Vicki Cole Receives Employee of the Month

Vicki Cole, interim academic advisor for the College of Science, has been selected as Marshall University Employee of the Month for May, according to Bill Burdette, chairman of the Employee of the Month Selection Committee.

Cole, who lives in Kenova, has been employed at MU since 1994. She was nominated by Dr. Ralph W. Taylor, Associate Dean of the College of Science. During her first year at Marshall she was employed in the School of Nursing and has been in the College of Science since 1995.

In his nomination letter Taylor wrote, “Vicki’s job description is that of secretary but she is so much more. Presently she oversees the workings of the office staff, advises students on scheduling and other concerns, does senior evaluations and prepares graduation lists. Vicki also coordinates preparations for the annual alumni

(continued on page 3)
New Dean of Libraries Appointed

A West Virginia native, Barbara Winters, has been named as Dean of the Marshall University Libraries, effective August 1.

Currently the Associate University Librarian for Collections Services at the University of Georgia Libraries, Winters began her professional career at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1986 as Head of Acquisition Services. In 1991 she went to Wright State University Libraries in Ohio as the Director for Central Services and then to Georgia in 1998.

She was selected after a nationwide search chaired by Dr. Joan Tyler Mead, dean of the MU College of Liberal Arts. The university search committee and library staff cited Winters’ extensive experience with statewide cooperative automation efforts involving different types of libraries as being an impressive achievement.

While at Wright State, Winters guided collection development for electronic resources as chair of the OhioLINK Collections and Information Resources Management Committee. This continued in Georgia where she was chair of the Electronic Collection Development Committee for the state’s GALILEO network.

“This institution is indeed fortunate to have Barbara as the new Dean of MU Libraries,” Dr. Sarah Denman, senior vice president and provost for Academic Affairs, said. “She brings a rich background of experience to our campus and we look forward to working with her.”

The co-author of one book and contributor to two others, Winters has given numerous invited papers and presentations as well. She received a Bachelor of General Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1983 and a master of Science in Library Science from the Catholic University of America in 1986.

“We are thrilled to have Barbara as part of the Marshall Information Technology team,” Dr. Jan Fox, vice president for Information Technology, said. “Her experience in large library consortia will be an incredible asset to Marshall and all of West Virginia.”

Winters is active in the American Library Association’s Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) and has also served on the editorial boards of “Library Acquisitions: Practice and Theory” and “Library Resources and Technical Services. “She received the prestigious Esther J. Piercy Award in 1994 which is given to recognize a librarian with less than ten years of experience in library collections and technical services who has shown outstanding promise for continuing contributions and leadership.

As dean of the University Libraries, Winters will lead the second largest library in West Virginia. Marshall has been a leader in library automation and integration of electronic resources into library service, as demonstrated by the 32 million dollar John Deaver Drinko Library which opened in October 1998. The libraries are a unit of the Office of Information Technology, which includes University Computing Services, Instructional Television Services and the Center for Instructional Technology.

Winters succeeds Josephine Fidler who retired in January 1999. Monica Brooks, who has served as the Interim Director of Libraries, will return to her duties as Associate Dean for Technology Services.

MU Offers Fall 2000 Tuition Waivers to Graduate Students

Marshall University is accepting applications for fall 2000 tuition waivers for Huntington graduate students through Friday, July 28 in the MU Graduate College Office, Old Main Room 113, according to Dr. Leonard J. Deutsch, graduate college dean.

In compliance with the West Virginia Board of Trustees Policy Bulletin 49, priority will be given to faculty and staff of the state’s colleges and universities and to West Virginia residents. A small number of waivers will be awarded to nonresident students.

Academic merit will be the major consideration in awarding waivers, Deutsch said. Grade point average and GRE, MAT or GMAT examination scores will determine merit.

Up to three hours of waiver work will be awarded to qualified applicants. Eligible students who also verify financial need by the financial aid office may receive up to six hours of waiver. Students who previously held waivers must reapply to be considered for fall term waivers.

Applicants who are awarded waivers will be notified by mail. Approved waivers can be picked up beginning Friday, August 11. Waivers must be claimed by Friday, August 18 or they will be assigned to other qualified applicants.

For further details, contact the Marshall University Graduate College at (304) 696-6606.
Profile: Patricia O’Reilly
A series on interesting Marshall University people.

Dr. Patricia O’Reilly’s lyrical name may conjure up images of lush green Irish meadows, but she’s just been named this year’s West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival Italian American Woman of the Year.

Actually she’s Dr. Patricia Paletta O’Reilly, associate vice president for planning and institutional research, who is proud of her Italian ancestry on both sides of her family. In fact her father, Tullio, came to the U.S. as a small child from Villetta Barrera, Abruzzi, Italy and the family of her mother, Adelina Di Bucci, hailed from the Abruzzi region as well.

She will be honored at the Clarksburg festival at an awards gala on August 31 and will participate in special activities during the run of the festival from September 1-3. According to festival officials, she is being honored not only for her professional achievements, but for her community service as a volunteer over the years for several groups, particularly those programs which deal with handicapped and disabled individuals. And she still doesn’t know who nominated her. “That’s a mystery,” she says with a smile.

