President Dan Angel presents Rick Newton with the oversize check commemorating his selection as Employee of the Month.
Terry Fenger Honored by Legislature

Dr. Terry Fenger, director of MU’s Forensic Science Program since 1994, was honored during Marshall University Day at the Legislature on March 6.

A copy of a resolution honoring Fenger, who is also chairman of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, was presented to him in the Senate.

Sen. Bob Plymale, who represents Wayne and Cabell counties in the fifth district, said Marshall has one of 10 forensic science master’s degree programs in the country.

Scottish Rite Foundation Donates $30,000 to Help Children with Communication Disorders

Marshall’s Speech and Hearing Center has received a $30,000 gift from the Huntington Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Foundation, Inc., which represents more than 1,100 members in this region.

The Speech and Hearing Center was started in the 1940’s to provide services to people with all types of communication disorders. The cooperative program between the Scottish Rite and the center will allow the center to expand through program development.

Kathryn Chezik, chair of MU’s Communication Disorders Department, which will provide these services, said the new partnership provides the opportunity for more outreach, while continuing the excellence of its academic programs.

“By joining with the Scottish Rite, we can increase direct services to the community, reinforce student supervision and develop more programs to expand the foundation of our center,” Chezik said.

The Scottish Rite’s national philanthropy is communication disorders in children.

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We Are...Marshall!

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The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall! will carry an issue date of April 5, 2002. Deadline is April 1. 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.

Note of Thanks

A sincere thank you for the cards, flowers, phone calls of concern and prayers during my recent surgery. The kindness and thoughtfulness shown during this difficult time are genuinely appreciated.

Many thanks,
Lu Ann South
Profile: Nina Barrett
A series on interesting Marshall University people.

She does serious work in her job as an accounting assistant, and she does serious work with the classified staff as a longtime activist for the staff, including several stints as the Classified Staff Council President. But look below the surface and there is a light-hearted prankster who delights in surprising coworkers and friends with ingenious stunts.

Nina Barrett, who has worked in the accounting department at Marshall for 20 years, has been a mainstay of the classified staff council for most of that time. On the council since the mid-1980’s, she’s currently serving another term as president, after having served a term from 1996 through 1998.

“The council has been an interest of mine since I came to Marshall and heard about it. The council deals with all sorts of things. It serves as a liaison between the classified staff and the President,” she explains. “We deal with any number of issues. It can be anything from legislative matters, such as acquiring a new salary schedule in State Code, to working to obtain pay raises for Marshall employees. One of our biggest challenges has been the transition from the old Board of Trustees to the new Board of Governors and to get a new salary schedule in place.”

She originally came to Marshall as a criminal justice student, with a double minor in sociology and English. After receiving her degree, she worked for a while as an emergency medical technician and as the office manager for an ambulance service. When the grant funding her job ran out, she looked around for another job and noticed an opening for an accounting job as an accounting assistant, and a position at Marshall. “I liked accounting in high school so I applied and got the job. I’ve been in the same position at Marshall since I started here and I really enjoy it,” she says.

A native of Hamlin, she still lives there and makes the 56-mile round trip daily. She and her husband, Brian, who is postmaster at Spurlockville and also minister of the Bear Branch Church of Christ in Spurlockville, have been married since 1982. As a minister’s wife she is very involved in the life of the church, but she’s not a member of the choir. “I couldn’t carry a tune in a bucket,” she says with a good-natured laugh.

She’s known as a no-nonsense person, who, when asked a question, will give an absolutely honest answer, but come Halloween a whole other impish side emerges. When the leaves turn, it’s time for Barrett to change into an imaginative prankster whose victims never know when she will strike. It’s her favorite time of the year, and her past escapades have become legendary around campus.

“I love Halloween,” she says enthusiastically. “I decorate everything and I plan surprises. I watch for after-Halloween sales and I buy all sorts of things—fake body parts, fake blood, severed fingers, you name it. The more amusing the better, but I don’t want to be too loud.”

Rick Newton
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co-workers. Rick organizes the yard sale pick-ups from the various departments and the set-up of the items for the sales. He works closely with the part-time employees, making them feel good about the job they perform for the department. Steady, longtime employees who do their jobs well deserve to be recognized for their loyalty and dedication to the university....”

Harmon said, “During the past 2 years of my working in the Receiving department Rick has been nothing but a help to me. His job knowledge and professionalism cannot be questioned. Without Rick, Dave, and Carol, it would be very hard to accomplish our work in the receiving department.”

President Dan Angel presented Newton with a plaque, balloon bouquet and a check for $100. He will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Through the use of collaboration, several professors in the School of Education presented referred papers at the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA). Dr. James Sottile, Dr. William Carter, and Dr. Paula Lucas presented a paper, “How Does Math and Science Achievement Affect the Development of Preservice Teachers’ Identity?” Carter and Sottile presented another paper, “Changing the Ecosystem of Preservice Math and Science Methods Classes to Enhance Students’ Social, Cognitive, and Emotional Development” at a symposium at the 2002 EERA conference. Dr. David Hollway and Dr. Ruth Ann Murphy individually completed research projects that were presented at EERA. Murphy’s research-based paper was “Instructional Methods Used to Facilitate the Development of Students’ Mathematical Knowledge in a District with At-risk Student Population But High Achievement on the Mathematics Section of Ohio’s Fourth Grade Proficiency Test.” Hollway presented his refereed paper at the conference, “Reading as the Reader: A Strategy for Improving Audience Perspective in Children’s Descriptive Writing.” Hollway and Sottile were discussants for different sessions at the conference.

