Angel Gives State of the University Address

Marshall University President Dan Angel delivered his annual State of the University address during the fall General Faculty Meeting Thursday, Sept. 11.

Using the title “The Capability Challenge: New Realities < New Frontiers,” Angel reviewed the challenges and opportunities Marshall faced during the past year, including budget reductions. He also mentioned a number of accomplishments of faculty and staff.

Angel made use of a quote from Thornton Wilder’s play, The Skin of Our Teeth, which says that good things are on a razor’s edge and have to be fought for.

“I’m positive that if any institution in the nation can turn these harsh new realities into new frontiers of growth and development,” Angel said, “Marshall University can, should and will!”

Nominations Sought for Honorary Degrees

The University Functions Committee is requesting nominations for honorary degree candidates and a commencement speaker. Individuals wishing to make recommendations are asked to send the name, along with supporting documentation, to Kelli Williams by Oct. 17.

For additional information, contact her at ext.

University Community Remembers 9/11

Ed Kittinger (left), a local psychologist who visited Ground Zero in New York after the World Trade Center attacks took place, spoke Thursday at the Student Government Association’s memorial service for those lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The ceremony also included a cello and bass ensemble (center) and presentation of colors by the Marshall University ROTC.

Dr. Frank Gilliam, professor of Biological Sciences, is the co-author and co-editor of a recently published book which focuses on the significance of the forest vegetation known as the herbaceous layer.

Gilliam and Dr. Mark R. Roberts of the University of New Brunswick collaborated on The Herbaceous Layer in Forests of Eastern North America. The book looks past a forest’s predominant vegetation—trees—to give a definitive look at the diverse assemblage of smaller forest plants which carry an ecological significance to the structure and function of the forest ecosystem. With over 1,200 references cited, the book represents the most comprehensive review of literature on the ecology of the herbaceous layer.

“This has been a lot of work putting the book together, but also a great honor to interact closely with some of the best plant ecologists in North America,” Gilliam said. “We have contributors from places such as Harvard University, Duke University, University of Colorado, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and the Canadian Forest Service. We have contributors from peer and neighboring universities such as Appalachian State, Virginia Commonwealth and Ohio University.”

And, he adds, “If there was ever a way to gain national prominence for Marshall University I hope this will be one (way).”

Gilliam, who has been a Marshall faculty member since 1990, is the author of numerous scholarly articles and is the co-author of an earlier book, Terrestrial Plant Ecology, 3rd edition, published in 1999. He has been the recipient of several prestigious awards while at Marshall, including the Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award for 2001-02, the MU Distinguished Artist and Scholars Award for 1999-2000 and the Outstanding

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Child Development Academy Receives NAEYC Accreditation

Marshall University’s Child Development Academy has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children—the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

The Academy is the child care center serving Marshall students and faculty, as well as the community. Opened in 1999, the Academy has experienced tremendous growth and success in serving the MU community.

The Academy participates in a collaborative effort with the university, allowing students from numerous departments to complete practica, observations, graduate assistantships, work-study hours and classroom participation opportunities. The collaborative framework for these efforts is facilitated through the College of Education and Human Services, supervised by Dean Tony Williams.

“We’re proud to be accredited by NAEYC, and recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Susan Miller, Director of the Academy.

“NAEYC accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences.”

The university now supports two accredited programs that implement best practice for young children, the Child Development Academy and the MU Early Education Center. The Student Government Association has continued to provide support since the Academy’s inception and continues to understand the value of child care to the Marshall community.

Faculty/Staff Achievements


Dr. Frederick P. Roth, assistant professor of Sociology/Anthropology, last month attended the XIII World Congress of the International Society of Criminology in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he presented a paper, “The Prospects for Democratic Policing in the Third World: The Mauritian Model.” Delegates representing more than 50 countries as well as officials from the United Nations, several non-governmental organizations and other international agencies participated in both formal and informal discussions and exchanges on a wide-ranging number of subjects related to crime and social control.

Marshall to Get Greener at Homecoming

It will be wall to wall green, even more than usual, when Homecoming rolls around next month with this year’s theme, “As Green As It Gets.”

