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MU NEWSLETTER

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25755 • Feb. 13, 1997

Nickell named Marshall Employee of Month

Elizabeth "Libby" Nickell of Kenova, accounting assistant II in the Finance and Administration Division of the School of Medicine, has been selected as the Marshall University Employee of the Month for January, according to Bill Burdette, chairman of the selection committee.

Nickell has worked for the university for more than 15 years. She was nominated for the award by James J. Schneider, associate dean for finance and administration in the School of Medicine. In making the nomination, Schneider said, "Although Libby is classified as an accounting assistant, this title hardly does justice to the variety and complexity of tasks she undertakes to keep the medical school's financial and business operations running smoothly (no easy task!)."

Journalist/educator will make presentation

Roger Wilkins, a journalist and the Clarence J. Robinson professor of history and American culture at George Mason University, will make a presentation titled "The Future of Affirmative Action in Higher Education" in conjunction with Marshall University's observance of Black History Month on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. in the W. Don Morris Room in Memorial Student Center.

Wilkins received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Michigan.

In 1962 he became a special assistant to the administrator of the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development. He subsequently served as assistant director of the U.S. Community Relations Service in the Department of Commerce and assistant attorney general of the Department of Justice. Through these positions, Wilkins became the chief troubleshooter on racial problems in American inner cities for Lyndon Johnson's administration.

When Richard Nixon became president, Wilkins left government service to join the Ford Foundation in New York City as director of one of its domestic divisions.

Although he held prestigious positions, Wilkins was becoming increasingly unhappy and disillusioned with his career and the plight of minorities in the United States. He resigned from the Ford Foundation in 1971 and found himself at a crossroads in his life.

During his search for his own identity and an occupation he would find spiritually nourishing, Wilkins also was dealing with estrangement from his wife and two children. Wilkins said he became so depressed that he considered suicide.

His outlook brightened when, in 1972, he took a job as an editorial writer at the Washington Post. His new career in journalism allowed him to gradually abandon what he called his

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"From translating CUPS reports for non-financial types to helping with purchasing problems, to arranging meetings and answering a myriad of questions from faculty and staff, Libby does it all. And she does it all willingly and with little or no recognition.

"Libby never hesitates to offer to help or take on a new task or responsibility. Her knowledge of university people, processes and procedures helps us all navigate the sometimes baffling bureaucracy that any large organization like Marshall entails.

"If you drive by the School of Medicine parking lot any workday morning before dawn you will almost certainly see Libby's familiar van parked in the first space as she gets her usual two hour jump on the normal workday. Libby Nickell epitomizes the dedication and loyalty of the many support staff who make Marshall the great place it is to work and learn. I hope you will consider her favorably for the recognition she truly deserves."

Nickell will receive a plaque and \$100 for being named Employee of the Month and will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.



Nickell

J-school receives good report

A team representing the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications has recommended a six-year reaccreditation of the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Marshall University.

The five-member team spent three days on the campus last week evaluating the program. The faculty also conducted an extensive self-study that was presented in a pre-visit report to the accreditation team.

The site visit team's recommendation will be forwarded to two official bodies of ACEJMC for confirmation.

"The students and faculty of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications should be proud of this achievement," said Dr. Harold C. Shaver, director of the school.

The accreditors cited a number of strengths, including the quality of teaching, a strong commitment to public service, an excellent internship program, loyal alumni and effective student media in The Parthenon (the student newspaper) and WMUL-FM (student radio station).

"These strengths are not news to us," Shaver said, "but one of the pleasant things about the accrediting process is having colleagues from outside the university confirm our personal perceptions about what we do."

The visiting team was directed by Dr. Paul Smeyak, director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting at Oklahoma State

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Journalist/educator will make presentation

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desperate search for white approval and take on a role as an advocate for blacks.

Wilkins' journalism career flourished and he accepted a position on the editorial board of the New York Times and later became associate editor of the Washington Star.

