

7-25-1991

MU NewsLetter, July 25, 1991

Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://mds.marshall.edu/oldmu_newsletter

Recommended Citation

Office of University Relations, "MU NewsLetter, July 25, 1991" (1991). *MU NewsLetter 1987-1999*. Paper 132.
http://mds.marshall.edu/oldmu_newsletter/132

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marshall Publications at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in MU NewsLetter 1987-1999 by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu, martj@marshall.edu.



NEWSLETTER

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25755 • July 25, 1991

MU Social Work Program accredited

Marshall University's Social Work Program has received initial accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education, according to Jody Gottlieb, director of the program.

Accreditation is the culmination of more than three years of work by university officials, Social Work faculty members and community residents which began before the university program was granted candidacy status by the CSWE in 1988.

The program's candidacy status was granted and backdated to begin with the fall semester which started in 1987. Gottlieb said the accreditation means that everyone who graduated from the program since candidacy status was granted can claim the rights and privileges of

graduating from an accredited program.

This is important, according to Gottlieb, because licensure laws in West Virginia and most other states require social workers to graduate from accredited programs before they can take state examinations and be licensed. She said graduating from an accredited program also means that persons can receive advanced standing when enrolling in graduate schools to obtain master's degrees.

Under candidacy status, an institution does not have to meet all requirements of the CSWE for accreditation, but does have to develop a three-year plan for meeting the requirements.

After being granted candidacy status, Marshall administrators and faculty led by former president Dale F. Nitzschke worked to develop a plan which would ensure accreditation for the program.

"In order to get accreditation, we had to increase the resources of the program," explained Gottlieb. "For example, we had to expand our curriculum, which resulted in hiring a third full-time faculty member who will begin this fall."

An extensive three-volume self-study report also had to be written and submitted to the CSWE prior to a campus visit by the accrediting agency's Commission on Accreditation. Based on the self-study report, an on-site visit to the Marshall campus was held last February and March. The Commission on Accreditation met in June and agreed to grant accreditation to the program.

"I think the on-site team was particularly impressed by the community support for the program, our alumni

(Continued on page 2)

Med students getting H.E.L.P. at Marshall

Learning-disabled medical students are exceptionally bright -- they couldn't have made it to med school otherwise -- and Dr. Barbara Guyer knows they can become excellent doctors. They just need a little help ... Medical H.E.L.P., to be precise.

Doctors and medical students from across the United States are at Marshall University this summer for Guyer's one-of-a-kind program which helps them overcome the effects of dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

Called Medical H.E.L.P., the program teaches participants to manage their time, improve their reading and learning efficiency, apply critical thinking skills and sharpen their test-taking skills, according to Guyer, program director and professor of education. The program is a special adaptation of Marshall's Higher Education for Learning Problems program.

This year's nine Medical H.E.L.P. participants include a practicing surgeon and radiologist as well as medical students from California, Kansas, West Virginia, New York and Puerto Rico.

Most participants in the program have dyslexia, she said. In addition to their high intelligence, they have other qualities in common. "Research shows that dyslexic people have special skills: they're usually more verbal, and often more creative, sympathetic, athletic and math-oriented," she said. Her experience also shows that they can excel as doctors.

Guyer uses one of her first students as an example. "About six years ago, the dean of Marshall's medical school called because a very bright, motivated medical student was failing," Guyer said. "The dean asked me

(Continued on page 2)

ATC receives grant

Marshall University and the Autism Training Center located at the university have been awarded a \$49,836 grant by the West Virginia Department of Education to conduct a summer institute during the second term of summer classes.

Dr. Barbara Becker, director of the Autism Training Center, said the summer institute will provide training for 30 West Virginia teachers who currently work with children with autism.

Participants will receive five weeks of instruction in autism and will be granted six graduate hours of credit. The program's practicum, worth three credit hours, will be offered during the regular school year under the terms of the grant.

Becker said participants will receive a total of nine graduate hours of credit which is the amount required for the autism endorsement for teacher certification.

To obtain further details contact Becker at the Autism Training Center at Marshall University, 696-2332.

