“Rocket Boys” to Headline Celebration of Academics

Homer Hickam Jr., the Coalwood native and author of Rocket Boys: A Memoir, will be the featured speaker during the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation April 12. The convocation is part of the John Deaver Drinko Academy’s ninth annual Celebration of Academics, which runs April 11-12. All events will take place in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre, where Hickam’s speech will be telecast live on a large screen. Rocket Boys: A Memoir was published as October Sky and was the subject of a popular movie of the same name.

Hickam, author of six books, along with the four other living Rocket Boys, will conduct a book signing following the honors convocation. Hickam’s most recent book, We Are Not Afraid, was released earlier this year.

The Celebration of Academics begins April 11 with the John Drinko Symposium. Dr. Edwina Pendarvis, Drinko Fellow and professor of Gifted Education in Marshall’s School of Education, is the featured speaker. She will give her lecture at 2 p.m. on “What Went Right? Educating Gifted Children in Appalachia.”

The Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation is the annual formal recognition of Marshall students’ academic achievements.

“It’s a special time of year when we formally take note of academic achievement,” said Martha Woodward, executive director of the Center for Academic Excellence and the Yeager Scholars Program. “It is the academic event of the year. We’re particularly pleased that Homer Hickam is returning to share it with us.”

Alumni Weekend Set for April 19-20

A star-spangled weekend for returning alumni and friends is being planned by the MU Alumni Association April 19-20. With a patriotic theme and a logo of Marco in an Uncle Sam’s hat saying “I Want You…back for alumni weekend,” it will be a flag-waving festivity.

Friday’s events begin with a continental breakfast to renew old friendships from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center (EAC). It will be followed by a lecture by Jack Lengyel, who will receive the Distinguished Service to the University Award. A former MU head football coach who later served as athletic director at the U.S. Naval Academy, he will speak from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on “Training Tomorrow’s Military Leaders,” in the EAC.

A festive Class Luncheon will follow in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center. Members of the classes of 1952 and 1942 will gather to celebrate, respectively, their 50th and 60th anniversaries. They will be joined by the Grand Class, those who graduated from Marshall before 1952.

For those interested in estate planning, a seminar, “How Do the New Tax Laws Affect My Retirement and Estate Planning Needs,” is scheduled in room 2E10 of the Student Center.

The annual Champagne Reception will be held Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the Erickson Alumni Center to honor former recipients of the Community Service Award who have been invited back for the weekend.

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Saturday begins with the Deans’ Brunch at 10 a.m. in the John Marshall Room of the Memorial Student Center. A trolley tour of the campus gets underway at 1:30 p.m. Highlighting the weekend will be the President’s Social Hour from 6 to 7 p.m., to be followed by the Alumni Awards Banquet at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

(continued on page 3)
May Service Awards to Honor More Than 80 Staff Members

The 18th annual Service Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, from noon until 2 p.m. in the W. Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center.

To be eligible for awards employees must have completed 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 years of service to Marshall University by May 1, 2002. Marshall University Graduate College service counts as MU service.

A tentative list of honorees includes:

For 40 years of Service: Nina Barrett, Linda Birchfield-Modad, Connie Chapman, John Darrah, Donna Sharon Gates, Herbert Karlet, Paula Kelly, Linda Mills, Penelope Smoot and Jerry Stowasser.

For 35 years of Service: Dr. Suneel Maheshwari, associate professor in the Lewis College of Business, had two papers published recently. They are “A Cross-Country Comparison of the Codes of Professional Ethics,” with Dr. S. Jakubowski, P. Chao, and S.K. Huh, in Journal of Business Ethics and “Casinos, Lotteries, and Markets,” with Dr. R. Akkihal and Dr. R. Adkins, in Coastal Business Journal. He also made presentations at the Third International Conference in New Delhi, India, “The Value Relevance of Goodwill Accounting Numbers: The Investor’s Perception,” which was awarded the best paper in the session on research presentation.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Calvin Meyer, associate professor of Education, Marshall University Graduate College, was recently notified of his appointment to the Chancellor’s Board of Regents of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Dr. James M. Sottile Jr., Dr. William Carter, and Dr. Ruth Ann Murphy had a refereed paper accepted and presented at the 2002 American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in New Orleans. The paper’s title is “The Influence of Self-efficacy on School Culture, Science Achievement, and Math Achievement Among Inservice Teachers.”

