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Office of University Relations

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Marshall moves to cut operating costs

Marshall University President J. Wade Gilley has announced a series of organizational changes, most designed to reduce operating expenses during the 1998-99 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

"Under Senate Bill 547, passed in 1995, West Virginia's higher education institutions are required to increase faculty and classified staff salaries to certain prescribed levels. Without strong budget allocations, we will fall short of meeting those levels," Gilley said. "In other words, the West Virginia Legislature told all of us in higher education we were going to have to operate more efficiently."

To meet the legislative requirements, Marshall must increase faculty salaries an average of 4 percent each year over the next two years and classified staff salaries by 6 percent, five percent and five percent, respectively, over the next three years.

"Marshall's shortfall in 1998-99 will exceed $600,000. At the same time, our enrollment is growing and we need to provide more faculty and professional staff positions to meet our enrollment growth. To meet this challenge, we will take a series of steps to reduce non-teaching staff and to operate in a more cost-effective manner," Gilley said. "Although several previous positions have been eliminated, no current university employees will lose jobs.

Changes include:

- Creation of a College of Nursing and Health Professions within the Division of Health Sciences by combining the School of Nursing and the departments of Communications Disorders, Medical Technology and Dietetics. Dr. Lynne Welch, School of Nursing dean, will serve as dean of the new college.
- Reorganization of the College of Science into three divisions: Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences and Mathematical and Computer Sciences.
- The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications will be separated from the College of Liberal Arts, effective Sept. 1, becoming an independent academic unit reporting to the vice president for academic affairs.
- Dr. Dennis P. Prisk, currently senior vice president for graduate and extended studies and technology, will become senior vice president for administration, graduate studies and technology. His additional responsibilities will include oversight of residence life, student center operations and the office of the dean of students.

"We are engaged in this work to better understand the issues that will take precedent during the upcoming year," Neal said.

Some of the issues that the council will be dealing with are the salary schedule, annual increments, retirement, personnel administration and staff development.

"The university's Advisory Council will be involved with a number of issues that are critically important to the classified staff," Neal said. "The salary schedule is one of the most important, because if the legislature continues state funding increases at 3.25 percent for the next two years, the classified staff will have its first ever fully funded salary schedule. The time to make these changes should be made now."

For more information about the Advisory Council, call 304-696-2897, and ask for Stephanie Neal, 696-3183.

(Continued on page 2)

'Appalachians Abroad' program in full swing

Marshall University is taking the concept of extended education to the limit with the introduction of 'Appalachians Abroad,' a new study abroad program — this time sending 25 educators from 15 states to China in order to build educational and business relationships between the country and the Appalachian region.

"Appalachians Abroad," which is housed in the MU Center for International Programs, is designed to train and send people from the Appalachian region to teach English as a foreign language in China.

"We recently held a four day pre-departure training session, and it was outstanding," Neal said.

(Continued on page 2)
Eleven gifted students from six states (three from West Virginia, three from Ohio, two from Florida, one from Michigan and one from Virginia) have been selected for the 12th class of Yeager Scholars, according to Martha C. Woodward, executive director of the university’s John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence.

They were chosen from 163 applicants for the Society of Yeager Scholars program, which offers an intensive, enriched educational program over the next four years.

The students were selected for their excellence in the classroom but also cited extracurricular activities in school and community service as reasons the students were selected for the prestigious program. “Our 12th class continues the high academic quality and wide range of extracurricular activities characteristic of the previous classes,” she said.

One scholar program is named in honor of General Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager, the West Virginia who pioneered America’s modern aeronautical exploration efforts by breaking the “sound barrier” in 1947. In addition to lending his name to the program, Woodward said Yeager has been extremely supportive in its development.

As Yeager Scholars, the students will receive scholarships, internships, and an allowance for textbooks and supplies, half of their housing costs and a $4,000 stipend that will allow them to explore opportunities in a foreign country.

Members of the Marshall University Society of Yeager Scholars Class of 2002 are: David James DeLario of Palm City, Fla., a student from Martin County High School; Ethel Ruth Duke of Hoover, Ala., a student from Hoover High School; Claire Elizabeth Elmore of Salmon, Miss., a student from Escatawpa, Miss.; Kathryn Elizabeth Lopez of Hillsboro Heights, Ohio, a student from Chaminade College Preparatory School in Dayton, Ohio; Jennifer Korell Miller of Warren, Va., a student from Paul Quinn High School. The Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, Ohio; and Scott Ramey of Panama City, Fla., a student from Bay High School.

• Adam Shaheen Rizal of Akron, Ohio, a student from Firestone High School.

• Adrienne Monique Smith of Huntington, a student from Huntington High School.

• Angela Elizabeth Spiker of Portsmouth, Va., a student from Ruffin High School.

• Zachary Andrew Weir of Beckley, a student from Woodrow Wilson High School.

Yeager Scholars Class of 2002 selected

Funeral held for Connie Murdock

Murdock

Funeral services were held June 6 for Connie Murdock, a member of the Accounting Office. She was 24.

Murdock was a resident of Proctorville, Ohio, died June 3 at St. Mary’s Hospital. She was a member of the MU staff since March 1, 1995, and was recently elected Marshall University Employee of the Month in August 1997 after being nominated by the staff of the Accounting Office.

“In that short time she made a very positive impact on this office,” the staff stated in their letter of nomination. “We have found that no job is too trivial, or no job too big for her to take on. She has tackled them all with equal enthusiasm.

“We feel she deserves this honor because she is a type of leadership which enabled each of us to fulfill our goals,” the staff stated.

Murdock was a member of Windsor United Methodist Church and Teresa Chapter 257 Order of the Eastern Star. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by a brother, Larry E. Vanosky. She is survived by her husband, Keith A. Murdock; her mother, Moran Murdock; one sister; and brothers-in-law, Terrie Lynn and Bill Collins of Barboursville and Linda Kay and Gary Moore of Princeton; one brother, Billy Joe Vanosky of Prestonsburg, Arizona; one brother-in-law, Paul Murdock and wife, Tammy of Proctorville, and several nieces and nephews.

MU moves to cut operating costs (Continued from page 1)

“While the steps we have announced today will enable us to grant the salary increases for Fiscal Year 1998, we are looking at a $12,000 shortfall in our Fiscal Year 2000 and another $233,000 in Fiscal 2001,” he noted.

Giley said the university will continue to look for additional ways to increase efficiency and reduce staff as a consequence of the 1995 legislation.

The weekly faculty-staff newsletter, currently printed weekly, will be changed to a daily electronic format and three-times-a-semester printed publication.

The university magazine — Marshall University Magazine (MUGC) — will cease publication of its July 1998 issue in order to make it more cost effective.

The position of director of auxiliary enterprises, currently vacant, will be eliminated and its responsibilities assigned to other administrators.

Op-eds

MU faculty and staff achievements

Yeager Scholars: 12 students selected

The university magazine — "Appalachians Abroad" program in full swing (Continued from page 1)

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