

8-22-1991

MU NewsLetter, August 22, 1991

Office of University Relations

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Recommended Citation

Office of University Relations, "MU NewsLetter, August 22, 1991" (1991). *MU NewsLetter 1987-1999*. Paper 130.
http://mds.marshall.edu/oldmu_newsletter/130

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NEWSLETTER

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25755 • August 22, 1991

H.E.L.P. program gets \$320,000 boost

The generosity of a Willow Wood, Ohio, man will enable Marshall University to build a long-sought facility for the university's H.E.L.P. (Higher Education for Learning Problems) program.

Marshall President J. Wade Gilley said Wilbur E. Myers donated stock valued at \$320,000 to The Marshall University Foundation, Inc., to complete funding for the first phase construction of the facility, which is expected to cost \$672,000. He noted the H.E.L.P. Center is being built totally with private funds.

Groundbreaking will be conducted later this month with completion expected next spring. The center will be erected on university-owned property on 18th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

"We're really pleased about this development," Gilley said. "The H.E.L.P. program has earned much

deserved national recognition and the new facility will allow it to assist even more students. We're grateful to Mr. Myers and to the other generous donors who have enabled us to move forward on this project without having to await financial assistance from the state."

Myers said he "felt compelled" to support the H.E.L.P. program after reading a newspaper article that described its impact on students with learning problems.

A native of North Lima, Ohio, Myers retired in 1968 as associate chief, appellate division, with the Huntington office of the Internal Revenue Service. A 32-year employee of the federal government, he is a 1932 graduate of Youngstown (Ohio) State University. He is the father of four children and grandfather of seven.

When completed, the new H.E.L.P. Center will more than triple the size of the program's current home, a 2,400-square foot corrugated metal building on campus.

"We're very excited about the new facility," Dr. Barbara P. Guyer, director of the H.E.L.P. program, said. "Last year we had to turn away three students for every one we accepted. We simply didn't have the space.

"The space we have had is too open and noisy, with
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Wilbur Myers

Wheeless appointed chair of Speech Dept.

A veteran professor and administrator of communication studies at West Virginia University has been appointed chairman of the Department of Speech at Marshall University effective with the fall 1991 semester, according to Dr. Deryl R. Leaming, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Leaming said Dr. Lawrence R. Wheelless, professor and associate chairman of communication studies at West Virginia University in Morgantown, will head the department.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to fill this important position with a person of Dr. Wheelless' quality at a critical time in the future of the department," Leaming said. He noted the department will be undergoing an extensive curriculum review this school year as it redefines its role in serving the university and community.

Broadcasting, formerly a part of the Speech Department, will be a sequence in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism. Leaming said this will allow the speech faculty to more effectively define its mission.

Wheelless said, "I look forward to leading the department at a challenging time for it. The department will be undergoing a significant transition because broadcasting has moved to journalism.

"We need to reformulate the department's goals and mission within the university. I believe we need to make
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Wheeless

MU awarded \$14 million in grants for 1990-91

Marshall University has just completed another record setting year in obtaining grants, according to Dr. C. Robert Barnett, director of grants and research development.

The university received a total of \$14,386,172 in grant funding for fiscal year 1990-91, an increase of \$8,613,913 or 249 percent more than the previous year.

Marshall's faculty and staff submitted 166 proposals to various funding agencies and had 103 projects accepted for funding. The university's success rate was 62 percent, an excellent ratio according to Barnett.

Dr. Robert F. Maddox, executive assistant to the president and director of Marshall's Office of Research and Economic Development Outreach, said, "Last year I predicted that Marshall would receive \$10 million in grants and contract funds during 1990-91. However, the securing of more than \$14 million far exceeded our most optimistic expectations.
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H.E.L.P. program gets \$320,000 boost



Wilbur E. Myers, third from left, donated \$320,000 to complete funding for a facility to house the H.E.L.P. (Higher Education for Learning Problems) program. With Myers are, from left, Dr. Roscoe Hale Jr., professor and chairman, Division of Teacher Education; Dr. Edward G. "Ned" Boehm Jr., vice president for institutional advancement; Dr. Barbara P. Guyer, professor, Division of Teacher Education, and director of H.E.L.P.; Yvea A. Duncan, H.E.L.P. coordinator, and President J. Wade Gilley.

Chairman appointed

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some important changes in our course offerings. We will need also to redefine and further develop the quality of majors at undergraduate and graduate levels.

"I believe we have at this time the opportunity to become a new, contemporary, modern-day department operating under a new banner -- maybe 'Communication Studies' or something similar to that name."

In addition to offering bachelor's and master's degrees in speech communication, the department also offers a number of service courses each semester for more than 1,000 students throughout the university.

Wheless was a professor at WVU from 1985 to present and from 1972-82. He was professor, associate chairman and graduate director of speech communication at Texas Tech University before returning to Morgantown. He also has taught at Illinois State University, Detroit Institute of Technology, Wayne State University and University of Houston.