MU Social Work Program accredited

(Continued from page 1)

survey which showed that approximately 90 percent of our graduates got jobs within the first month after graduation and finally by the knowledge of our students and faculty," said Gottlieb.

The CSWE is expected to send a more detailed report concerning the program's accreditation to the university in six to eight weeks.

Students getting H.E.L.P.

(Continued from page 1)

to test the student for learning disabilities, and it turned out he had a genius level IQ but high-school reading skills. He was in the depths of despair."

Guyer started working with "John," and by the end of the summer she also was helping three other students improve their reading speed and comprehension. The monthlong program now draws about 15 participants, including practicing doctors and medical residents as well as medical students.

The program taps high-technology learning techniques such as computerized vocabulary-building and speed-reading programs. Participants also work individually and in small groups with two teachers who have master's degrees in learning disabilities.

They spend time in stress-management sessions. "Dyslexic medical students have had no experience dealing with failure," Guyer explained. "Many were valedictorians, with difficult majors and 4.0 grade point averages, who got to medical school and failed miserably. A few have told me they were suicidal."

Once the program is completed, Guyer urges participants to call in regularly so she can monitor their progress. "If they start to slip, they'll often call in for a refresher," she said. "Most of them just need encouragement and to be reminded of the skills they learned and the positive mental outlook they need to have."

So far the program has a nearly 100 percent success rate, she said. She points with particular pride to John's success: he began to excel in medical school and ultimately was chosen for a highly competitive plastic surgery residency program. In fact, the residency director told John that his success in overcoming dyslexia helped win him the position. On an American Board of Surgery examination, he scored in the top 10 percent in the nation.

"The Medical H.E.L.P. program is probably the most rewarding thing I've been involved in," Guyer said. "These people are so gifted, and you know that if they have to leave medical school, they'll have some deep emotional scars.

"It's an exciting group to work with."

Marshall Interim President Alan B. Gould said the program's accreditation caps several years of effort and outstanding work by many individuals.

He said Nitzschke played a major role in getting the program accredited.

"In 1987, Dr. Nitzschke went to the Board of Regents and convinced the board members of the need for the program and presented a plan for receiving accreditation," said Gould. "He provided much of the support and emphasis which resulted in this significant achievement."

Gottlieb said between 40 and 50 students will be enrolled in the program this fall and she expects enrollment to gradually increase because of the accreditation and the availability of jobs in the field.

"There is a real shortage of social workers in West Virginia and other states," said Gottlieb. "Our students are virtually guaranteed jobs and most have secured positions before they graduate. There is a lot of potential as far as employment is concerned. Our students work for state and federal governments, hospitals and health care organizations and many different agencies. It is a field with a promising future.

"We've known for some time that the social work program is worthwhile and is needed in this area. We also know that our students receive excellent educations and preparation for careers in social work. I think accreditation reinforces those feelings and assures the quality of the Social Work Program at Marshall University."

Employee achievements

DAN MARTIN, professor in the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, recently conducted the first workshop in the state for public school teachers and coaches on the subject of "Anabolic Steroid Abuse and the High School Student." The workshop was sponsored by Fayette County and held at Oak Hill High School.

Dr. ROBERT L. DINGMAN, professor in the Department of Counseling and Rehabilitation, was the presenter at the Tennessee Mental Health Counselors Association Conference held recently in Murfreesboro, Tenn. His presentation was titled "Helping Your Clients Build Self-Esteem."

Dr. CHONG W. KIM, professor and chairman of the Management Department, has had an article titled "The Law Enforcement Crisis in West Virginia: Job Satisfaction and Officer's Turnover" published in *The West Virginia Trooper* (Vol. 7, No. 1, 1991). Co-authors were Daniel Bickerton and Choy Kwan Yuen.

VICKIE CRAGER, administrative aide in the Biological Sciences Department, is the manager and pitcher for a local softball team which won the Bud Light-Blue Chip Classic National Invitational Tournament held July 6-7 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her team placed first in a field of 19 teams and qualified for the divisional national tournament which will be held in Detroit, Mich.