Thompsons to be Honored by Marshall March 7-8

Marshall University graduates Dr. Lonnie Thompson and Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson will be honored by Marshall University March 7 and 8 for their many accomplishments in the world of science. The event is sponsored by the Drinko Academy.

Lonnie Thompson is a professor in the department of geological sciences at The Ohio State University, and his wife, Ellen Mosley-Thompson, teaches geography at The Ohio State University. Both are senior research scientists at the Byrd Polar Research Center, located in Columbus, Ohio. The husband and wife team are renowned for their work in drilling, recovering and studying ice core records from both polar and tropical climates. Lonnie Thompson recently was featured in “America’s Best,” a Time Magazine series looking at the nation’s top scientists and doctors.

Some highlights of the two-day event include open discussions between the Thompsons and College of Science.

(continued on page 3)

Smith’s Book Honored by Library Association

Dr. Jean Edward Smith, the John Marshall professor for Political Science, is listed among authors whose books made the American Library Association’s list of 2002 notable Books for Adults.

Smith’s Grant, published in April 2001 by Simon and Schuster, was one of only 11 nonfiction books to make the list of outstanding books for the general reader, according to an announcement made last month. The list is compiled by the Notable Books Council of the Reference User Services.

(continued on page 3)

NFL Star Troy Brown to be Honored Feb. 27

Former Marshall football player Troy Brown will be honored Feb. 27 at halftime at the Marshall men’s basketball game against Central Michigan. Brown, who lives in Huntington in the off season, plays for the New England Patriots, this year’s Super Bowl champions.

(continued on page 4)
Russian Customs, Culture to be the Focus of Spring Teacher-Lecturer

Vera Barinova will be the featured teacher lecturer for the College of Education and Human Services 2002 Spring Semester Teacher Lecturer Series. She is the latest lecturer in a series started to meet the diversity needs of students in the college.

In her lecture series, New Russia: Customs, Culture and Education, Barinova shares the experiences 20 years in the Russian educational system brought her, as well as the similarities and differences between Russian and American schools.

A graduate of the Vladimir State Pedagogical Institute, Barinova currently is working on her master’s degree in adult and technical education at Marshall.

“We began bringing in educators who could assist our teacher candidates in meeting the needs of diverse students in their classes,” said Dr. Jane McKee, Associate Dean for teacher candidates get the double benefit of learning about different cultures and school systems while learning tips on addressing the needs of diverse students in their classrooms.”

The Marshall community and the public are invited to attend the lectures. All lectures begin at 1 p.m. They include:

- Tuesday, March 5 - Jenkins Hall room 100
- Wednesday, March 6 - Jenkins Hall room 100
- Thursday, March 7 - Jenkins Hall room 100
- Friday, March 8 - Corbly Hall room 105

Call Center Program Receives Recognition

The Marshall University Call Center Supervision Program in the Community and Technical College has been nominated by Gov. Bob Wise to be featured at the Southern Growth Policies Board’s Innovators’ Fair scheduled for June 9-11 in Hilton Head, South Carolina, during the SGPB’s annual conference.

The SGPB asked governors last fall to nominate exemplary workforce development programs to participate in the fair and the MU program was one of several recommended from West Virginia. Participating programs will be profiled in a special compendium of best practices that will be released at the conference. The Call Center program will also receive special recognition at the Innovators’ reception.

CTC Medical Assistant Program Accredited

The Medical Assistant program in the Marshall Community and Technical College has received an initial accreditation for five years, according to Janet Smith, director of the Allied Health Division. The accreditation comes from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs.

A site survey was conducted in Fall 2000 followed by a progress report submitted in Oct. 2001. Smith says the Commission notified Marshall officials late last month that the next comprehensive evaluation, including an on site review, has been extended until the Fall of 2006.

“This was our initial accreditation...and we got a five-year accreditation which is highly unusual. Normally you

(continued on page 4)

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Michael Castellani, of the department of Chemistry, recently had a paper, “Ion-Pairing Thermodynamics for (eta-5-pentadienyl)Fe(CO)2- (Pentadienyl+MeCp, C5Me5, C5Ph5, C9H7) and X-ray Crystal Structure of ((eta-5-C5Ph5)Fe(CO)2PPN)” published in Organometallics (2002, v. 21, pp. 373-379). Prof. Michael Richmond of the University of North Texas and Professor Arnold Rheingold of the University of Delaware, were co-authors. Bruce Carter, a former MU undergraduate student, also was an author of the paper.

Profile: Terry Blake
A series on interesting Marshall University people.

He was a tough Marine Corps drill sergeant and later a long distance truck driver, who, after a move to Huntington, couldn’t get a job bagging groceries in a supermarket. However, thanks to some savvy advice from an intuitive employment counselor, Terry Blake today is the night manager of the Memorial Student Center, a full-time social work student who expects to work toward a master’s degree after he receives his B.A. in December, and a dedicated volunteer for Hospice.

A ten-year veteran of the Marine Corps, Blake, a native of San Diego, California, moved to Huntington several years ago after a divorce to be closer to his 16-year-old daughter, Essence, who lives with her mother, a native of Huntington.

He loved the military life and left the Marine Corps with an honorable discharge after being meritoriously promoted to E7/GySgt. “I just decided to see what I could do in the outside world,” he explains. “I bought a tractor trailer truck and for five years I hauled goods up and down the East coast. When my daughter moved to Huntington I wanted to be closer to her, so I gave up the truck and moved here, too—although I had only been in Huntington once before.”

