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We Are...Marshall, January 14, 2015

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Marshall family pauses to remember, honor President Kopp

Marshall students, faculty and staff gathered yesterday afternoon, Jan. 12, to reflect on the life and legacy of the late President Stephen J. Kopp. The memorial service took place in the Cam Henderson Center.

Dr. Bill Bissett, a Marshall alumnus and former chief of staff and senior vice president at the university, served as the master of ceremonies and introduced the speakers and performers.

Speakers included Marshall Interim President Gary White; West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Justice Menis Ketchum; Elizabeth Bradley, Kopp’s daughter; Dr. Paul Hill, chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; Michael Sellards, chair of the Marshall Board of Governors; Dr. Larry Stickler, chair of Faculty Senate; Miriah Young, representative to the Board of Governors from the Classified Staff Council; Duncan Waugaman, Student Body President, and Brandi Jacobs-Jones, chief of staff and senior vice president for operations.

Musical performers included the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps; the Marshall University Chamber Choir; Taylor Isaacs, vocal soloist and Rodrigo Almeida, guitarist; and J. D. Lowman, piper.
Marshall community to welcome interim president with reception Friday

The Marshall University community will welcome Interim President Gary G. White and his wife, Jo Ann, with a reception this Friday in the third floor atrium of the John Deaver Drinko Library on the Huntington campus. The event, which will last from 4-6 p.m., is open to all Marshall students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, as well as the Huntington community.

Welcome receptions also are planned for the South Charleston campus and the Mid-Ohio Valley Center. Details will follow in the coming days.

White was appointed by the Marshall University Board of Governors last month to replace Dr. Stephen J. Kopp, who died Dec. 17.

A businessman and coal mining executive, White graduated from Marshall in 1997 with a Regent Bachelors of Arts degree. He is a former member and past chairman of the university’s Board of
Governors, former member and vice president of the West Virginia Board of Education, and former member of the University of Pikeville Board of Trustees.

He has been executive vice president of Blackhawk Mining LLC since October. He was president and chief executive officer of International Industries Inc. for a large part of his career—from 1992-2007. He also previously served as president and chief operating officer of International Resource Partners LP, a subsidiary of James River Coal Company, president and chief executive officer of the West Virginia Coal Association, manager of underground mining at Amherst Coal Company and corporate training coordinator at Island Creek Coal Company.

White is on the boards of directors of United Bankshares Inc., ARC Logistics Partners LP, Cabell Huntington Hospital, the Marshall University Foundation, the West Virginia Coal Association and the Larry Joe Harless Community Center Foundation Inc. He also serves on the board of advisors of West Virginia Media Holdings LLC.

He received the 2006 Distinguished Achievement Award from the West Virginia Education Alliance, the 2004 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Marshall University Alumni Association, the City of Hope “Spirit of Life Award” and in 2003 was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame at Marshall. In 2006 and again in 2008, he was named one of the “Fifty Most Influential Individuals in West Virginia” by West Virginia Executive magazine.

Marshall, local branch of NAACP planning activities for MLK Jr. Day
In conjunction with the Huntington-Cabell Branch of the NAACP, Marshall University will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19, with various activities, including the MLK Jr. Traditional March.

Maurice Cooley, associate vice president of Intercultural Affairs, said his office and the NAACP are co-planning this year’s activities with the local community, churches, pastors, community leaders, and various other constituents in the area.

“We hope to have strong support from our Marshall family,” Cooley said. “Our goal at Marshall is to have 250 faculty, staff and/or students attending at least the traditional march and as many as possible to attend the unique observance day program at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, immediately following the march.”

When he moved into the position of associate vice president of Intercultural Affairs last year, one of the first things Cooley did was contact Sylvia Ridgeway, president of the local NAACP chapter, to express his desire to co-plan all future MLK Day events – including the traditional march – with the community each year.

“King’s principles are fully consistent with neighbors becoming brothers,” Cooley said. “King once said, ‘The large house in which we live demands that we transform this world-wide neighborhood into a world-wide brotherhood.’ Consequently, this year we have had a great collaboration with the NAACP and we look forward to a great celebration on January 19th.”

The march will be led by Pastor Donte’ Jackson of First Baptist Church, other local ministers, the NAACP and Marshall University leaders. It starts at 4:30 p.m. at 16th Street Baptist Church, located at 1647 9th Ave., and ends at Marshall’s Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, located across 5th Avenue from the Memorial Student Center.

A celebration will follow the march at 5:30 p.m. in the performing arts center. It will feature a performance by the Marshall University Chamber Choir; original poetry readings by Tim Meadows, a performance by the Jehovah’s Warriors Praise-Dance Team, and a rendition of King’s “I Have a Dream” speech by Lynn Edwards.
Gary White, Marshall University’s interim president, will speak during the celebration, as will Ridgeway. The Huntington High School Chamber Choir also will perform.

“We want to demonstrate our support for community integration and inclusion, while continuing to raise awareness of Dr. King’s contributions,” Cooley said. “This is the time and a most worthy occasion to show our support for social justice in memory of Dr. King. We want everyone to pour out their support for this historical occasion in recognition of the social unrest in our country, even today.”

A light reception will follow the celebration in the performing arts center.

**Researchers celebrate silver anniversary together at School of Medicine**

For just over a quarter of a century, Ronald J. Stanek, M.S., and Maurice A. Mufson, M.D., have worked as a team in the Virus Research Laboratory, Department of Internal Medicine, at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

Stanek received his master’s degree in biological sciences from Marshall University in 1984, and began working with Mufson five years later. Mufson had been hired in the late 1970s as the inaugural chairman of the department of internal medicine at Marshall. He and Stanek set about conducting virus research in the areas of pulmonary diseases, including pneumonia and bronchiolitis in children, serious lung diseases due to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and pneumonia and meningitis in adults due to the most common bacterial pathogen, the pneumococcus.

