New scholarship honors longtime educator, Larry Prichard

An endowed scholarship has been established through the Marshall University Foundation Inc. to honor Larry Prichard’s nearly 35 years as an educator.

“He championed the right of every child,” Myrtle Prichard said of her late husband.

To honor his legacy she donated $101,000 to establish the scholarship. Included in the total was a $1,000 expendable gift so the scholarship could be awarded beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, while the rest of the gift is initially invested. An incoming freshman will be announced as the recipient at the upcoming East Carter High School Awards Assembly later this month.

“I hope what he believed so strongly in and always strove for will never be forgotten: the right of all children to receive the best education possible,” Myrtle Prichard said. “This was his legacy. If you wish to honor him, be good to a child.”

Larry Prichard was a native of West Virginia and a graduate of Marshall, where he earned a master’s plus 45 in education administration in 1975, after receiving his Bachelor of Arts in 1972. He was superintendent of schools in Carter County, Kentucky, from 1997 to 2006, and was primarily responsible for Carter County receiving a public library, the last county in Kentucky to do so.

Announcement of establishment of the fund took place last week in a ceremony at Marshall University Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

Recipients will be incoming freshmen with first preference to students pursuing degrees in education who are residents of Carter County, Kentucky. Second preference will be students from Carter County, pursuing any majors. Third preference will be students from West Virginia, pursuing degrees in education.

All recipients must be in good academic standing with 3.0 GPAs or higher. This award will allow for a new freshman to be chosen each year, and for a total of four students to be recipients of this scholarship at one time.
“Having himself come from humble beginnings, he saw to it that no child was ever discriminated against, regardless of race, creed or status,” Myrtle Prichard said.

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Photo: From left, Rick Robinson, senior director of development with the College of Education and Professional Development; Myrtle Prichard; Dr. Sissy Isaacs, associate dean of the College of Education and Professional Development; Melissa Neace, Myrtle Prichard’s daughter; Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall Foundation Inc.; and Dillon Neace, Melissa Neace’s son and Myrtle Prichard’s grandson, pose for a photo around an oversize check of $101,000, presented by Myrtle Prichard to the Marshall Foundation to establish the Larry Prichard Memorial Scholarship. Photo by Rick Haye.

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Marshall social work faculty member receives WVHEPC Outreach to Mexico grant

Dr. Peggy Proudfoot Harman of the Marshall University College of Health Professions has received a $3,000 grant to participate in a West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Outreach to Mexico program.

The grant will provide a professional development opportunity for selected faculty members from West Virginia colleges in HEPC to visit Puebla.

Harman, an assistant professor in the college’s Department of Social Work, said this project is an indicator of Marshall University’s dedication to creating a university environment that fosters cultural diversity.

“As a native West Virginian I am extremely proud of Marshall University’s focus on creating an atmosphere that is diverse and academically challenging,” Harman said. “I feel very fortunate to be one of the recipients of this grant and I hope to make valuable faculty and student connections while on the trip.”
Harman said she hopes to connect with international faculty in her field to develop research collaborations, with the ultimate goal of increasing visibility of her department and Marshall University.

“Our purpose as social workers requires that we are extremely knowledgeable about cultures and lifestyles in order to be competent at our practice,” Harman said. “During this trip, I hope to establish a broader learning environment that will encourage students from Puebla to travel to Marshall to explore our program and to provide opportunities for our students to study in Puebla.”

Dr. Clark Egnor, director of international programs for the WVHEPC, said this statewide initiative seeks to develop academic and research linkages with institutions in Puebla through faculty networking and promotion of student mobility between West Virginia and Puebla.

“I am very pleased to see that Marshall University will be represented on this very important higher education mission to Mexico,” Egnor said. “I value the efforts of our faculty who have dedicated time to this project and I am optimistic that this effort will result in greater exchange of students between Mexico and West Virginia in the future.”

Harman will be joined in Puebla by the dean of the college, Dr. Michael Prewitt, and Marshall University College of Business employee Lisa Williamson. Four students from Marshall University will travel June 5-23 with faculty to Puebla for this study abroad opportunity. For more information on the Puebla study abroad trip, visit www.summerpueblamexico.com or contact Marshall’s study abroad office at 304-696-2379. To learn more about Marshall’s Department of Social Work, visit www.marshall.edu/cohp.

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**Photo:** Dr. Peggy Proudfoot Harman, originally from Randolph County, West Virginia, will travel to Puebla, Mexico, June 5-23, with four students from Marshall University, one student from Fairmont State University, one student from Concord University and one student from West Virginia State University.