It seemed like a good idea at the time, but he wasn’t prepared for the tight job market in his new city. “I looked everywhere for a job but I couldn’t find anything, including a job bagging groceries. It was really discouraging,” he says ruefully.

After two months of fruitless job hunting, he visited an office of the West Virginia Employment Services, where an employee who was a Navy veteran looked over his impressive resume and told him that with his exemplary background he really ought to go to college and prepare for a career. It was a big step. Because Blake had been out of school for several years, he had to take some catch-up courses and arrange for financial aid, but finally he enrolled as a full-time student at Marshall and began work in the Student Center as a work study student. “It was,” he says simply, “the best move I ever made.”

He and the center were a great fit from the beginning. “I worked in just about all areas, the main desk, the recreation area, the snack bar, anywhere I was needed.” He loved the work, loved working with the public and was very good at it. He learned literally from the ground up how the center operates and when the job of night manager opened up after a couple of years, he had worked his way up to fill the position.

Now, with a schedule which would overwhelm most people, he manages to juggle classes from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. He takes a couple of hours off and then reports for work from 3 to 11:30 p.m. He makes this sound easy, but one reason for that, he says, is because “I have a great bunch of co-workers.”

As the night manager he supervises several work sections, including the main desk and the recreation (continued on page 4)
Terry Blake
from Page 3

center in the basement. He and a crew of one set up any of the 12 meeting rooms and the cavernous Don Morris and Alumni Lounge rooms, where large groups are routinely accommodated. The rooms, particularly the two large ones, are used for a variety of events.

“The student center is available to both university and outside people,” he says. “For private parties, there is a charge.” Working with the center staff, he supervises and helps set up tables, chairs, lecterns, audio visual equipment—in short, any kind of request a client may make.

The much-used Don Morris Room, for example, is large enough to accommodate a band and it can hold up to 325 people if round tables are requested, 450 with rectangular tables, and between 700-800 people if chairs only are used. He’s quite definite about the numbers because, he chuckles, “I’ve lifted every one of them.”

His interest in social work and his current job are actually very compatible. “I love meeting and working with all types of people. People of various cultural backgrounds have helped me in times of need, so it’s a way of saying thank you,” he notes.

One of his favorite parts of the job is seeing a big event, like a wedding or a reception, come together exactly as the client planned. “When you set up a room and then it’s decorated and you see the look on the bride’s face or the mom’s face...you feel really good about doing your job. You’re helping to make unforgettable memories.”

There is really no down time for the center. It bustles with events all year, particularly in the summer when a myriad of activities fill most available space.

It was his Marine Corps training that taught him how to manage and not waste time, Blake says. And it’s a good thing, given his schedule. As a doting father, spending time with his daughter is his top priority. But for the past three years he’s also made time to volunteer at Hospice, staying with terminally ill people while their caregivers, usually family members, take a few hours off. “It’s important that the caregivers have some time to themselves. That’s one of the things I can do for them.”

Then there are his body building, weight lifting and running regimens. An avid body builder, he works out regularly at the MU fitness center and runs three miles a day. “It’s my stress reliever,” he says modestly.

Right now he’s looking forward to his graduation in December and beginning graduate studies soon afterward. “I’m not done yet,” he promises optimistically.

Medical Assistant Program
from Page 2

get three. We’re extremely lucky to get the long accreditation,” said Smith.

The Medical Assistant program is a two-year associate degree program that allows students to gain knowledge in clinical, clerical and managerial aspects of health care and makes them eligible to take the Certified Medical Assistant exam upon graduation. Because of their diversified training, Smith says medical assistants can serve at the heart of health care. Students also complete an extensive clinical in a health care facility. “The job market looks really good for the folks who go through this program,” Smith added.

German Puppet Troupe Arrives March 1

The German puppet troupe, Das Puppenspiel, bring their life-size puppets to the Keith-Albee Theatre for several showings of “Peter and the Wolf” and “The Snow Queen” on March 1 and 2.

“The Snow Queen” features dazzling visuals, exquisitely crafted “bunraku” style puppets—including a larger-than-life reindeer—and an original musical score that accompanies this adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen’s classic tale of friendship, fantasy, and the power of goodness and love. Showings are March 1 at 7 p.m. and March 2 at 7 p.m.

All tickets are $15 and $20. They are available at ext. 6656 through the MU Artists Series Box office, which is open Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. Tickets are also available at Ticketmaster and any outlet of various Kroger and Sam Goody stores.

Mayer Named Associate VP

Dr. Lynne S. Mayer has been named Associate Vice President for Development in MU’s Office of Development. Formerly Assistant Vice President of Development, she will continue to head planned giving and will now oversee the university’s Annual Fund and Development Services.

Mayer has a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan, a master’s degree from Teacher’s College of Columbia University, an M.B.A. from Marshall, and a doctorate in education from the cooperative program of Marshall and West Virginia University.

“Lynne has done an exemplary job at Marshall and looks forward to taking on more responsibilities,” said Dr. Carolyn B. Hunter, MU Vice President for Development. “She is a proven fundraiser, dedicated to the priorities of Marshall University. She is very skillful and adept at communicating the planned giving process to prospects and encouraging support. Marshall University is fortunate to have someone with her tremendous skills and experience.”

Marshall Day
from Page 1

portray various lawmakers, the governor and other political figures. Proceeds from the perennially sold-out show benefit the School of Journalism. For additional information, contact the School of Journalism at ext. 2360.

To sign up for a display, call Pelphrey at ext. 3134.