In 1982 he became a senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, a Washington-based non-profit organization that examines various aspects of international affairs and domestic public policy. In the same year, he published "A Man's Life: An Autobiography" in which he reflected on his personal life and his status as a black man working in white-dominated institutions.

Wilkins and Fred R. Harris co-chaired a national conference on urban affairs in 1988 and compiled the paper presentations into a book titled "Quiet Riots: Race and Poverty in the United States."

Wilkins has been a commentator on National Public Radio since 1990 and previously served as a commentator for CBS News and the Mutual Broadcasting System. He also wrote and

Fair use guidelines to be topic of conference

A live satellite videoconference on the new "Fair Use Guidelines for Educational Multimedia" will be held Thursday, Feb. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge.

The fair use guidelines, adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, have far-reaching implications for teaching and learning at the university, according to Ken Williams, director of Computing Across the Curriculum (CATC) at Marshall.

The videoconference, sponsored by CATC, will be followed by a roundtable discussion about how to apply the guidelines in regular teaching and learning activities. Print materials will be available. Refreshments will be served.

To register or obtain further details contact Williams at extension 696-2811 or williams@marshall.edu.

Lunchbag seminar slated

A lunchbag seminar titled "Recognizing Your Worst Critic... Yourself!" will be presented Wednesday, Feb. 19, at noon in Prichard Hall Room 143.

The seminar is open to the public free of charge. To obtain further details contact the Marshall University Women's Center, 696-3112.

Letter of appreciation

Dear Marshall Faculty and Staff:

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness, kindness and the beautiful flowers. They meant a lot to the Gould family.

Sincerely,
Alan B. Gould

narrated two documentaries broadcast on PBS: "Keeping the Faith" in 1987 and "Throwaway People" in 1989.

He has served on many prominent organizations and boards of directors and served as chairman of the Pulitzer Prize board in 1988. He has received numerous awards and honors for his work including the Roger Baldwin Civil Liberties Award from the New York Civil Liberties Union.

His presentation will be open to the public free of charge. Other activities planned for the month include:

Friday, Feb. 14

—"M & M Smith: For Posterity's Sake," a historical documentary that explores the lives and accomplishments of twin brothers and African American artists Morgan and Marvin Smith, at 10 p.m. on WPBY-TV, Channel 33.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

—A performance by acclaimed jazz violinist John Blake Jr. of Philadelphia at 7 p.m. in Marco's in Memorial Student Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

—"Black Faculty Forum," a discussion of a recent and/or noted publication that affects the lives of African American people by Marshall professors Philip Carter, Larry Jarrett and Woodrow Berry, at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge.

Thursday, Feb. 20

—"Record Row: Cradle of Rhythm and Blues," a program profiling the 10-block stretch of south Michigan Avenue that was Chicago's famous "musical mile," at 10 p.m. on WPBY-TV, Channel 33.

Many of the activities will be open to the public free of charge. To obtain further details contact the African American Students' Program Office at Marshall University, 304-696-6705.

J-school receives good report

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University. Other evaluators were Sammye Johnson, professor of communication at Trinity University; Dr. James Hawkins, director of the Division of Journalism at Florida A&M University; Dr. Mary Alice Shaver, professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Elliott Brack, associate publisher of the Gwinnett Extra of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Dr. Smeyak will present the team's findings to ACEJMC's Accrediting Committee in Chicago in March. The committee's recommendation will then be forwarded to ACEJMC's Accrediting Council, which will make the final decision in early May.

Preparation for the visit involved faculty and students in a lengthy self-study dealing with the 12 standards used to judge programs. "I'm sold on the value of the self-study," Dr. Shaver said. "It forced us to take a close look at ourselves. It helped us to see what we do well and what we need to change."

The accreditors noted two areas for improvement. Their report included mentions of improvements in equipment that must be made before the next visit in 2002-2003. Although complimentary of the significant increase in scholarly activity among the faculty, the team encouraged the faculty to publish more frequently in refereed journals.

A copy of the draft of the visiting team's report is available in the Office of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications on the third floor of Smith Hall.