We Are...Marshall!

The Newsletter for Marshall University • November 17, 2000

Patsy Stephenson is Employee of the Month

Patsy Stephenson, library associate in the Cataloging Department of Drinko Library, has been selected as the October Employee of the Month, according to Bill Burdette, chairman of the Employee of the Month Selection Committee.

Stephenson, who has been employed at MU for 16 years, was nominated by Jennifer Sias, User Education/Reference Librarian; Pamela Ford, Stephenson's supervisor and Catalog Librarian/Technical Services Team Leader; and co-workers Susan J. Heidekrueger, Lisa A. Hughes, and Phyllis M. White-Sellards.

Sias wrote that Stephenson deserves to be nominated “...because she most definitely exemplifies the mission of Marshall University. Ms. Stephenson is a model employee who always is willing to help with projects outside her department. For instance, although she works in Cataloging in Marshall University Libraries, she has assisted me numerous times with tours of the John Deaver Drinko Library. I love to call on Patsy to do tours because she has such an amazing rapport with library patrons regardless of their age or background...Patsy seems to be able to gauge the interest of particular tour groups and find points to share that will interest them.”

Ford writes that she met Stephenson when Ford became the Head of the Cataloging Department and there were only two people in that department.

“When Patsy joined us, I had the opportunity to watch a young woman grow in ability, knowledge and maturity. It has been 16 years now and Patsy is the kind of employee that every department would like to have. She is capable

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Weekend Events
Recall Plane Crash

A series of events commemorating the 30th anniversary of the 1970 plane crash that took the lives of 75 football players, coaches, staff, fans and the airline crew culminated in the annual memorial service November 14 at the Memorial Student Center. Sponsored by the MU Student Government, the event drew a crowd estimated at more than 3,000 people.

On Saturday, the “We Are Marshall” bronze sculpture, created by artist Burl Jones, was unveiled prior to the MU-Miami game. A moment of silence was observed at the game. The long-awaited documentary, “Ashes to Glory,” made its debut on West Virginia Public Television Sunday evening with a special viewing at the Keith-Albee Theatre which benefited the Big Green Scholarship fund. The film was created by award-winning producers Deborah Novak and John Witek.

Other events included a memorial service in honor of the crash victims, sponsored by the Black

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Glenwood Series Continues Dec. 3

The MU Guitar Ensemble, led by founder Leo Welch, will present “A Musical Afternoon” on December 3, at 4 p.m. at Glenwood in Charleston as part of a series of monthly Sunday afternoon programs taking place at the historic West Side Estate. A reception will follow the performance.

Owned by the Marshall University Graduate College Foundation, Glenwood, which was built in 1852 and still contains many of the original furnishings, will be authentically decorated to reflect the way families celebrated the holidays more than a century ago. The Guitar Ensemble is a unique performance group that highlights the eclectic musical interests of its students. The group has given numerous performances throughout the tri-state and appeared at the 1998 and 1999 West Virginia Music Educators Association’s conferences.

According to Welch, who will direct and perform with the ensemble, the Glenwood program will feature ensemble numbers which will include favorites of the holiday season, Appalachian folk music arranged for the guitar ensemble, and classical works.

Additional Holiday Nov. 22

The votes are in and there won’t be a recount! Because the governor granted State of West Virginia employees an additional holiday on November 24, the classified staff was canvassed and voted to take Wednesday, November 22 as a holiday since November 24 is already on the MU holiday calendar. President Angel approved the date, and the Thanksgiving holiday now covers November 22, 23 and 24.

Facility/Staff Achievements

Dr. Fred Barkey, a retired faculty member in the Lewis College of Business, recently received the 2000 Charles H. Daugherty Award in the Humanities from the West Virginia Humanities Council. The award is given annually to a West Virginian who has made a significant contribution to the humanities in the state. A labor historian, he published Cinder Heads in the Hills, a study of the effects of Belgian glass workers to the economy of the state in the early 1900s, and was subsequently knighted by the Belgian government as a result of the book.

Excused Absences

Absences have been excused by the university for these students for November 3-4:

Joint Profile: Carolyn Quinlan and Bill Berry

A series on interesting Marshall University people.

