [www.marshall.edu/helpinghungryhearts](http://www.marshall.edu/helpinghungryhearts) or e-mail the agency at [helpinghungryhearts@marshall.edu](mailto:helpinghungryhearts@marshall.edu). To learn more about the HAFB, contact Brooke Ash by phone at 304-523-6029 or by e-mail at [brooke@hafb.org](mailto:brooke@hafb.org).

## *Helen Majdalany*

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about her propensity for languages, and, contrary to what she believes, her words flow smoothly in English.

It was in fact her love of translation that led her to continue her studies in New York. She entered a Ph.D. program in French literature and continued to take courses until her move to Huntington, where she joined her parents, Yvonne and Tanius, and her remaining siblings, her older sister, Nazek, and her brother Elias, an adjunct in computer science at Marshall who works in health information technology at the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital. Several months after her arrival in Huntington, Majdalany felt comfortable enough to begin looking for work and the position at Marshall Theatre helped fulfill her artistic bent. She loves working in fine arts and interacting with students and staff.

She deftly ticks off a number of her duties. "I do a variety of financial and administrative assignments, keeping departmental records, faculty and student files, preparing schedules, reimbursements and reconciliations and travel ... We present at least four plays on the main stage of Joan C. Edwards Playhouse during an academic year. We're on a tight schedule with a tremendous amount of work for the faculty, staff and students. A lot of work and an invaluable learning experience for each student is involved."

Majdalany is passionate about carrying on a tradition begun by her late sister, who was an ardent champion of art, particularly 19th century artists, and who served as a docent at the Huntington Museum of Art. Using New York's Dahesh Museum of Art exhibitions as a guide, Majdalany has painstakingly assembled several displays on varying themes, all featuring academic art and European artists. They are posted at the Drinko Library and the Cabell County Public Library in downtown Huntington. In February she mounted an exhibit celebrating African American history by shedding some light on works of artists who visited North Africa, Egypt and the Holy land. Titled "In Pursuit of the Exotic: artists abroad in 19th Century North Africa, Egypt and the Holy Land," the exhibition explores how artists in that era depicted their expanding world.

During the current month of March, Majdalany is celebrating Women's Month with a display of works by women artists inspired by a past exhibition of the Dahesh museum titled "Overcoming all Obstacles, The Women of the Académie Julian." This display is also being exhibited at the MU Drinko library and at the Cabell County Public Library. The Académie Julian was the outstanding private art academy in late 19th-century France and was also the only place where a woman could receive training comparable to that offered by the official Ecole des Beaux-Arts, which did not accept women until 1897, Majdalany explains.

There will be other displays in the coming months, aimed at presenting Academic Art. Along with her sister Nazek, Majdalany works many weekends and evenings assembling the exhibitions which they consider to be a labor of love. "Although the artists are not universally known, there is a lot of beautiful art, really delightful work," she says.

In addition she makes time to be a volunteer at Cabell Huntington Hospital and she works with the Girl Scouts as time permits. And she basks in the success of her niece and nephews, all graduates of Marshall University. Niece Marie Majdalany is a pharmacist at Cabell Huntington Hospital. Among the nephews, Afif Alain Hanna, a talented artist who studied under the late Stan Sporny, is now completing a pediatrician residency at Dartmouth, New Hampshire. William Hanna is at the University of Massachusetts finishing a four-year MedPed program. Bill Majdalany is finishing his intervention radiology at Harvard and David Majdalany is a congenital heart disease specialist at the Mayo Clinic.

"I feel so privileged to be at Marshall, to be so close to the students, the artists in the making, to see them prepare for the future," she muses. "You can see students grow from one year to another and many of our graduates keep in touch. I have come to love West Virginia as my nephews who were raised here do. I don't know what the future holds, but it is my fond hope that when they're done with their specialties they will establish themselves here in Huntington."

## *Women's Commission*

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dollar and we struggle to find and afford health care," Williams said. "The commission wants women to know they have a voice and in the commission they also have advocates. I am excited to represent women of this state and want them to know that the West Virginia Women's Commission will listen to their concerns and fight for them in every level of state government."

The West Virginia Women's Commission has 11 commissioners serving women and families across the state. Information about the commission is available online at WV Women's Commission on Facebook.

## *Editorial Board*

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"As associate editor, I will be soliciting peer reviewers who judge the manuscript as appropriate for the journal, the quality of the research reported, clarity of the text, figures and tables, and overall completeness of the work," he said.

At the recent Academy of Forensic Sciences annual meeting in Seattle, WA, Rankin networked with the organization's members in preparation for development of a future special issue on forensics.

## *Game Design Program*

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"It is an incredible honor to be included in The Princeton Review/GamePro Magazine survey," Morgan said. "Marshall University's Game Development area of emphasis was created just two years ago and it makes us very proud to see that it is being recognized internationally.

"We will continue to build on our solid curriculum to ensure the best practical education for graduates of our program," said Morgan, who is also the curriculum coordinator for Computer and Information Technology majors.

Princeton Review Senior Vice President and Publisher Robert Franek said the survey was designed by a national advisory board composed of administrators and faculty from respected game design programs as well as professionals from top gaming companies.

"We salute Marshall University and the other outstanding institutions on our list for exemplary work in game design education. It has long been our mission at The Princeton Review to help students research and get in to the education programs best for them." Franek said. "We are also committed to helping them carry that training to rewarding careers in fields they are passionate about. For the burgeoning numbers of students aspiring to careers in the rapidly growing field of game design and the companies that will need their creative talents, we hope our list will inspire many wonderful candidates to apply to these programs."

The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University and it is not a magazine. The company has been a pioneer and leader in helping students achieve their higher education goals for more than 28 years through college and graduate school test preparation and private tutoring.