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‘Doing Life Histories’ workshop March 18

The Oral History of Appalachian Program (OHAP) will sponsor a free and open workshop entitled “Doing Life Histories” on Wednesday, March 18 from 4–6:20 p.m. in Corby Hall Room 105, according to Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, director of the program.

Topics covered in the “Doing Life Histories” workshop include research and archiving and transcribing.

Ewen said, “There will be speakers from various disciplines to present the topic from different perspectives.”

Key speakers include: Dr. Monserrat Miller, Drisko Academy Fellow and assistant professor in the Department of History; Dr. Karen Simpkins, associate professor in the Department of Anthropology; and Dr. William Westbrook, professor in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology.

Ewen will conduct the workshop and Gina Kates, administrative secretary and assistant professor in the Division of Continuing Education, will lead the discussion on transcriptions.

If you are interested in attending or would like to learn more about the “Doing Life Histories” workshop, please contact Gina Kates at 696-6799.

CLAE exam review dates changed

The dates for preparatory courses for the Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) exam have been changed due to the request of the CLA exam. As a result of the request, the exam will be offered on 30 different testing dates.

March 4-18 – This workshop will deal with "Administrative Law," "Business Organizations," and "Contracts."


March 16 – "Criminal Law and Procedure" and "Ethics."

May 23 – "Interviewing and Human Relations" and "Legal Research/Paralegal.

Participants may register for all six sessions at a discounted rate of $280, or for single sessions at $55 each. Contact the Division of Continuing Education, 696-3113.

Burggraf named director of Southern Mountain Center

Dr. Donna L. Burggraf has been named director of the Southern Mountain Center developed by the School of Extended Education and the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

"At Southern Mountain Center, the mission is to provide Marshall University upper division courses, graduate courses and Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree programs in convenient locations to the students in the southern mountain region of West Virginia." She said.

"It is an excellent opportunity to meet with local and regional employers, form business contacts and apply for current openings."

The 21st Annual Business Fair is free and open to the public and no registration is required. Contact Patricia Gallaher, 696-2371, for more information.

RCBI has $10 million impact on state

The federally funded Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) at Marshall University is paying dividends to West Virginia, according to a new study.

The study, conducted by Nexus Associates, Inc. of Belmont, Mass., covers RCBI operations from 1996 to date. In those two years, services provided by RCBI to small and medium-size companies added $10 million to the state’s manufacturing economy. In fact, managers of six firms said RCBI was responsible for keeping their companies in business.

Launched in 1996, RCBI seeks to enhance the competitiveness of West Virginia companies by helping them adopt the most advanced manufacturing technologies and management methods.

RCBI clients had sales levels more than $6.4 million higher than they would have been in the absence of RCBI services and total value added to the state during the year was $10 million higher than it would have been without the program, according to the report.

The study also indicated that, in compliance with its federally funded mission, one quarter of RCBI clients work directly with defense contractors. Most other clients are second and third tier suppliers as well as supplying commercial markets.

Other highlights from the Nexus Associates report include:

- RCBI has made a significant impact on the operations of many manufacturers in West Virginia. Eighty percent of firms surveyed indicated they had made changes to their operations as a direct result of RCBI services, with nearly 30 percent reporting that they had made "substantial" or "very substantial" changes.

- Nearly 60 percent said they had acquired new management or technical skills and more than half obtained new information on markets, technologies or competitors.

- Company managers interviewed for the study all credited RCBI for helping them enhance the technological exploitation of their products and processes.

- Changes in plant operations had led to improved manufacturing performance. Client firms indicated improvements in areas such as material scrap rates, quality and "with its federally funded mission, one quarter of RCBI clients work directly with defense contractors. Most other clients are second and third tier suppliers as well as supplying commercial markets.

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- Changes in plant operations had led to improved manufacturing performance. Client firms indicated improvements in areas such as material scrap rates, quality and efficiency.
If a person wants to start a new business but doesn’t quite know where to begin, he or she might consider a new program offered by Marshall University’s Community Outreach Partnership Center.

"Start Your Own Business—Be Your Own Boss" is a four-series of eight evening sessions and three live seminars designed to teach people the basics of operating a new business. Beginning April 2, the series contains individual sessions on topics such as "Beginning an Entrepreneur," "Things to Consider Before You Start" and "Financing Your Business".

RCBI has $10 million experience by customers using RCBI shared manufacturing equipment was, on average, 89 percentage points larger than the gain for companies in the survey that did not receive this service.

"No college experience is required to take this course, and a person may be able to participate even if he or she doesn’t have a high school diploma," said Elaine Noble, director of Marshall with the Kellogg National Leadership Program, a three year national program where she traveled around the country and the world to gain experience by customers using RCBI shared manufacturing equipment was, on average, 89 percentage points larger than the gain for companies in the survey that did not receive this service.

Grants available for graduate research

The Graduate Student Council and the MU Graduate College will award several research grants to students during the period covering the end of the spring semester to June 30, 1998, according to Dr. Leonard Deutsch, graduate dean.

Graduate students who have approved the projects may apply for a $500 grant to underwrite the costs of conducting their research. Selection forms are available in the Graduate College Office, Old Main Room: 113.

For more information about the "Start Your Own Business—Be Your Own Boss" course, contact Marshall University’s Community Outreach Partnership Center, 696-4817, or Elaine Noble, 696-6251.

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EPCoR grant applications accepted

An April 3 deadline is set for research proposals for the West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPCoR) mini-grants program, according to Dr. Leonard Deutsch, dean of graduate college.

Designed to aid tenured or tenure-track faculty members at West Virginia institutions of higher education, the program assists in the preparation of research or research equipment proposals for submission to external entities. By accepting the faculty member agrees to submit a proposal to an external agency or foundation, with a copy to the EPCoR office, before the end of the Fall 1998 semester.

Individuals interested should contact Dr. Patricia B. Lockett, chair of the proposal evaluation committee, at 696-7330 for an application.

Faculty Senate to meet March 19

The MU Faculty Senate will meet Thursday, March 19 at 4 p.m. in the John Marshall Room in Memorial Student Center, according to Corley F. Dennisson, president of the senate.

The agenda will include: a report from MU President J. Wade Gilley, announcements and an ACF report. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information, contact the Faculty Senate office, 696-4736.

MU faculty and staff achievements

Dr. CHRISTOPHER DOLMETICH, professor in the Department of Modern Languages, has contributed a review of Doris M. Freiwald’s "No Man’s Land: The Creation of Krasnoiorsk-Elschenik: The Victory of a Tenacious Will" to the Feb. issue of "Choice" (Vol. 35, no. 2), published by the American Library Association.

Applications can be obtained from the MU Community Outreach Partnership Center, 696-4817. Upon receipt of an application, a meeting will be set up to introduce the participant to the program and the person’s interest in starting a business and his or her eligibility for a tuition waiver.

Participants in this program will learn how to turn ideas into action and the process of overcoming barriers." Noble said. "Ultimately, they will be given the chance to customize their own approach to starting a business.

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