They’re “cube buddies” who share interests in photography and gardening and who find beauty in lowly weeds. While she loves long walks looking for delicate wildflowers to photograph, he likes working among his more than 85 rose bushes and snapping photos of his family, which includes four active grandchildren.

Sharing adjacent cubicles, Carolyn Quinlan and Bill Berry have worked together in the Office of Fiscal Affairs at the MU Graduate College in South Charleston for the past five years. Quinlan, who formerly worked for the State College and University Systems, came to the graduate college in 1992, and Berry joined the office after spending 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service. Retirement only lasted two months, he says.

“I read a lot of books, but I didn’t want to just sit on the porch and watch the world go by,” he notes. And his decision to join the MUGC staff was a good one, he says. Utilizing a newly acquired degree from West Virginia State College, he joined the fiscal affairs office, and it was there that he and Quinlan found they shared a mutual interest in photography.

Berry has been an enthusiastic, self-taught photographer for more than 20 years, but insists firmly that “I am strictly an amateur. I never take just one picture, I take many so that I’ll get that one good one that I like.” And he likes all kinds of subjects—his family, landscapes, close-ups, indoor or outdoor compositions, in fact, anything that strikes his fancy.

Using an array of older 35 mm cameras—not one of them fully automatic, he notes—he often creates very personalized and one-of-a-kind gifts that feature favorite photos artfully arranged in an album and accompanied by poetry, some of it original, and some “stolen from some very good poets,” he says with a smile. Needless to say, the gifts are enormously popular gifts for the lucky recipients.

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Patsy Stephenson
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in the way she performs her assigned tasks, but above that, she is very interested in learning new things, improving the way we are doing things and in seeing that the mission of this department and the library becomes a reality.”

Ford goes on to say, “She has taken numerous computer related courses on her own that have enhanced her ability to do her job. She is very good at picturing workflow issues and coming up with the most efficient ways to do things in the department. She works very well with her co-workers in a cubicle-style work area that requires people to be aware of others’ needs.”

In their nomination, Heideburger, Hughes and Sellards noted that Stephenson had worked in the library while a student at MU before accepting a full-time position there. They wrote, “She has made a positive impression on many people throughout her years of service...Throughout the years she has seen and adapted to many changes in the department with a smile and good attitude. She is always learning new things to help improve her knowledge of the job through classes and workshops.”

Moreover, they continue, “Patsy is an active employee for the library ‘family’ as well as the Marshall community, through her participation on various committees ranging from search committees to library staff committees...Patsy takes her job above the basic duties assigned with a display of dedication and loyalty. She is very reliable...she is an asset to both the Library System and Marshall. She is a pleasure to work with in the department.”

Stephenson received a plaque and $100 from President Angel for being named Employee of the Month and will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.

Martha Lee Ranson (right) braces herself for the flu shot being administered by Bill Barnett, a nursing graduate student. The first campaign to offer flu shots on the South Charleston campus was very successful, according to Lou Ann Hartley, associate professor of nursing, and Kathy Zimmerman, office administrator for the Vice President of Regional Operations, who helped organize the event. Approximately 150 shots were given to faculty, staff, students, and family members over a two-day period.

Other graduate student nurses who took part were Nancy Katina Casey, Laura St. Clair, Wendy Maynard, Jan Ramey, Lisa Ramsburg, Amy Shaw, Darrell Spurlock, Jr., and Jason Turley.
Carolyn Quinlan and Bill Berry
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Quinlan, however, concentrates almost exclusively on taking exquisite photos of the wildflowers for which she has a passion. And it was the move four years ago of the college from the concrete campus of West Virginia State College to the present hilltop facility, surrounded by woods and grassy fields, that piqued her burgeoning interest in wildflowers.

“There were wildflowers everywhere,” she says enthusiastically. Flowering wild plants grew abundantly on the wooded slopes surrounding the college, and many varieties rimmed a former little league field, which is now a parking lot. Loaded blackberry bushes spilled off the hillside on the road leading to the college, just waiting to be put into a pie. A lunchtime walk, Quinlan discovered, could turn up a dozen varieties of wildflowers tucked away in woody nooks and crannies.

