Marshall Participates in PBS Premiere

The life of one of West Virginia’s most distinguished and influential native sons will be celebrated with the premiere broadcast of “A Principled Man: Rev. Leon Sullivan” at 8 p.m. on February 28 on West Virginia Public Television.

Marshall University and MotionMasters, a Charleston-based multimedia production company, produced the multimedia effort which also includes a Study Guide for Secondary Education and a World Wide Web site (www.revleonsullivan.com).

Just one year ago the Reverend Leon Sullivan came to Charleston as the 1998-99 speaker for the annual W. E. Chilton, III Leadership Lecture Series, which was founded to honor the late publisher of the Charleston Gazette. During the lecture event, sponsored by the Marshall University Graduate College Foundation, the entire audience of more than 500 jumped to their feet numerous times applauding and celebrating his inspiring words.

Sullivan, a Charleston native who grew up on an unpaved alley just off Bradford Street, was the son of an elevator operator and a movie theater janitor. After attending the segregated Garnet High School and graduating from West Virginia State College in 1943, he went on to become a noted preacher, educator, and human rights activist, who with his appointment to the Board of Directors of General Motors, became the first African-American to hold a seat on the board of a major U.S. Corporation. Through his human rights activities and his code of conduct for American corporate affiliates operating in South Africa, he would be credited with helping to end apartheid in that country.

Using his corporate influence, Sullivan developed the code which came to be known as the “Sullivan Principles” in 1977. The principles created a revolution in industrial race relations and were instrumental in dismantling apartheid in South Africa. In November 1999, the United Nations issued the Global Sullivan Principals, which require multinational companies to take a more active role in the promotion of social and human rights.

Lauded for his activities on both national and international scenes, Sullivan quietly piled up accolades through the decades. In 1993 he was named one of Life magazine’s Outstanding Americans and was The Charleston Gazette-Mail’s Man of the Year in 1965. His prominence led him to the seat on General Motors Board of Directors in 1971 and in 1992 President George Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award the United States can bestow upon a civilian.

After leaving Charleston, Sullivan became the pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia in 1950, eventually increasing the membership from 600 to 6000, making it one of the largest congregations in the country.

In 1964 he founded Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), a non-profit organization designed to train minority individuals for careers in the traditionally white-collar field of the business world.

Barbara Hicks Named February Employee of the Month

Barbara Hicks, administrative assistant senior in the office of Academic Affairs, has been selected as the Employee of the Month for February, according to Bill Burdette, Chairman of the Employee of the Month Selection Committee.

Hicks, who lives in Huntington, has been employed at MU for more than 10 years. She was nominated by Sarah Denman, Frances Hensley, Carrie Overmoyer, and Carolyn Roberts.

In their nomination they wrote, “Barbara has worked in the office of Academic Affairs for over 10 years. She is so knowledgeable in every area of the operation in this office that it is nearly impossible to (continued on page 2)
list all that she does and all of her contributions. She has an extraordinary institutional memory that is absolutely immeasurable to all of us. Barbara’s professionalism and expertise extend well beyond our office. She also works very closely with other administrative offices, college deans, faculty and staff, as well as state department officials and other institutions’ personnel, to assure prompt, accurate information is ready and available when requested. Barbara has become a recognized leader in Academic Affairs in the practical and efficient uses of technology. She is absolutely invaluable in this regard.”

In addition they noted, “Barbara’s pleasant, calm personality is a welcome asset to a very busy office. Just keeping up with the Provost and Senior Vice President, her calendar, and commitments is a job in itself. She is an exemplary employee and truly deserving of this recognition.”

Hicks received a plaque and $100 for being named Employee of the Month and will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.

Mead to Perform Feb. 27

John H. Mead, Professor of Music, will celebrate thirty-one years of service to Marshall University and the State of West Virginia with a “Farewell” trombone recital on Sunday, February 27 at 4 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall. He will be assisted by several colleagues, friends and former students.

The program will range from formal recital selections to show and movie tunes, a march, a turn-of-the-century duet, and a work by George Gershwin.

For more information about the program, contact the Marshall University Department of Music at ext. 3117.

