

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Yeager Symposium Lecture Series**  
**“The Wealth of Nature”**  
**October 16-19, 2006**

Welcome to the twentieth annual Yeager Scholars Symposium Lecture Series. Through this year’s theme, “The Wealth of Nature,” we will be taking a look at several of the beneficial contributions that natural life forms are providing to modern man. Over the course of the series, we will examine the current roles played by animals, plants, and bacteria that are ever expanding as the world moves into the future. By taking this look towards the natural elements, we hope that it will remind both citizens and scientists of the unique and pivotal positions that animals, plants, and bacteria continue to occupy in societies across the globe.

We would very much like to thank the presenters who have made themselves available for these events. Also, we would like to extend our gratitude to the members of the community and university who have supported the Society of Yeager Scholars. Without your generosity this would not have been possible.

Johnny Walker, Class of 2007  
Symposium Chairman

**Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Francis-Booth Experimental Theater**

**“Helping Hands Monkeys”**  
**Megan Keppeler, Director of Operations**

Helping Hand: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled is a unique national non-profit organization that places specially trained capuchin monkeys with people who are paralyzed or who live with other severe mobility impairments. Helping Hands monkey helpers offer independence, hope and companionship to individuals with severe disabilities all across the country. No fee is charged to the recipients. All costs are underwritten by donations from individual donors, foundation grants, and corporate partnerships.

As a service to the larger community, Helping Hands also conducts public education programs that teach young people how to avoid risky behaviors that can lead to spinal cord injury and how community service can be a powerful way to help others.

Helping Hands trained and placed the first monkey as a helper and a companion to a paralyzed individual in 1979. Since that time, Helping Hands has developed programs to support the lifetime needs of the monkey and their human partners. The organization can be reached at <http://www.helpinhandsmonkeys.org>.

**Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 P.M.**

**Francis-Booth Experimental Theater**

**“Searching for Medicinal Plants Among the Indigenous Shuar and Achuar People of Southeastern Ecuador”  
Dr. Dan Evans**

Dan Evans, Ph.D. has been with the Marshall University Department of Biological Sciences for 20 years. He is curator of the Marshall University Herbarium, a research collection of some 50,000 specimens. Dr. Evans' research interests in wetlands and in rare and threatened species make him a regular consultant for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the principal regulatory agency of wetlands in the United States. His interest in ethnobotany has taken him to Ecuador on several occasions where he studied medicinal plants used by indigenous people of the upper Amazon.

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 P.M.**

**MSC 2W16**

**“Psychoactive Plants and Social Contexts Among Rainforest Dwelling Indigenous Populations in the Americas”  
Dr. John Walden**

John B. Walden, M.D., is currently a professor and associate chairman of the Department of Family and Community Health and associate dean of medical school admissions and development. In addition, he directs the International Health Track and co-directs the Wilderness Medicine Track of our Family Practice Residency Program.

Walden has pursued studies in clinical tropical medicine at Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in the Republic of Panama, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Liverpool, England. He has thirty-eight years experience living and working with tribal societies in rain forest areas of South and Central America.

**Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**MSC 2W16**

**“Myriad Monsters Confirmed in Water Droplets”**  
**Dr. Charles Somerville**

Dr. Charles Somerville was a microbiologist with the U.S. Air Force at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida before coming to Marshall in August 1997. He served as an assistant professor in the department of biological sciences until 2002 and as an associate professor in the same department until 2005, when he became interim head.

Each summer for the past five years, Somerville has joined with other Marshall professors and students, along with professors and students, from four other regional colleges and universities, in the annual Ohio River Run, a research expedition aboard the Chattanooga Star Riverboat that covers the river’s entire 981 miles.

Participants spend nearly two weeks studying the condition of the Ohio River and its major tributaries. They study the biology, chemistry, and geology of the river.

**Special Thanks To:**

“The Wealth of Nature” Committee  
Johnny Walker, Chairman Yeager Symposium 2006  
Megan Ward, Dining Coordinator  
Jacqueline Bowen, Dining Coordinator  
Caitlin Haught, Graphic Design Artist

Staff of the Center for Academic Excellence  
Barry Sharpe, Executive Director  
Mary Moore, Assistant Director  
Bob Galardi, Director of Major Gifts  
Sharlee C. Henry, Yeager Scholars Program Assistant  
Phillip Bryant, Yeager Scholars Graduate Assistant

Yeager Scholars Board of Directors

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Yeager Symposium Lecture Series Dinner**  
**October 19, 2006**  
**Radisson Hotel**

**Dinner Program**

**Welcome:**

Johnny Walker, Class of 2007  
Chairman, Yeager Symposium 2006  
Anna Keffer, Class of 2009

**Invocation:**

**Dinner**

**Greetings from Marshall University:**

Dr. Sarah Denman, Provost and Senior V.P.  
for Academic Affairs

**Special Guest:**

Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck"  
Yeager

**Introduction of Guests:**

Mary Hatfield, Class of 2009  
Claire Synder, Class of 2009

**Introduction of Classes:**

Meghan Ward, Class of 2008  
Shannon McKinney, Class of 2008

**Remarks:**

Grant Rice, Class of 1994  
Bob Galardi, Director of Major Gifts

**Introduction of the  
Class of 2010:**

Jennifer Kayser, Class of 2007  
Sarah Sullivan, Class of 2007

**Special Thanks To:**

Birgadier General Charles “Chuck” Yeager

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