“Ronald’s technical expertise quickly moved our research forward and eventually into interesting investigations on the molecular biology of the pneumococcus,” Mufson said.

Mufson began the research on the pneumococcus more than 35 years ago, 10 years before Stanek joined the effort. Mufson said he believes it is the longest continuous research on the occurrence of the bacterial pathogen in one community in the United States. Stanek and Mufson also were the first
investigators to demonstrate and report that serious pneumococcal pneumonia responded significantly better to treatment with two antibiotics rather than with one.

“My achievements were only possible through the exceptional mentoring from Dr. Mufson,” Stanek said. “Our years together in the lab have been good ones.”

Stanek has authored dozens of publications and abstracts in peer-reviewed scientific journals and has presented his research findings at numerous international and national scientific meetings.

Mufson now serves as professor and chairman emeritus of the department of internal medicine.

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Photo: Maurice Mufson, M.D., (left) and Ronald Stanek, M.S., have been research partners for 25 years at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

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**Marshall juried art exhibition receives record number of entries from across U.S.**

Marshall University’s Fourth Annual National Juried Exhibition has been narrowed from the more than 200 submissions nationwide to 18 exhibitors.

Free and open to the public, the exhibition’s opening reception will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Visual Arts Center Gallery at 927 Third Ave. The exhibition will be on display until Feb. 20 during the gallery’s normal business hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

“We received more than double the number of entries from last year,” said Megan Schultz, Visual Arts Center gallery director and facilities coordinator

Juror Arif Khan, who whittled the list, will select one artist to receive the Juror’s Choice award and a cash prize of $200 prior to the opening reception

“The selected artists represent an impressive range of media, from photography to sculpture,” said Khan, the Mary Price Ratrie Curator of Art at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences in Charleston, West Virginia.

The exhibition is presented by Marshall University’s College of Arts and Media and the School of Art & Design. For more information about the exhibition, visit www.marshall.edu/cam, e-mail galleries@marshall.edu, or call 304-696-7299.
Scholarship created at School of Medicine in honor of lifelong West Virginia couple

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine announced last week the creation of the C. Douglas Phillips, M.D., F.A.C.R., Scholarship to assist a medical student with educational expenses.

The scholarship was created by Dr. Doug Phillips, Class of 1984, in honor of his parents, Clifford R. and Angelia E. Phillips, lifelong West Virginia residents who reside in Randolph County. In making the scholarship, Doug Phillips credited his parents with instilling in him a love of learning.

“My parents’ selfless commitment to higher education and their love and guidance are a constant inspiration,” Phillips said. “In addition to my parents, the scholarship is also established in honor of my children, Caitlin and Kiel, and my wife, Dr. Deborah Shatzkes. I’m very pleased to honor my family in a way that ‘pays it forward’ for a Marshall medical student.”

Phillips graduated in just three years from Marshall in 1981 with a regents bachelor of arts degree while simultaneously attending his first year of medical school. After graduating from the medical school in 1984, he completed a residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Virginia, followed by a fellowship in neuroradiology at Virginia.

Last year, Phillips was named the 2014 Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus. He is currently a professor of radiology at the Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York.

Marshall Recreation Center to host Pump and Run competition

Pump and Run, a competition that features a combination of weight lifting and a 5K run, will take place at the Marshall Recreation Center on Saturday, Jan. 31 beginning at 8 a.m.

Participants will be able to take up to 15 minutes off their running time by shedding 30 seconds off their time with each bench press rep.

The 5K run (3.1 miles) will be completed outside, around the campus, and will include chip timing. In the case of inclement weather, the run will take place on the Rec Center treadmills.

The pump portion of the race, which precedes the run, will take place in the Rec Center. Participants will weigh in with an event representative to determine the amount of weight to be bench pressed. One max attempt is allowed.
In the younger men categories, boys ages 12-14 will lift 65 percent of their body weight, and boys ages 15-18 will lift 85 percent of their body weight.

Men ages 19-39 will be responsible for lifting 100 percent of their body weight. Men ages 40-49 will lift 90 percent of their body weight, and men ages 50-59 will lift 80 percent of their body weight. Men ages 60 and over will lift 70 percent of their body weight.

In the younger women category, girls ages 12-14 will lift 45 percent of their body weight, and girls ages 15-18 will lift 55 percent of their body weight. Women ages 19-39 will be responsible for lifting 70 percent of their body weight. Women ages 40-49 will lift 60 percent of their body weight. Women ages 50-59 will be responsible for lifting 50 percent of their body weight. Women ages 60 and over will lift 40 percent of their body weight.

There will be seven age divisions ranging from 12 to 60 and older as well as male and female divisions. Scores will be determined by the 5K time minus number of reps x 30 seconds. Awards will be given to the overall top male and female contenders and to the first-place finishers in each of the men’s and women’s divisions.

Participants can sign up for Pump and Run at the Marshall Recreation Center welcome desk or online at www.tristateracer.com. Participants will be able to sign up the day of the event. The entry fee for the Pump and Run is $20.

For more information or to sponsor the race, contact Michele Muth, the race director, by phone at ext. 6-2943, or by e-mail at pallante1@marshall.edu.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Jan. 21, 2015. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by noon Tuesday, Jan. 20.