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Office of University Relations

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NEWSLETTER

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25755 • September 12, 1991

MU to host black history conference

"Honoring Our Past," the fourth annual conference on West Virginia's black history, will be held at Marshall University on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 20-21, in Memorial Student Center.

The conference will focus on the study of black history in West Virginia and include presentations by nationally known scholars and historians who have demonstrated interest in research and retaining the state's black history, according to James W. Gipson, a member of the conference planning committee.

"We will have programs on influential and successful blacks in West Virginia, community builders, the educational plight of African-Americans and other topics that should be of interest to a wide range of people," said Gipson.

Mobile pediatric clinic established

A mobile pediatric clinic soon will be reaching into deeply rural parts of West Virginia through a partnership between Marshall's School of Medicine and Valley Health Systems.

A grant from the Children's Health Fund and U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller is providing the mobile medical clinic and operational support for the first year.

Using Valley Health clinics as starting points, the van will make weekly half-day or full-day stops in tiny rural communities in Wayne, Lincoln, Mingo and Logan counties. With two exam rooms, an interview room, a small lab, a waiting area and a state-of-the-art computer system, the mobile clinic is a fully equipped physician's office.

Traveling teams will include a driver, clerk, nurse and provider -- either a nurse practitioner, pediatrics resident, or family practice physician. To provide continuity of care, each community will have a regular team of providers which returns at each visit.

Dr. Patricia Kelly, associate professor of pediatrics at Marshall, will be the program's medical director. The School of Medicine also will provide specialty care and pediatrics residents for the program. Valley Health will coordinate the project with local community groups, provide family practice physicians and other provider and support staff, and offer 24-hour coverage through its physician call system. A. Michael Perry of Huntington and Sen. Rockefeller will be co-chairmen of the West Virginia project.

"We will provide comprehensive well-child care," said
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Charles L. Blockson, curator of the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection in the special collections department of the Temple University Libraries, will be the opening speaker for the conference at 9 a.m. Friday in Memorial Student Center.

A native of Norristown, Pa., Blockson holds honorary doctorates from Villanova and Lincoln universities. A former president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and director of the state Historical and Record Advisory Board and its Black History Advisory Board, Blockson is the Afro-American commissioner on the Governor's Heritage Affairs Commission and is a director of Philadelphia's African-American Historical Marker Project.

Blockson has spent more than 40 years amassing one of the nation's largest private collections of items relating to black history and traditions.

He has written several books on the subject of black history including "Pennsylvania's Black History," "Black
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Charles Blockson

Opening ceremony set

Opening exercises for the Marshall University School of Medicine will be held Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 8 p.m. in the W. Don Morris Room in Memorial Student Center.

Marshall Provost Alan B. Gould will speak, and student and faculty awards will be presented. A reception will follow on the patio.

All interested members of the Marshall community are invited to attend.

Committee seeks funds

The University Functions Committee will be collecting annual donations prior to the general faculty meeting on Sept. 19, according to Dr. Mack H. Gillenwater.

A table staffed by members of the committee will be located near the main entrance to Old Main Auditorium.

During the past academic year, the committee spent approximately \$800 on funeral and hospital flowers for 21 faculty members and administrators or their immediate families.

Gillenwater said a donation of \$5 per person has been suggested by the committee, although any amount will be appreciated. Checks may be made payable to the University Functions Committee.

MU to host black history conference

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Genealogy," "The Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania," "A Commented Bibliography of One Hundred and One Influential Books By and About People of African Descent," "The Underground Railroad" and "First Person Narratives of Escapes to Freedom in the North" which won the "Choice of the Book of the Month Club" award.

He also has written articles for such prestigious publications as National Geographic and The Bulletin of The Historical Society.

Blockson's presentation will be followed at 10:15 a.m. by a session titled "Fleming Jones and Harry Capehart: McDowell County Attorneys and Legislators" and at 11 a.m. by a session titled "Joseph Dodd, Parkersburg Artist."

From 1 to 4 p.m., several communities will be high-

Pediatrics going mobile

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Dr. Kelly. "We also hope to reach teen moms and their children, children who have been seen in the emergency room, and children who have been discharged from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit who have problems getting in for follow-up care."

A transportation system is being arranged to help the rural site patients get subspecialty care when needed, she added.

"I passionately care and the Pediatrics Department of Marshall University passionately cares about the kids of West Virginia," she said at the news conference announcing the grant. "We want them to receive quality health care, and to have access not only when the van is there but also when it is not."

"Often there are incredible obstacles to families in isolated regions," she said.

Dr. Kelly says she hopes that familiarizing residents with rural medicine will encourage them to set up practice in such areas themselves.

Sen. Rockefeller, who arranged for a \$100,000 gift from an anonymous donor and gave \$50,000 to the program himself, said, "We have to fight for and protect the future of our children. Lives are twisted and lost because people are too poor or too isolated -- psychologically or geographically -- from getting health care."