The celebration, sponsored by the MU Alumni Association, kicks off on Monday, Oct. 6 and runs through Saturday, Oct. 11. Just some of the upcoming events are an office decorating contest, student government blood drive, a golf scramble, alumni 5K run, tailgate party at Herd Village, a Homecoming parade, a green and white day and the MU Athletic Hall of Fame induction banquet.

Marshall will play Kent State in a game that starts at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 11.

‘Vandalia Project’ Receives Funding

The Vandalia Project at Marshall has been approved for funding by the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) in the amount of $18,586 for the prototyping and development of a new DNA amplification method.

The Vandalia Project was formed during a spring 2003 course offered by Dr. Elizabeth Murray, associate professor of Integrated Science and Technology, and Dr. Herbert Tesser, professor and Weisberg Chair of Information Systems and Technology Management. The entrepreneurial course, Technology and Innovation, was funded by a NCIIA grant, and was focused on developing student ideas into commercial ventures. The final assignment in the course was to write a grant to the NCIIA and the DNA project proved to be a winner.

Sophomore Derek Gregg is coordinator of the project and Justin Swick, also a sophomore, is the project’s Lead Developer. Both are students in the Integrated Science and Technology program.

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Profile: Jack Cirillo
A series on interesting Marshall University people.

He was a talkative night watchman on Law and Order, the clever, crafty Pseudolus in A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum and Rudy, the helpful maître d’ in the Broadway production of The Matchmaker.

And if his face seems familiar to you, it may be you’ve caught his performance in one of the approximately 50 television commercials he’s done over the past ten years. Add to these a body of work that has encompassed all forms of acting from the darkest Shakespearean tragedy to the frothiest of musicals, and you have the essence of a professional actor.

But for now, professor John Colclough, aka Jack Cirillo, has given up his professional stage and screen exploits to teach students the finer aspects of the craft of acting. And at this point, he can’t think of anything else he’d rather be doing.

About the name. Born a Colclough, he took his mother’s maiden name because he thought it would be easier to pronounce and would fit well on a marquee while not as prone to misspellings. So for official paperwork, including the faculty/staff directory, he’s “John Colclough,” assistant professor of theatre/dance, but he can be found directing and handling all kinds of stage duties for the MU theatre under the Cirillo moniker—a comfortable fit.

A native of Hanson, Mass., situated about 25 miles south of Boston, Cirillo came to acting early, performing in a variety of school productions. It seemed only natural that by the time college rolled around he would become a theatre major. He chose the University of Idaho, which was known for its prestigious theatre program. Following graduation, he applied and was accepted into the professional actor’s training program at the University of Washington, which has one of the leading acting programs in the country, he says, on a par with similar programs at Yale University, Julliard, and the North Carolina School of the Arts.

After graduation he did what any aspiring actor does. He auditioned endlessly and took on roles that ran the gamut of drama, comedy and musicals. With New York as a home base, he traveled throughout the country with road shows, performed in regional theatre and on television and found work on both Broadway and off-Broadway. While the pay sometimes wasn’t great, he says, the rewards of working as a professional actor in his chosen profession were.

And in a tough field to break into, he was remarkably successful. He racked up television credits, a dependable actor who could be counted on to deliver just what the director ordered. He started appearing in television series like Law and Order, The Cosby Mysteries. A versatile actor, he found himself in demand for TV commercials, much sought-after “gigs” because they take only a day or two to shoot and the pay is good.

Along the way he picked up another distinction when he was trained to direct stage fights. There’s a real art to doing it successfully, and stage combat can range from sword fights to physical fist fights, he says. They have to be exciting and look fierce while no one gets hurt. In fact, he became so good at it he is now (continued on page 4)
Jack Cirillo from Page 3

certified by the American Society of Fight Directors and for several years directed combat sequences in numerous shows. Cirillo's expertise has piqued interest from his students and he runs regular workshops to pass along this highly regarded but little-known stage craft.

He did the whole road show routine, touring with various productions, literally living out of a suitcase. And it was fun at the time, he says, sometimes doing 6-8 shows a week, always striving to make each performance as vibrant and exciting as the opening night performance. But eventually he grew weary of the travel and the grueling schedules.