He received his doctoral degree from Wayne State University, master's degree from University of Houston and bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University.

His areas of teaching and research specialization are human information processing, instructional communication, interpersonal and intimate communication, research methods, communication theory, persuasion, organizational communication and decision making.

Wheless has been active in a number of national and international communication associations and has been a frequent guest lecturer and consultant. He has extensive publications to his credit, including books, book chapters and journal articles.

Dr. Craig Monroe, professor of speech, has been serving as acting chairman this summer. Dr. H. Keith Spears was chairman for the past two years and is now director of instructional television at the university.

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too many distractions. Currently, we are using chalk boards, bookcases and anything else we can get our hands on as room dividers. In the new building, we will have 15 tutorial offices with sound-resistant walls. We have 130 students now and can accept 170 after the new building is completed," Guyer continued.

The new facility also will have two testing offices, administrative offices and room for 15 to 20 computer work stations. The program now has a tiny room with two computers.

Guyer said the current project is the first of two planned phases for the H.E.L.P. Center. In the first phase, a 7,450-square foot structure will be built, including the "shell" for second-phase construction. Thirteen additional tutorial rooms and two rooms for individual and group study will be completed during the second phase.

H.E.L.P. has assisted approximately 700 students since Guyer organized the program in 1981 with funds from the Marshall Foundation. The students' learning disabilities have included dyslexia, problems in concentrating and lack of ability to organize one's activities. The majority of students in the program are dyslexic.

Dyslexia is a neurological dysfunction in the language center of the brain, affecting a person's ability to read and write. To a dyslexic person, written letters appear to "spin" on the page. "The" may be seen as "het" or "eht." Often, the letters appear upside down, with an "h" appearing to a dyslexic person as a "y." H.E.L.P. students have average to superior intelligence, some are even at the genius level, but have difficulty in reading. Many creative people, such as Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, George S. Patton and Michelangelo, have been dyslexic.

Guyer said services offered at Marshall to students with learning problems include tutoring in course work, note taking, study skills, organization and memory improvement, and remediation in reading, spelling and written language skills. H.E.L.P. serves as a liaison between the professor and student. Oral tests are administered when appropriate. Counseling for problems of self-concept and severe test anxiety are also available.

The H.E.L.P. program has approximately a 95 percent success rate, based upon the number of students who complete a semester with a "C" average or better.

Guyer has received national recognition for her work with the program. She has been featured in Newsweek, Family Circle and other nationally distributed publications.

Architect for the project is Clint Bryan & Associates of Charleston. Neighborgall Construction Co. of Huntington has a consulting contract to provide construction management services.

NEH grants available

The internal Marshall University deadline for submitting applications for 1992 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipends will be Sept. 13, according to Dr. Sarah Denman, associate provost.

To obtain further details contact the Marshall University Provost's Office, 696-5442.

Minority Students Programs head named

Macel A. Braxton has been named coordinator of minority students programs at Marshall University, according to Kenneth E. Blue, associate dean for student affairs.

A Charleston native, Braxton received her bachelor's degree in Spanish and Latin from Marshall and her master's degree in education with an option in school administration and supervision from California State University at Hayward.

Prior to accepting a position at Marshall, she taught Spanish and Latin for 12 years in the Oakland (Calif.) Unified School District and taught in the Oakland Evening Adult School.

She served as chairwoman of the California Learning Educational Reform Network (C-LERN) for the State Department of Education. The committee developed a

Holleron appointed manager of WPBY-TV

Thomas K. Holleron has been named general manager of WPBY Channel 33, the public television station serving Huntington and Charleston with studios at Marshall University.

Holleron, who has more than 36 years of experience in television, joined WPBY in 1983 as chief engineer. He has served as the station's acting general manager for the past 22 months.

Prior to accepting a position at WPBY, he was responsible for engineering operations for the Rex Humbard Foundation and worked for the University of Kentucky Department of Media Services and WOUB-TV in Athens, Ohio.

A native of Huntington, Holleron attended Ohio State University and Ohio University. He is a graduate of Deforest Technical Institute and the Cleveland Electronic Institute.

He serves on the board of directors of Contact and the Marshall University Campus Christian Center and is a member of the United Methodist Advisory Committee.

Reception scheduled

Marshall University's Division of Student Affairs will hold a farewell reception in honor of Steve Naymick and Don Robertson on Monday, Aug. 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Shawkey Dining Room in Memorial Student Center.

All faculty and staff members are cordially invited to attend.

Center needs envelopes

Marshall University's Computer Center needs large campus envelopes, according to Vickie Navy.

Departments and offices that have a surplus of large campus envelopes can contact Virginia Keeney in the Computer Center, 207 Prichard Hall, 696-3222.

five-year plan for improving achievement and attendance in schools and lowering the dropout rate.

Braxton also worked with Hispanics, teaching English and history to persons who wanted to become citizens of the United States.

She previously taught in the Upward Bound Program at Mills College in Oakland and served as a sales engineer with Macy's California.