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**President’s suite offices to be relocated for summer**

Effective June 12, employees who work in the university president’s office in Old Main will be temporarily relocated to Foundation Hall to accommodate work being done in their suite this summer. The offices of President Gary White and his assistant Cora Massey will be relocated to the first floor of Foundation Hall, while the offices of General Counsel F. Layton Cottrill and his assistant Cora Westmoreland will be on the third floor. All phone numbers and other contact information will remain the same. It is estimated that work will be completed and the president’s suite offices will reopen around the start of the fall semester.
Housing and Residence Life recognizes several for leadership

Housing and Residence Life held its annual Student Leadership Banquet May 5 to honor students, staff, and faculty who have served and performed outstanding service and leadership to both students and the department. Honorees included, from left, Tony Sampson, Assistant Residence Director of the Year (Commons); Britt Frye, Residence Director of the Year (TT West); Dr. Rosalynn Quiñones, Faculty in Residence of the Year (Chemistry Department); Hailey Stafford, RA of the Year; Paige Hughes, Academic Mentor of the Year; Dr. Susan Gilpin, Outstanding Contribution to Housing and Residence Life (Honors College).

Marshall University Forensic Science Graduate Program receives donations for the Paul H. and Dixie O. Nicely Scholarship

The Forensic Science Graduate Program was presented with $1,500 in donations to the Paul H. and Dixie O. Nicely Scholarship fund at the reception for the nationally recognized program’s 19th graduating class.

Michael J. Farrell, Esq., presented the check on behalf of numerous contributors to Dr. Terry W. Fenger, director of the program. Gifts were made by Farrell; Tamela J. White, Esq.; Erik W. Legg, Esq.; Les and Denise Spears; Jill Stevens; Sam and Val Schiedler; David Miller and Dr. Terry Fenger and his wife, Sandy.

The Paul H. and Dixie O. Nicely Scholarship for the Forensic Science Graduate Program was founded by White in honor of her parents. The scholarship benefits West Virginia and metro-area students who are accepted into the master’s degree program and demonstrate high academic performance and financial need during their undergraduate education.

“The Marshall University Forensic Science Program is the National Leader in Forensic Science Graduate Education,” said White. “Matters of national and state security, ranging from anti-terrorism to victim rights to digital forensics, are within this program’s expertise. Dr. Fenger, Dr. Staton and the entire team of faculty and support staff are commended for the dedication and invaluable services provided. This scholarship is but one way that a community citizen can support the program and Marshall University.”
Fenger said he hopes the endowed scholarship will encourage students from West Virginia to apply to the Forensic Science Graduate Program and seek opportunities for higher paying jobs and careers in this exciting and important field.

“Contributions to this scholarship are important because this is the only scholarship that has been established to provide students in Marshall’s Master of Forensic Science program with financial assistance to help pay for their education,” said Fenger. “The scholarship will help support our students so they can make a difference in our society by serving the greater good to make our communities safer and serve justice through scientific forensic methods.”

Fenger presented Farrell and White with plaques from the Forensic Science Center to recognize their long-term contributions to the forensic science graduate program and improving forensic science education.

Farrell also reminded students and graduates of the program that it is currently number one in the country for highest overall student test scores on the American Board of Criminalistics assessment test as of 2014. During the spring semester, students in the Class of 2015 took the exam, and the academic program is awaiting the results.

More than 50 percent of the 19 graduates of the program’s Class of 2015 have obtained jobs and most of the others have pending offers. To date, 292 students have graduated from the nationally recognized, FEPAC-accredited program since 1997.

Donations to the fund may be sent to the Paul H. and Dixie O. Nicely Scholarship Fund, care of the Marshall University Foundation.

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**Faculty Achievement: Dr. Gordon Crews**

Dr. Gordon Crews, professor of criminal justice, has an article featured on a website called “Before the Abstract,” published by Springer Storytellers, which brings the stories of actual researchers to the public through podcast and written submissions.

Published last week, the article can be found at: [http://www.beforetheabstract.com/2015/05/19/gordon-a-crews-there-is-always-a-reason-why](http://www.beforetheabstract.com/2015/05/19/gordon-a-crews-there-is-always-a-reason-why).

Titled “There Is Always a Reason Why,” the article is described as “Dr. Gordon Crews discovers through years of research — and one man in particular — that there is always a reason for our behavior, no matter how
inexcusable or difficult to understand.” The piece deals with Crews’ ongoing literary collaboration with death row inmate Stephen Stanko, who is awaiting execution in South Carolina.

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed June 10, 2015. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, June 8.