“I’ve always been interested in wildflowers, but it was when we moved to South Charleston that I really began to think about photographing them. I bought my camera for that specific purpose, to take close-up pictures.” Armed with her camera and her Audubon wildflower book to identify her finds, she made mini safaris around the campus on her lunch hour, photographing the intricate plants that grew wild with such profusion. The result, which she shared with the college community through a display in the lobby, was an artfully composed photo essay of beautiful flowering wild plants, which many people, she feels, dismiss as weeds. Her patience with her camera paid off when she caught some unexpected delights such as a butterfly with outspread stained glass colored wings, a bumble bee in flight and an iridescent bubble of dew clinging to a leaf.

And, like Berry, she does like to photograph family members as well. For the grandmother of two with a third due next spring, one of her favorite photos shows her young grandson’s face peeking through a profusion of wildflowers. “I like natural things, those things that are free, and not formal,” she says. “And I do like dandelions. I know some people really dislike them but they are beautiful when they bloom.”

Berry shares her enthusiasm for wild plants. “A weed is just a flower that most people don’t love. Many just see a weed instead of an intricate, beautiful flower.”

Quinlan credits Berry for helping her to appreciate roses. “I never really cared for roses because they are just so perfect,” she relates. “But she enjoyed learning about the care and feeding of roses and the intricacies of the many varieties from the knowledgeable rose grower, who regularly brings blossoms from his garden to share with her and other staff members.

And it was Berry who gave her a book that changed her eating habits—and eventually her life. “I wanted to lose weight and cook healthier meals for my family after my husband had blood pressure problems and eventually bypass heart surgery,” Quinlan remembers. Berry’s gift was a compilation of more than 200 healthy, but hearty recipes.

“That book has become my kitchen Bible,” she says enthusiastically. “It’s wonderful. I lost 26 pounds. More importantly, my husband and I feel better and have more energy since I have been cooking low sodium, low fat dishes. And besides, the recipes are so good, we’re actually eating gourmet.”

In fact her gift book made such a lasting impression on her, she’s become, Berry says admiringly, “A healthy living evangelist.”

“You can’t rely on others to provide these healthy meals, you have to cook,” Quinlan believes. “I’m trying to simplify the cooking process which would enable people with busy lifestyles to cook this way...I know they will love the way they feel. My philosophy is, why wait until you have to make a lifestyle change—do it now and enjoy the adventure!”

And the two co-workers sometimes come up with an impromptu collaborative project which neatly showcases their particular talents. “I took a photo of a mulleins plant which was growing on the slope at the back of the college,” Quinlan said of the tall stalky plant. “When I showed it to Bill, he wrote a wonderful poem to go with the photo. I think that was really neat!”

Plane Crash
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Alumni, Inc., on Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Huntington. Nate Ruffin and Ed Carter, members of the 1970 team who missed the East Carolina game, were the speakers.

The anniversary drew national attention including a special on ESPN, “Marshall Football: Thirty Years later,” and segments about the crash on HBO “Real Sports” and ABC Evening News.

Waiver Applications Available for Staff

Applications for Spring 2001 tuition waivers and financial assistance are now available to all staff members through the Staff Council’s Staff Development Committee.

To receive an application call or stop by the Staff Council Office at 100 Old Main, ext. 2222. The application deadline is December

Computer Learning Center Showcases Upcoming Programs

An wide variety of computer classes are being offered over the next few months by the Computer Learning Center of the MU Community and Technical College. The classes will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the South Charleston campus.

Classes to be offered include Access Introduction, Nov. 29 or Jan 26; Access Intermediate, Feb. 23; Microsoft Excel Windows Introduction, Jan. 18 or March 9; Microsoft Excel Windows Intermediate, Nov. 30 or March 27; Microsoft PowerPoint Introduction, Jan. 17 or Feb. 21; Microsoft Word Windows Introduction, Jan. 19; Microsoft Word Windows Intermediate, Dec. 8; PageMaker 6.5 Introduction, a two-day seminar, Jan. 29-30; Lotus Notes, Jan. 22.

Internet training classes available are Learn to Use the World Wide Web, Jan. 24; Doing Business on the Internet, Feb 7; Web Page Development/Design Introduction, Feb. 28; Web Page Development/Design Advanced, March 7; Front Page, Dec. 5 or March 21.

In addition, SQL Server Administration, a 4-day seminar, will be offered Jan 8-11.

For additional information, contact Martha Pierson at ext. 2062, or e-mail her at mpierson@marshall.edu.