We Are...Marshall, March 25, 2015

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Dr. William Palmer, professor of history, was among five finalists for the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia’s 2014 professor of the year award, the winner of which was named last week in a ceremony at the Culture Center in Charleston.

Palmer, who was selected as the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award winner for 2013-2014, has been teaching history at Marshall since 1984. Although he did not win professor of the year, Palmer said he was still honored.

“All of the finalists were extremely impressive,” Palmer said. “I was just honored to be among them.”

Zachary Loughman, an assistant professor of biology at West Liberty University, was named the professor of the year by the Faculty Merit Foundation. Lisa Di Bartolomeo, director of the Slavic and Eastern European studies program at West Virginia University, was first runner-up.

Joining Palmer as the other finalists were Powsiri Klinkhachorn, professor of computer science and electrical engineering at WVU, and Harald Menz, professor of world languages and culture at Bethany College.

Palmer was introduced to the crowd at Tuesday’s event by Dr. Gayle Ormiston, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs.

“Dr. Palmer has taught over forty different courses in his time at Marshall and over 6,000 students,” Ormiston said. “He has also won several of the university’s most prestigious awards for faculty, including the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award in 1997, the Distinguished Artist and Scholar Award in 2008, and the Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Member Award in 2014.”

“His work with our students is most remarkable, given what he assumes to be true about students of history—in short, that they are capable of discipline-specific historiographical work at any level, from freshman to graduate.”
Dr. Kateryna Schray, a professor in the English department said, “Dr. Bill Palmer is truly an outstanding teacher, scholar, and campus citizen, earning the respect and admiration of students and colleagues alike. His many contributions to Marshall are invaluable, his energy is impressive, and his commitment to teaching is inspiring. I am proud to be part of a university that can boast of such faculty.”

School of Pharmacy launches inaugural residency program

The School of Pharmacy is expanding to include a new graduate residency program in collaboration with King’s Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) in Ashland, Kentucky.

The program provides a year of additional training for graduate pharmacists in the areas of acute care clinical pharmacy practice and academic activities, Dr. Kevin. W. Yingling, dean of the school of pharmacy, announced last week.

Pharmacy residencies are optional upon completion of a pharmacy degree (PharmD.). Graduates can pursue further training in either a clinical, ambulatory care, community or research track, and work as a licensed practitioner, but under the supervision of an experienced preceptor.

“This is a transformative step in the growth of our footprint in health care affiliations, our experiential programs and ultimately our school of pharmacy,” Yingling said. “Pharmacy residencies allow graduate pharmacists to pursue additional specialization training and in turn provide for the expansion of the work force of well-trained pharmacists for the team-based health care initiative.”

The two post-graduate year 1 (PGY1) positions at KDMC are defined as general competency residencies.

“We’re very happy to be a partner with the Marshall University of School of Pharmacy on this exciting new residency,” said Rita Keslar, PharmD., director of Pharmacy at King’s Daughters. “We take care of a wide range of patients with complex medical conditions, and a pharmacist is considered a part of the patient care team at King’s Daughters. We’re excited to add to our team with this residency program.”

Much like the national residency matching program for graduating medical students, pharmacy residency slots are also determined through a national residency match program. The match is sponsored by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists.

The inaugural residents at KDMC are:

- Amber Oakes, expected to graduate in May from Duquesne University School of Pharmacy
- Jennifer Leslie, expected to graduate in May from the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy

The Marshall University School of Pharmacy anticipates announcing additional residency programs at area institutions over the next several years.

The residency program at KDMC will launch July 1.
Marshall music faculty, graduate student play with Mannheim Rocket Orchestra

Several Marshall University music faculty members and the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps started spring break by performing at the inaugural concert of the Mannheim Rocket Orchestra in the historic Monumental Church in downtown Richmond, Virginia.

The Mannheim Rocket Orchestra is the brainchild of Dr. Richard Spece, virtuoso clarinetist and conductor who specializes in historically informed musical practice. He has been a guest on the Huntington campus on several occasions over the past few years and has a close rapport with several of the music faculty.