Bids to be Taken on Surplus Property

The spring surplus property sale will be held the week of April 9, 2000, according to Barbara Smentkowski.

Departments that have equipment and supplies to sell must send a memo or e-mail listing the items and their org code to Carol Skaggs, Manager of Central Receiving. Each item or box must be tagged “YARD SALE.”

All material will be on display for faculty, staff, students and the general public on Monday and Tuesday, April 10 and 11, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sorrell Maintenance Bldg., 20th Street and 3rd Avenue and also at the storage facility located at 5 1/2 Avenue off 20th Street (behind Steiner’s Co). All items will be sold “as is-where is” with no guarantee as to condition.

Written bids will be accepted from interested individuals until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, when bids will be sorted and tabulated in the Purchasing Office.

Individuals with the highest bids will be contacted by telephone. Successful bidders will be expected to pay for and pick up purchases by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 14. The sale will be over at 4 p.m. Friday and there will be no exceptions.
Center “Pieces It Together”
March 3-5

The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia (CSEGA) will host a national conference March 3-5 that will showcase the research of seven MU Rockefeller Scholars-in-Residence.

“Piecing it Together: Ethnic Gender in Appalachia” will also feature research from other scholars. Registration begins March 3 at 9 a.m. on the first floor of the Marshall Memorial Student Center. A $250,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for the Humanities was used to create the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender and to provide fellowships to visiting scholars. The objective of the grant was to challenge negative stereotypes about Appalachians with an emphasis on gender and ethnicity.

The Scholars-in-Residence from 1997-1999 and their projects include Dr. Susan A. Eacker and Prof. Geoff Eacker’s “Black Men, White Ladies and Bluegrass Boys: A Gendered History of the Banjo in West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky”; Dr. Linda Tate,”Blessed Assurance,” a non-fiction personal sequel to her first book, “A Southern Weave of Women: Fiction of the Contemporary South”; Dr. Roberta M. Campbell’s research project, “Appalachian Identity: Convergence of Gender and Cultural Heritage,” which used the oral histories of former Huntington Owens-Illinois Glass Company employees to examine the ways in which gender, cultural heritage and class shape individual perceptions and lifestyles; Dr. Fred Barkey’s “Italian Coal Miners in the Southern West Virginia Mine Wars, 1902-1922,” an examination of the role of Italian immigrants in the industrial struggles in the West Virginia southern coal fields, especially in the Long Ton Strike and the Cabin Creek Paint Creek strikes from the point of view of Italian miners; Dr. Ancella Bickley and Dr. Rita Wicks-Nelson’s “Life Experiences of Older, Black, West Virginia Women,” which focuses on those women who have lived through major sociopolitical transitions such as World War II, the women’s movement, and increased opportunities for education and employment.

In addition to the several sessions on a variety of topics scheduled for the three-day conference, a musical drama, “The Fiddler’s Ghost”, will be presented by MU’s Opera for Youth on March 5 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. The play was written by West Virginia composer Albert Zabel and lyricist Linda Dobbs.

For additional information about the conference or individual events, visit the CSEGA web site or phone 696-3348.

Excused Absences

Absences have been excused by the university for these students on the dates noted:
February 24-27—Jenny Miller, Christy Hayes, Katy Lorenz, Jenny Van Pelt, Jennifer Hendricks, Angie Spiker, Elizabeth Duke, Monique Smith, Emily Morse, Claire Elmore, Evan Bevins, Adam Riazi, Zach Weir, David DeSario, and Jeremy Ramey.

Classwork Pays Off in Grants

When Lisa Lowe and Marianna Lyon, teachers at Nellis Elementary School in Boone County tell their students it pays to do homework, they’re not kidding. In fact, Lowe’s and Lyon’s homework assignment for a class they took last semester from Dr. Nancy Wilson at the Graduate College netted their small school more than $20,000 to help raise reading and math scores.

Assigned to write a grant as part of their classwork, Lowe and Lyon submitted proposals to the West Virginia Read and West Virginia Math programs. Both proposals were funded for a six-week program to be held this summer for 29 K-4 students at their elementary school which is located 13 miles from Madison. Named after the school mascot, the “Wildcat Detective Academy” project aims to teach children through deductive thought processes.