Dr. Irwin Redlener, co-founder and president of the Children's Health Fund, called the mobile vans "an immediate solution, a known solution" to children's health problems. "The challenge is to find the right homes for the vans," he said. "Finding the connection of Valley Health Systems and Marshall was incredible for us."

Steven Shattls, Valley Health Systems executive director, said, "The partnership between Valley Health and Marshall University Pediatrics Department is a model in both medical education and health-care service delivery that soon will be nationally known and envied."

Lederle Laboratories is a major corporate donor to the project.

lighted including Institute, Johnson Hollow and Johnson-town (an eastern panhandle black community).

Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Student Center and will be followed by the presentation of a play titled "On This Rock" by members of the First Baptist Church of Charleston. Dr. Virginia Edwards, professor emerita at West Virginia State College, will make a presentation regarding the connection of material in the play to the trickster motif in black American literature.

Saturday's activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Memorial Student Center with a presentation titled "Bluefield State College: A Time of Crisis."

A session titled "The Livisay Family of Wayne County, W.Va." will be held at 10:10 a.m. and will be followed at 11 a.m. by a session titled "Collecting and Preserving Historical Material."

Lunch and a presentation titled "From the Grove to the Stars," a pictorial history of West Virginia State College, will be held at 12:30 p.m.

All conference programs will be open to the public free of charge. There will be a \$12 charge for the Friday banquet and an \$8 charge for the Saturday luncheon.

Marshall University's Community and Technical College will grant continuing education credit for participation in the conference.

A number of scholarships covering meal expenses will be available.

To obtain further details or tickets for the banquet and lunch contact the Marshall University Graduate School Office, 696-6606, or the MU Student Development Office, 696-2324.

Psychology Clinic opens

Marshall University's Psychology Clinic will offer a variety of psychological services to community residents and university students and personnel during the fall semester, according to Dr. Jeff Boggess, director of the clinic.

Services are available for psychological and interpersonal problems, including depression, anxiety, stress, marital and family problems, relationship concerns and difficulties with children's behavior and learning.

Psychological evaluations will be available and group programs on various subjects will be periodically offered.

Clinicians are advanced graduate students who work under the close supervision of Psychology Department faculty members.

Boggess said the clinic is committed to providing quality services to the university and community.

He said the clinic's fees are quite low and will not block access to desired or needed services. Marshall students and personnel will receive a 50 percent discount on services.

The clinic is located in Harris Hall Room 449 on the Marshall campus.

To make an appointment or obtain further details contact Boggess, 696-2770, or the Marshall University Department of Psychology, 696-6446.

MU sorority establishes scholarship

The Delta Beta chapter of Sigma Kappa national sorority has contributed \$11,600 to The Marshall University Foundation, Inc., to establish a scholarship.

Dr. Edward G. "Ned" Boehm Jr., Marshall vice president for institutional advancement, accepted the check from Joleyne Jackson Blain, Delta Beta alumnae president, and Eileen Butterworth Marinacci, chapter treasurer. Boehm said \$10,000 of the chapter's gift will be invested and proceeds will be used to provide an annual scholarship. The remaining \$1,600 has been awarded to the chapter's first scholarship recipient.

Meredith Anne Fredeking of Huntington received the first scholarship. She is a senior, majoring in elementary education. Her mother, the former Nancy Shimp, was a member of the Delta Beta chapter. Under the guidelines for awarding the scholarship, "legacies" -- sons, daughters, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews of Sigma Kappa members and the founding sorority, Pi Kappa Sigma -- will be given priority.

Blain said the scholarship was a way for chapter alumnae to share the education experience they had at Marshall with others.

The university also will receive quarterly interest from a loan the chapter made to the national sorority. The interest will be used to build the endowment so additional scholarships may be awarded, Blain said.

Travel abroad focus of 'My Foreign Affair'

Marshall University's seventh annual "My Foreign Affair" reception will be held Thursday, Sept. 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Shawkey Room in Memorial Student Center.

The reception provides an opportunity for people who traveled abroad last year to get together with people who would like to travel abroad in the future, according to Dr. Robert Kriebel, acting director of Marshall's Center for International Studies.

"The increasing interdependence of cultures and countries requires that universities prepare their students to function as citizens of the world," said Kriebel. "Our planet has become a global village and, more than ever, students need to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will equip them for living in a global environment."

Marshall's Center for International Studies, located in Old Main Room 228, promotes study abroad as a vital part of a person's education and is equipped to offer advice on programs, passports and travel details, according to Kriebel. He said the center's motto is "Go Away."

The reception will be open to anyone interested in traveling abroad.

To obtain further details contact the Center for International Studies at Marshall University, 696-2465.



Meredith Anne Fredeking of Huntington, center, is the first recipient of a scholarship endowed at Marshall by the Delta Beta chapter of Sigma Kappa national sorority. She is a senior, majoring in elementary education. With her are Dr. Edward G. "Ned" Boehm Jr., MU vice president for institutional advancement, and Joleyne J. Blain, alumnae chapter president.