Promotion for the event promised, “200-year-old music performed on 200-year-old instruments in a 200-year-old church” and that was the case.

A 24-piece orchestra using either actual antique instruments or reproductions of instruments from the late 18th century performed two symphonies from the era, Mozart’s Symphony No. 40 and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 1. The location, a 200-year-old church, was commissioned by Richmond civic leader John Marshall, fourth Chief Justice of the United States and for whom Marshall University was named, as a monument to those who lost their lives in a tragic theater fire on the same site. John Marshall offered the inaugural address at the church in 1814.

Music faculty members Kay Lawson, Dr. Stephen Lawson, Dr. Richard Kravchak and Dr. Wendell Dobbs performed with the Mannheim Rocket Orchestra, along with Marshall graduate student Brittany White. Other members of the orchestra hailed from Montreal to Seattle. Many of the string performers perform together regularly in Washington, DC.

Historically informed performances on period instruments is a common occurrence throughout Europe. The practice has gathered momentum in the U.S. in the past several decades. The goal is to perform in a fashion that replicates, as closely as research will permit, the sonority and style that would have been heard in the period when the music was created. Spece has appeared as clarinetist with members of the Marshall music faculty, performing woodwind quintets by Reicha, Danzi and Cambini on period instruments. In this logical next step, Spece assigned clarinet duties to other artists and took up the baton to lead the Mannheim Rocket Orchestra.
Members of the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps began the event with a brief program of music from the era of the War of 1812. Their performance featured tunes from the French, Creole and Cajun communities, followed by tunes from the frontier tradition, such as Andrew Jackson’s favorite, “The Hunters of Kentucky.” The corps ended with Francis Scott Key’s “The Defence (sic) of Fort McHenry,” set to the traditional tune “Anacreon in Heaven,” which Americans now recognize as our National Anthem.

The following day the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps performed for members of the Junior Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drum Corps at their rehearsal facility in Colonial Williamsburg.

Reaction to the event from Richmond Times-Dispatch music critic and cultural writer Clarke Bustard can be read at [http://letterv.blogspot.com](http://letterv.blogspot.com). Scroll down to the March 13 Review: Mannheim Rocket, Richard Spece conducting.

Photos: (Above) Marshall University music faculty members (from left) Dr. Richard Kravchak, Kay Lawson, Dr. Wendell Dobbs and Dr. Stephen Lawson stand with graduate student Brittany White (second from left). (Below) Marshall music faculty Dr. Wendell Dobbs (right) plays with the Mannheim Rocket Orchestra alongside graduate student Brittany White.

**South Charleston campus to welcome President White**

The Marshall University community in the South Charleston area will welcome Interim President Gary G. White with a reception from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 2.

The reception is open to all Marshall students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. It will take place in the library on the South Charleston campus. The event originally was scheduled on Thursday, Feb. 19, but was postponed because of bad weather.

Previously, receptions for White were held on the Huntington campus and the Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant.
Med School research day focuses on obesity

Nearly 100 research projects and a keynote presentation focused on one of the region’s most pressing health problems, obesity, at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine’s Health Sciences Center Annual Research Day, which took place earlier this week.

The two-day research event was co-sponsored by Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) and its Senior Services Program.

Richard J. Johnson, M.D., chief of the division of renal disease and hypertension at the University of Colorado, was the special guest speaker for both the community event and Marshall’s academic event. Johnson’s community presentation, “Obesity,” focused on the causes of weight gain and overall energy balance and concerns about the intake of added sugars containing fructose in the Western diet.

Research Day showcased research conducted by medical students, graduate students, residents and postdoctoral fellows.

Forensic Science 5k run canceled

The “FoRUNsics 5k” sponsored by Forensic Science students, which was to have taken place at Ritter Park on Saturday, March 28, has been canceled because of lack of registered runners, according to race organizers.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed April 1, 2015. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, March 30.