Dr. Neil Arneson, director of MU’s Center for Economic Education and associate professor in the Teacher Education department, presented a section at the 33rd Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies, which was held in mid-March in Boston and was attended by more than 1,000 educators from the New England states, New York and New Jersey. His presentation, “Mercantilism—the Forgotten Explanation,” focused on tying an important economic concept about trade and economic development into teaching about the colonial period in a high school U.S. History class. Arneson’s presentation was selected from more than 400 submitted by educators from throughout the nation. This was the 14th time he presented at this conference.

Dr. Alina Zapalska, professor of economics, has recently published two papers in refereed journals: “Developing Creative Thinking: The New Zealand Undergraduate
Nina Barrett from Page 3

it, I probably have it. And no one ever knows where they’ll turn up!” There may be, for example, severed fingers by the coffeepot, heads that roll out of cubicle cabinets, fake tombstones with real names carved into them, and last year’s favorite, chocolate eyeballs purchased benignly at Kroger.

And to nobody’s surprise, she has a closet full of outlandish and mostly scary costumes, ready to be put into action at a moment’s notice. She’s particularly proud of this year’s elaborate charade, which involved getting an authentic-looking Marshall ID for the “Grim Reaper,” a spectral figure who prowled the halls of Old Main while Barrett innocently looked on.

And while the Fourth of July isn’t up there with Halloween, it’s still a lively time at the Barrett home, with the evening capped off with showy fireworks that rival Hamlin’s own display. “We have as many people who come into town to see ours as the town’s display. We really enjoy it. And believe it or not, other holidays are normal ones with family members. It’s just that these two are my particular joy to celebrate,” Barrett says.

Fireworks safety is of prime concern to the Barretts and only once has anything gone wrong. Somehow an errant firework went astray last year and crashed through her father-in-law’s picture window. “He was very understanding, though, and we were very thankful it happened to a relative,” she says ruefully.

Currently there are several important issues on which the Classified Staff Council is working, according to Barrett. Salaries are always an issue, she notes. And from her 20-year tenure she can look back at the many changes that have taken place at the university, almost all of them for the better, she feels. Numerous construction projects have altered the face of the campus. But the major changes she’s seen have come through technology.

“We’re really into technology now. I’ve seen incredible changes in my job, which has gone from all paper to all computer. When I first started, every desk had a typewriter and we typed the payment vouchers and transmittals and now everything is done by computers. It’s like going from a biplane to a jet plane. And that’s good as long as the computers don’t go down!”

And right now, in addition to her duties in the accounting department, her responsibilities in heading up the Classified Staff Council, and her volunteer work as a minister’s wife, Barrett is preparing to take on yet another duty and acquire yet another title—this time as the first lady of Hamlin. Her husband is running unopposed for the mayor’s position. So, unless something happens between now and the June election, Barrett will be tackling yet another role with her usual energy and aplomb. And should the new mayor want to appoint a Commissioner of Fireworks to orchestrate the town’s annual celebration, he certainly won’t have far to look for an enthusiastic volunteer.

Faculty/Staff Achievements from Page 3

Course,” with Stewart King of Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand in Ethics and Critical Thinking Journal; and “Teaching Business Issues With Experimental Methods: Simulations,” with Dr. Dallas Brozik of MU in Academy of Educational Leadership Journal.

Autism Center Opens in Weirton

The West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall has opened a northern Panhandle Satellite Center in Weirton.

The center provides the same services as the main center at Marshall. Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill, director of the MU training center, said the Weirton Center is the result of work between families with children with autism in the northern panhandle and their senators and delegates. Funding for the satellite center was made available through the Legislature. A similar satellite center was established in 1997 in Fairmont.

The main center was established in 1983 by the West Virginia Legislature and is housed in the College of Education and Human Services at Marshall. Since 1983, more than 1,000 families have received services from the center, whose mission is to provide education and training to parents, educators and others in the lives of West Virginians with autism.

Marshall to Host Town Hall Meeting

A Town Hall Meeting for Higher Education is scheduled for Monday, April 22, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center’s Alumni Lounge.

The meeting will give candidates for the U.S. Senate and the West Virginia Legislature from the five-county area of Cabell, Putnam, Lincoln, Wayne, and Kanawha an opportunity to respond to questions and issues regarding higher education in West Virginia.

The meeting is open to the public, as well as to faculty, staff and students. Questions are being solicited from the university groups by April 1. Faculty can send questions to Dr. Rudy Wang, chair, Legislative Affairs Committee in the Anatomy Department of the School of Medicine. Classified staff should send their inquiries to Mary Black in the Classified Staff office. Students can direct their questions to Jasper Black, president of the Student Government Association.

A simultaneous broadcast by WMUL is being planned.

Executives in Residence from Page 1

nors and the West Virginia University Foundation. In addition he serves on the Board of Directors of Massey Energy Company, Richmond, Va., the Branch Banking & Trust Company of Winston-Salem, N.C., and the advisory board of the Mingo Redevelopment Authority. He has served on numerous other boards through the years.

Craigo, who lives in Hurricane, represents the Fourth Senatorial District in the West Virginia State Senate, which includes the counties of Putnam, Mason, Jackson and Roane. A native of Putnam County, he was first elected to the WV House of Delegates in 1980, and then elected to the State Senate in 1982 where he has since been elected to consecutive terms. In 1994, Craigo was chosen to serve as chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and he is presently serving in that capacity. He also serves on the Banking and Insurance, Health and Human Resources, Natural Resources, Rules and Small Business committees, as well as the Select Committee on Economic Development. A successful businessman, Craigo owns and operates a chain of Gino’s Pizza and Spaghetti House and Tudor’s Biscuit World restaurants.