Trade Show scheduled

The fifth annual Tri-State Trade Show, sponsored by Marshall University's Office of Purchasing and Materials Management, will be held at the Huntington Civic Center Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 18-19.

One of the region's largest and most comprehensive trade shows, the event attracted more than 150 companies and filled 240 exhibit booths last year, according to William J. Shondel, director of Marshall University's Office of Purchasing and Materials Management.

Shondel said the trade show, directed toward industry, business, government, education, health care providers, contractors and the mining industry, is a very cost effective way to reach new customers and expand markets.

To obtain further details contact Barbara Smentkowski, show director, at Marshall University's Office of Purchasing and Materials Management, 696-3157.

Childers receives grant

Martha G. Childers, associate professor of home economics at Marshall University, has received a \$40,000 grant from the Maternal and Child Division of the West Virginia Bureau of Health.

The grant will enable Childers to continue her work with the bureau's Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention project and will be used to employ one full-time adolescent pregnancy specialist.

Childers has received grant allocations totaling \$120,000 over the past three years for the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention project.

School of Medicine completes study

A Marshall University medical study comparing communities near industrial sites to towns farther from them showed few statistically significant differences.

The study sought to learn whether there were differences in death statistics, differences in the health events people recalled, and differences in how people perceived their health status, said Dr. Robert B. Walker, chairman of Marshall's Department of Family and Community Health.

The towns studied were Ceredo, Guyandotte and Kenova (considered close to industrial sites) and Barboursville, Hamlin and Lesage.

The study, funded by a Gannett Foundation grant, found that residents of Kenova considered their health poorer than residents of Barboursville did, although residents of Ceredo and Guyandotte did not. Kenova residents also recalled having more headaches than residents of Barboursville, Hamlin and Guyandotte did.

There was no statistical difference in numbers of deaths or causes of death between any community and the six-community group. In comparing individual communities, however, Barboursville showed a somewhat higher rate

than Hamlin in percentage of deaths from cancer and from those causes grouped as "possible environmental causes." Barboursville also showed a higher unadjusted rate of deaths from birth defects than Guyandotte did.

"You have to be very cautious in interpreting these findings," Walker said. "Death certificate information can be unreliable, and it is difficult to compare data that is not adjusted for age and gender." Perceptions of health status and recollections of health events also are subjective, he added.

The focus of the finished study is more narrow than originally planned, primarily because too few people were willing to participate.

The Marshall study made no attempt to link health differences to any possible causes, Walker noted.

"Our goal from the beginning was simply to compare the health status of people in communities where environmental concerns had been widely expressed to that of people in other local communities," he said.

Representatives of many local groups helped shape the study: private citizens, industry, the West Virginia and Kentucky air pollution control boards, the West Virginia Division of Health, the West Virginia Legislature, the Cabell County Medical Society, and the School of Medicine. This advisory group determined policy for the study and reviewed the data analysis before its release.

The researchers compiled statistics from death certificates and conducted interviews of randomly selected households. Interviewers contacted 1,325 households in the six areas. Thirty-five percent declined to participate or withdrew consent, and 245 households could not be reached in three attempts. Most questions in the survey came from the National Health Survey and the Kanawha Valley Health Study.

The data was analyzed by Ohio State University. The information was coded so that the analysts did not know which information came from which community, Walker said.

Jobs Hotline developed

Marshall University's Placement Services Center will no longer publish its Employment Opportunities Bulletin, according to Reginald A. Spencer, director of the center.

Instead, the center has established a new call-in job listing service.

Current job listings will be available to callers on the university's new Jobs Hotline, (304) 696-JOBS.

Spencer said callers would be able to choose from among several job categories by pressing corresponding numbers on touchtone telephones. Categories will include listings such as business, government, higher education, teaching, human services and others.

The new Jobs Hotline will be updated every Friday.

"The Jobs Hotline has a number of advantages over the newsletter format we had been using," said Spencer. "It can be updated frequently. It can be accessed directly by the caller at any time and it allows the caller to hear only the job categories they want to hear."

The Jobs Hotline number, 696-JOBS, is not a toll-free number.

To obtain further details about the new job listing service contact the Marshall University Placement Services Center, 696-2370.

FACDIS seeks members

Dr. Carolyn Karr, Division of Curricular and Instructional Support and Leadership Studies, said any new faculty members who teach courses with an international focus and would like to belong to FACDIS should contact her at 696-2962 by Sept. 16.

Retired professor dies

Dr. Harold E. Ward, 73, of Huntington, husband of Ellen Hazlette Ward, died Saturday, Sept. 7, in St. Mary's Hospital.

In 1981 he retired from Marshall University, where he was chairman of the Biological Sciences Department. He retired from the southern campus of Ohio University earlier this year.

Ward received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall and his doctorate from Ohio State University.

He was a veteran of World War II, where he served as a captain in Normandy, northern France and the Rhineland and received the Silver Star and Purple Heart with oak leaf clusters.

Ward was instrumental in designing the biological science laboratory at the southern campus of Ohio University and was the first faculty member to teach at the facility. The laboratory was dedicated to him and named after him last June.