"I had lived in New York for 12 years ... and I felt like I had done what I was supposed to do, I had a career as a professional actor," he says. "But with the birth of my daughter I realized living out of a suitcase was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. My wife, Penny Watkins, got a job at Marshall as the director of the Artists Series and I came along to play stay-at-home dad." It was the role of a lifetime and one he relished.

With a thriving theatre program at Marshall, and with his impressive theatrical credentials, it didn't take long for him to begin teaching classes, starting part-time in 1997 and becoming a full-time faculty member in 1998.

And just as "location, location, location" is the motto for the real estate industry, "training, training, training" is the mantra for the theater professions.

"Keeping performances fresh during the run of a show is a challenge," according to Cirillo. "That's where training comes in and that's true not only of acting but of all the theatre professions. For our students, we try to keep our focus, a method actually, on creating a way of doing work that can be repeated over and over."

And it takes a big commitment of both time and effort to be a theatre major, Cirillo stresses. "Students have a full load of classes and then they typically head over to the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse where they may have rehearsals or production work from 7 to 11 p.m., five days a week because there is usually a rehearsal of some sort going on at any given time. They are hard pressed to see much of Huntington other than the four walls of the Playhouse. This serves as a screening process for our majors who can see how much commitment it really takes to work in the profession.

"One thing I tell them, you never stop learning, an actor is always learning. Life is constantly changing and evolving and you have to continue to open yourself up if you are going to be a success in this business."

Many of the students have been successful. They've gone on to graduate school where theatre training is even more intense because it is so focused, and others are in journeyman training programs. Some have gone on to work in technical fields and still others are pursuing acting careers.

"Our students are doing what they are supposed to be doing," Cirillo says thoughtfully. "They are either finding their way in professions or they are taking graduate training. Students can work, not with stars necessarily, but on stage, perhaps working with regional or children's theatres. Being successful is making a career in something you want to do, and to make whatever accommodations are necessary."

Now that he's found a home at Marshall, he can teach a full load of classes, direct at least two shows a year, perform occasionally and still have time for his family, which now includes 6-year-old Kate and 4-year-old Rose.

He sums up his theatrical career succinctly. "There are lots of people doing jobs they love. That's what I always wanted. And because I love the work I do, it really doesn't seem like work to me!"

Banner Training Offered Beginning Sept. 17

Human Resource Services will be offering training and development courses in September. They include:

Banner Budgeting Overview, September 17, from 10-11:30 a.m., room 207 Old Main - This workshop will provide anticipated revenue budgeting overview, allocation budgeting overview; personal services budgeting; introduction to various Banner budget screens, and a question/answer session. It will not address grant budgeting. It will be facilitated by Sandie Means of the Budget Office.

Banner HR View Module, Sept. 23, 9-10 a.m., 207 Old Main - The View module provides information on how to view employee, position and job records in Banner HR. As a prerequisite, participants must be enrolled in the Banner HR View process. The facilitator will be Jim Stephens of Human Resource Services.

Banner On-Line Inquiry and Reporting, Sept. 25, 1-2 p.m., 224 Old Main - This workshop is designed to teach the Banner user the basic online forms available for retrieving financial information and for researching financial transactions for a department. Monthly reports will also be reviewed. Linda Mollohan, of the Accounting Department, will be the facilitator.

Psychology Clinic from Page 3

training, anger/conflict management, and sessions on how to quit smoking.

"The Psychology Clinic and the very affordable fees are ideal for people who want mental health services but have a limited income or don't want to go through their insurance company for treatment," said Beard, who is a licensed psychologist and licensed professional counselor.

Beard stresses the clinic is not equipped to handle clients who immediately appear to represent a danger to themselves or others, or who demonstrate acute psychotic symptoms. Those individuals, he says, should go immediately to a local hospital emergency room.

The clinic's hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Clients are seen by appointment only and walk-ins cannot be accepted. All services are strictly confidential. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 696-2772. The clinic's web site is http://www.marshall.edu/psych/clinic/clinic.htm.

Gilliam Book from Page 1

Graduate Advisor at Marshall in 1998. Gilliam is a six-time recipient of the faculty merit award, and was a finalist for Professor of the Year in West Virginia in 1999.

Vandalia Project from Page 3

Both Murray and Tesser are serving as advisors to the Vandalia Project in addition to Dr. Michael Norton, Professor of Chemistry.