“The underlying theme of this work is an interest in making the world a better place, for children in particular. That has prompted my continuing association with Shawnee Hills Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center, and I am on the Board for the Children’s Home Society and the Catholic Community Services of Hamlin, which serves the poor,”

“I really cherish this award because it is very interesting going through such a large portion of my life with the name of O’Reilly. When I married it was not common for women to keep their maiden names and consequently there has always been an assumption from most people I’ve met that I am Irish, especially with a name like Patricia. So this kind of satisfies a real need that I had to be recognized for who I am and not only for what I have done,” she relates.

Summer 2000 is shaping up to be a momentous one for O’Reilly as she plans to retire from her full-time work on June 30. A member of the Education faculty at Marshall University Graduate College, she plans to continue to teach courses and to take on part-time academic duties from time to time. For those who have worked with the energetic O’Reilly, it comes as no surprise that she won’t completely close the door on an institution which has been so much a part of her life for

(continued on page 4)
more than two decades. 

So how did a New York native of Italian heritage with an Irish name end up in an Appalachian state in the first place? A graduate of Hunter College with a B.A. and a master’s degree in speech therapy, she met and married her husband of 41 years, Patrick O’Reilly, in New York. Shortly thereafter the pair moved to Columbus, Ohio, where she pursued a doctorate in speech sciences with a minor in psychology. She and her husband, eager to start their own business, settled on West Virginia as a likely place to live and they’ve been here ever since.

Her professional life has been wide ranging, and has been interwoven over the years with the graduate college in several capacities. In 1965 at the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center in Institute, she was a child psychologist and administrator of psychological services. After a stint at the Appalachian Education Laboratory in Charleston, she moved to the Kanawha County school system where she was the director of the Office of Exceptional Children and Psychological Services. During these years, she taught classes for what was then the West Virginia University Kanawha Valley Center. In 1975 she accepted a full-time faculty position at the fledging College of Graduate Studies and came back in 1979-80 as the director of the massive Teacher Corps project which had just been awarded to the institution. During the 1980’s she was at the University of Charleston, as their Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

But in 1990, she joined the graduate college one final time, this time as director of Institutional Research and Planning. She became an associate vice president at the time of the merger with Marshall three years ago. 

Along with extraordinarily busy professional lives, the O’Reillys have reared five children, all adults now, and have seven grandchildren with two more expected in the fall. How did she juggle a demanding full-time career, myriad community activities and still find time to nurture a lively family of five into productive adulthood? Organizational skills for which she is widely known for one thing, but a helpful husband was the key, she says.

“I have an extraordinary husband. He was the motivator for me to pursue my doctorate and to always assume professional responsibilities,” she says.

And even though they might have been known as the O’Reilly Clan, by mutual agreement all the children were given Italian names to reflect more of their Italian heritage. Tullio is named for Patricia’s father, Justin for her grandfather, and the others are Andrea, Maria and Marco.

“If I were to describe our family,” she says, “I would say we are probably more Italian than Irish in what we eat and in the traditions we follow.”

As a planner by profession, O’Reilly isn’t surprised at the changes that have occurred at the Graduate College since the merger with Marshall.

“The college is changing. But...had we not merged, the college would still be changing...The new graduate school is part of a larger picture with a different vision and one of its purposes is to serve the mission of a larger university. Consequently that will dictate the way in which the college will seek its market and deliver its product,” she relates.

One of the advantages of being part of Marshall is the ability to take advantage of technological advances, she says.

“Today we have WebCT to deliver distance education. This has opened up lots of possibilities for the graduate college. Ten years ago we would have attributed good service to being able to go in person to deliver courses. Today we have been able to deliver a lot of good service through WebCT.”

Although she is preparing to pare down her academic load, O’Reilly’s commitment to the college and to her numerous volunteer activities remain strong. And she is enthusiastic about taking on chores that others might find mundane, bringing her own brand of optimism to whatever she takes on.

“I’ve always been very fortunate in that most of what I’ve been asked to do or be involved in, especially in community work, has been challenging and interesting,” she says. “My own view of the world is that a person has to find the kernel of interest in what they do even though the most interesting job can be mundane to someone who isn’t looking for the challenge or the excitement that’s there. Some people look at gardening as a chore and others find great delight in it. I think that goes for whatever one’s work is. For the most part I look for the challenge in whatever I do and look for ways to make it interesting.”

The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall! will carry an issue date of June 23, 2000. Deadline is June 16. 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.

Marketing Campaign

from Page 3

for spring break or volunteer in flood-ravaged areas during their time off....This campaign is designed to show what most students really do.”

Lapelle says that one problem that has to be overcome is the misperception that “every one” drinks and that everyone gets drunk,” which encourages more permissive attitudes toward drinking.

“From the survey we found that 94% of our students believe that the average student drinks once a week or more. In fact, 42% of our students do not drink,” she adds.

“This marketing campaign intends to correct students’ misperceptions by informing them about the amount of drinking that actually occurs. As students come to understand that the actual drinking norm is less than they thought, they will typically correct their own behaviors to fit within that norm, drinking less and less frequently.”