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Eight to be Honored at Alumni Awards Banquet April 20

Eight individuals will be honored by the MU Alumni Association at the Alumni Awards Banquet to be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented to Kathy Eddy, CPA (BBA ’72) and, posthumously to C. Carwood “Buck” Lipton (BA ’48) and Paul Wesley Ambrose, M.D. (BS ’91, SOM ’95). This award is given annually to Marshall alumni for outstanding national achievements in their particular fields of endeavor.

Currently serving as the chairman of the board of directors with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Eddy is a partner and shareholder in the Parkersburg firm of McDonough, Eddy, Parsons and Baylous, where her husband, Edward McDonough, also is a partner. In addition to holding offices with AICPA, Eddy has captured a number of professional honors, including the West Virginia Society of CPA’s Public Service Award in 1993 and the West Virginia Hospital Association Governance Award in 2000.

A member of the legendary E (Easy) Company who parachuted into France during the World War II D-Day invasion, Lipton played a central role in the best-selling book and HBO television miniseries, Band of Brothers, which was produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. Lipton died Dec. 16 at age 81 in Southern Pines, N.C. Band of Brothers author Stephen Ambrose recently told a North Carolina audience that Lipton was a major source of information for the book.

Paul Ambrose is remembered as an energetic and dedicated champion for the improvement of our nation’s public health policy. His life was tragically cut short with the crash of American Airlines Flight #77 in Washington, D.C., on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

Following completion of a Master of Arts degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, Ambrose served as a Luther Terry Fellow in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. During his tenure there, he worked closely with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Surgeon General in addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health.

He was the son of Dr. Kenneth Paul Ambrose, MU professor of Sociology and Anthropology, and Sharon Ambrose, Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer at St. Mary’s Hospital. A scholarship in the MU School of Medicine has been established in his memory.

Other awards and their recipients are:
Laura Darby (BSN ’82, MS ’92) will receive the Community Achievement Award. Darby’s senior project was to bring hospice services to Huntington. As a result of her work, Hospice of Huntington is in its 19th year and provides end-of-life care to hundreds of patients and their families annually. She was instrumental in helping Ebenezer Medical Outreach start a Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, enrolling patients in medication assistance programs and recruiting additional providers to care for patients.

The Distinguished Service to the University Award will be presented to Edward H. Greene (AB ’37) and to former head football coach Jack Lengyel.

Greene has had a distinguished legal career and he is past president of the Cabell County Bar Association and a member of the West Virginia State Bar, the Law Science Academy of America and the Authors Guild Inc. In 1984 Marshall awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, acknowledging the impact he made in the growth and progress of Marshall, particularly the School of Medicine.

Best known to Marshall University alumni and friends as the head football coach of the 1971 Young Thundering Herd and for helping rebuild the football program following the 1970 air tragedy, Lengyel recently retired after a 13-year tenure as director of athletics at the U.S. Naval Academy. Richard Paul “Rick” Houvouras (BS ’72) will be given the Distinguished Alumnus in Manufacturing Award which is presented jointly by the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) and the MU Alumni Association. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding achievements in and contributions to the manufacturing sector. Houvouras currently serves as managing partner of Star Technologies, LLC, a Huntington-based company that manufactures precision clamping devices and stampings for military and commercial uses. A former member of the West Virginia Legislature,

I would like to thank the Marshall Community and Technical College and the General Studies division for all of their expressions of sympathy during the recent passing of my grandmother. I also want to thank the Marshall University Faculty, Administration, and Staff for the words of encouragement and the flower arrangement. All of the thoughtfulness and caring everyone at Marshall University showed my family was greatly appreciated.

Monica Shafer
Alumni Awards from Page 3

Houvouras attained the post of majority whip and served on a variety of legislative committees during his eight-year tenure.

Meghan Skalsky, a sophomore from East Lansing, Michigan, will receive the Cam Henderson Scholarship Award. Skalsky is attending Marshall on a full tennis scholarship. Active in campus activities, she also visits elementary schools to speak to children about females in sports. The scholarship is presented annually to the student athlete who best exemplifies the spirit of scholarship while participating in athletics.