“They will be doing basic work and not realizing they are learning it,” Lowe says.

They garnered other contributions as well adding up to $60,000, including a grant for 10 computers written by another Nellis teacher. Transportation for the students will be provided along with a cook who will prepare two meals a day for the participating children.

Lowe is working on her degree at MUGC to teach mathematics through algebra I and Lyon is in elementary science education. Fellow teacher Donna Roberts is also attending classes at the graduate college while Valerie Elkins, a reading specialist, is a 1998 MUGC graduate.
tion Centers (OIC) to provide practical training for black Americans and later to individuals in several other countries. Today the program has 76 centers in the U.S. and 33 centers in 18 other countries, training more than two million people world-wide through its self-help programs.

Sullivan was one of nine people profiled in the 1996 documentary “The West Virginians” produced by Motion Masters. While making the documentary Diana Sole, president of MotionMasters, decided that the life of Leon Sullivan warranted being the subject of a separate documentary. Although he had been approached by several other film makers through the years to tell his story, the somewhat reluctant Sullivan demurred until Sole’s offer was made. Ultimately he agreed, according to Sole, because he wanted his story told in West Virginia where it had begun.

Bell Atlantic provided major funding for the production and also provided support for development of the Web site. Production funding has also been provided by the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional sponsors include Anheuser-Busch Companies, Columbia Gas Transmission, Columbia Natural Resources, DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, The Dow Chemical Company, General Motors Corporation, and the Office of West Virginia Governor Cecil H. Underwood. Support for the project is also provided by The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Dow Corning Corporation, Bernard McDonough Foundation, One Valley Bank, Colgate-Palmolive Company, Gannett Foundation, the Jacobson Foundation, the Herscher Foundation and FNB Banking. Union Carbide Corporation Foundation has provided funding for the development of the Study Guide, and the West Virginia Office of the Secretary for Education and the Arts funded the distribution of the Study Guide and Video to schools and libraries throughout the state.

Actor Ossie Davies, a friend of Sullivan’s, narrates the 60 minute program. Other interviews include Julian Bond, Chairman, NAACP; former U.S. Rep. William Gray; U. S. Rep. Jack Kemp; Kweisi Mfume, President, NAACP; Tom Murphy, former chairman/CEO of General Motors and David O’Reilly, vice chairman of Chevron Corporation; childhood friend Wesley Lynch; and daughter Julie Sullivan.

The program has several Marshall University connections. Diana Sole, an alumna of Marshall, is the program’s executive producer. Dan Shreve, the director/editor; Brian Peterson, the line producer, and videographer Wesley Poole are also graduates of Marshall.

Camelot Slated for March 8

It’s a love story that has it all— love, desire, romance, mystery, magic, and ultimately, betrayal, which could be taken straight from today’s tabloid headlines. But instead, the king-sized tale about a long-ago mythical kingdom will be brought to life through music and song on the stage of the Keith-Albee Theatre at 8 p.m. on March 8 when Lerner and Loewe’s CAMELOT is presented for one performance only.

Based on T.H. White’s best-selling novel, The Once and Future King, and set against the background of medieval pageantry, the musical recounts King Arthur’s holy quest for a virtuous and just society. CAMELOT was a hit show on Broadway for 25 months, racking up four Tony awards before ending its run in January 1963.

Tickets went on sale February 23. They are $36, $34, or $32 and may be purchased by calling 696-6656, or at the new box office of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on Fifth Avenue from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets may be purchased by phone with a Master Card or VISA.

CAMELOT is sponsored in part by City National Bank, WOWK-TV, and Sunny 92.7.

Morton Scholarship Established

A scholarship honoring long-time MU faculty member Dr. Giovanna Morton has been established in the School of Nursing. Dr. Morton, who was Associate Dean of Graduate Programs in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, died February 16. The scholarship will be for students in the School of Nursing. Gifts can be made to The MU Foundation, Inc., 400 Hal Greer Boulevard, Huntington, 25755.

Card of Thanks

The family of the late Vickie Scites would like to thank her many friends here at Marshall for their support during her recent illness and passing away. The many visitors, cards, flowers, and other acts of kindness were much appreciated. Thank you.

The Scites Family