Braxton has been involved in various professional and community organizations and has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the San Francisco Inter-Alumni Council of the United Negro College Fund and the National Classical Languages Honorary.

Her duties as coordinator of minority students programs will include coordinating programs and services specifically for minority and black students, with a general responsibility to meet the needs of all students; serving as an advocate for minority students and a catalyst in assisting the university community to help these students achieve their goals; coordinating with university departments and units preventive and developmental services for minority students, and generating financial support for programs and services.

"I am glad we were able to attract a person of Ms. Braxton's caliber to fill this important position," said Blue. "She has worked with minority students in the Oakland School District and has developed plans to help minority students stay in school and succeed. We are looking forward to having her implement some of the programs she discussed with us during the interviewing process."



Macel Braxton

Su joins medical school

A specialist who treats behavioral and developmental problems of children has joined the Department of Pediatrics of the Marshall University School of Medicine.

Dr. Rumie Su is the only fully trained behavioral developmentalist in West Virginia, said Dr. Joseph Werthammer, chairman of pediatrics.

She will work with children who have problems such as mental retardation or cerebral palsy, and has a strong background in learning disabilities and behavioral disabilities. She also hopes to develop a program for children with multiple handicaps or who are chronically disabled, Werthammer said.

Su recently completed her fellowship in developmental pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. There, she was associate medical director of the Cerebral Palsy Program at the hospital's Children's Seashore House.

She completed residencies at the University of the Philippines and at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. She received her M.D. degree from the University of the Philippines and a master's degree in public health from San Diego State University.

MU receives record amount of grants

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"As recently as 1983 and 1984 we were securing less than \$2 million per year in grant funds. The kind of growth we have achieved since then is nothing less than phenomenal. It is testimony to Marshall fulfilling the role of a regional research university."

In the past nine years, Marshall has more than doubled the number of grant proposals submitted and the number of projects funded. The dollar value of the grants has skyrocketed, going from a total of \$1,743,975 in 1983 to more than \$14 million this year.

The major sources of grant income at Marshall are the Office of Research and Economic Development Outreach with more than \$8 million in grant funding and the School

of Medicine with almost \$4 million in grants.

According to a report prepared by Barnett:

-- The Office of Research and Economic Development Outreach received \$8,877,846 through 27 funded proposals;

-- The School of Medicine had 20 proposals funded for a total of \$3,968,656;

-- The College of Education received \$545,898 through 13 funded proposals;

-- The Student Affairs Division received \$489,120 through eight funded proposals;

-- Marshall's Community and Technical College had nine proposals funded for a total of \$267,367;

-- The College of Science received \$121,454 through eight funded proposals;

-- The College of Liberal Arts had seven proposals funded for a total of \$94,516;

-- The College of Fine Arts received \$18,877 through 10 funded proposals;

-- The College of Business received \$2,438 for one funded proposal.

Approximately 41 percent of Marshall's grant total came from corporations, 36 percent from federal agencies including the armed services and the National Science Foundation, 19 percent from foundations and private sources and 4 percent from state and local agencies.

Maddox gave a lot of credit for Marshall's performance in obtaining grants to its faculty, staff and administration, which he said actively sought and encouraged grant participation.

He also praised West Virginia Senators Robert C. Byrd and Jay Rockefeller and West Virginia's congressional representatives for the roles they played in helping the university obtain grants.

Barnett said, "Obviously the grants bring money to the university we wouldn't otherwise have, but there are other benefits as well. For example, grants help make our professors better teachers because they get the opportunity to do research which they can utilize in the classroom."

Maddox said, "The addition of \$14 million into the regional economy will have an outstanding impact. The amount of the money alone is a stimulant for the economy, but it has a double impact because many of the funded programs are aimed at economic development."

Employee achievements

Dr. ALAN ALTANY, assistant professor of religious studies, has had two articles accepted for publication. "Silence: Lotus in the Desert," a study of the role and meaning of silence in the historical development of western Christian monasticism, will be published in the May 1992 issue of "Studies in Formative Spirituality" by the Institute of Formative Spirituality at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. An article on the meaning of the sacred in the poetry of American writer, poet, monk, mystic and social critic Thomas Merton (1915-1968) titled "Thomas Merton: Poet of the Sacred" will be published in an upcoming issue of The Merton Seasonal at Bellarmine College, Louisville, Ky.



GILLEY ADDS GREEN TO WARDROBE

Marshall University President J. Wade Gilley received his official green sports jacket from Martha Hill Merical, left, president of the Marshall University Alumni Association, and Linda Holmes, center, director of alumni affairs, during a reception in Gilley's honor sponsored by the Alumni Association Thursday, Aug. 15.

Library hours set

Marshall University's James E. Morrow Library will observe the following hours beginning Aug. 26, according to Josephine Fidler, director of libraries:

Monday through Thursday .. 7:45 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday noon to 5 p.m.

Sunday 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The library will be closed Aug. 31 and Sept. 1-2 due to the Labor Day holiday.