Murphy Receives Theatre Educator Award

Mike Murphy has received the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT), Southeast Regional Section, Founders Award as Outstanding Educator in Theatrical Design and Technology for 2002-2003.

The award is presented biennially by the region to individuals who have made positive, long-term contributions in support of the principles and goals of USITT and the Southeast Section in particular.

“I am honored and surprised to have been considered for this award—let alone being the recipient,” Murphy said. “Previous recipients are people I look up to for guidance and assistance.”

Sleep Apnea to be Topic April 9

Sleep apnea syndrome will be the topic for the fourth Meet the Expert lecture, set for 5:30 p.m., April 9 in the auditorium of the MU Medical Center. Dr. Imran Khawaja, a specialist in sleep medicine, will speak for approximately 30 minutes and then answer questions from the audience. The event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required.

Sleep apnea, a condition in which people stop breathing during sleep, has received increased medical attention over the past decade, Khawaja said. As a result, treatment has improved.

“People with sleep apnea may have excessive daytime sleepiness or sleepiness in inappropriate situations, such as while driving or talking to people,” he said. “They may not wake up fresh, and they can be very irritable and show personality changes.”

“A more important worry to us as physicians is that the oxygen level goes down during these episodes,” he said, adding that sleep apnea can affect a body’s organs. “In patients who have sleep apnea, there is an increased incidence of hypertension, stroke, heart attack and arrhythmias.”

Fortunately, he said, treatment can keep patients’ airways open, helping them to feel better and be healthier. Khawaja is chief of pulmonary medicine at MU, where he has received Teacher of the Year and Attending Physician of the Year awards from medical students. He is board certified in sleep medicine, internal medicine, pulmonary medicine and critical care medicine. He has had medical articles on sleep apnea and other topics published in a number of medical journals.

The Meet the Expert mini-medical school series is funded by an educational grant from Pfizer. The next lecture will be May 14, with Dr. Jayson Yap discussing hypertension.

Computer Classes Set for April, May

The Computer Learning Center, which is located on the South Charleston campus, will be offering a variety of information technology classes this spring. All classes are held in the Administration Building. Free parking is available on site.

Classes scheduled include:
- Cold Fusion (3 days), April 16-18
- PageMaker Advanced, April 18
- Excel Introduction, April 19
- Front Page, April 29
- Word Intermediate, April 30
- Web Design Introduction, May 9
- PowerPoint Expert User, May 10
- Excel Intermediate, May 15

For more information, or to register, call Martha Pierson at ext. 2062, or contact her by e-mail at mpierson@marshall.edu.

Music Programs Reaccredited

The Department of Music has received reaccreditation for a maximum period of 10 years by the National Association of Schools of Music.

“Their approval of our application is affirmation of the quality of our program and the integrity of our effort to provide programs and curricula of the highest level,” said Dr. Marshall Onofrio, chair. “This decision is the culmination of over two years’ work by the faculty, staff and administration of the department—a process that included the development of a self-study document and an on-site visit by an external evaluation team from NASM.”

Excused Absences

Absences have been excused for these students on the dates noted:

- February 21-24 - Shawna Blaney, Brittany Cecil, Shawn Green, Heather Hammond, Elizabeth Hatcher, Pamela Hughes, Shannon James, Justin Lind, Casie McGee, Megan Miller, John-Paul Pham, Gregory Wetzel
- March 11 after 6 p.m. and March 13 from 8 a.m. to noon - Eric Akers, Otis Aldridge, Justin Altizer, Erica Argyropoulis, Jason Barr, John Bender, Jessica Blevins, Susan Cook, Tami Dennis, Diana Downing, Lawrence Harbrecht, Cynthia Harrison, Darrell Haynes, Maria Heyne, Thommy Hill, Vernon Jackson, Laura Johnson, Krystof Kunz, Jamy McLellan, Eric Near, J.F. Pham, Josh Ruppert, Bill Seese, Nora Shalaway, Chris Shew, Justin Sizemore, Logan Skidmore, Sarah Stahl, Leslie Styron, Charles Thompson, Jennifer VanPelt, Jeremy Wellman, Eli Wilson, Matt Wolverton, Emily Workman

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