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Office of University Relations

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**Students to conduct life history interviews**

What does it feel like to be unemployed or disabled? How do people on welfare think they need to become self-sufficient? These questions and others will be asked by a group of Marshall University students this summer when they conduct life history interviews with families served by the program of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in West Virginia.

The results of the students' research will become part of the West Virginia Community Action Dialogue on Poverty, according to Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, associate professor of sociology and director of Marshall's Oral History of Appalachian Project (OHAP).

Ewen said she believes the students volunteered to participate in the project in part because the goal is to take the information and use it to help people climb out of poverty and become self-sufficient.

"People are always putting young people down," said Ewen, "but in my experience, every time I have involved students in volunteer service I have received an overwhelming positive response."

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**Marshall faculty and staff achievements**

**HARISH MAHLINGAM**, a graduate student in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was awarded a "Young Investigator Award" for a presentation of his work on control of melanin production at the national meeting of the Pan American Society of Pigment Cell Research held recently in Kansas City, Mo. He received a plaque and $250.

**MISTY TREN'T**, who was promoted in the School of Medicine this fall, received a $1,000 award from the West Virginia Office of Women in Science to support her summer research on breast cancer in the laboratory of Dr. MICHAEL MOORE, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology. KRISTY BLANKENSHIP, a graduate student working in MOORE's laboratory, also received a $300 award to conduct research on ovarian cancer.

**CARLTON**, professor of mathematics. Attending the program was too "Develop-"A special training workshop will be held for the student volunteers. Many students have volunteered to help in the project, in part because the goal is to use the information and use it to help people climb out of poverty and become self-sufficient. "People are always putting young people down," said Ewen, "but in my experience, every time I have involved students in volunteer service I have received an overwhelming positive response."

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**Castellani gets funding from science foundation**

Dr. Michael P. Castellani, associate professor of chemistry at Marshall University, has received funding in the amount of $129,200 from the National Science Foundation for a grant proposal titled "Synthesis and Reactivity of Pentaphenyl- cyclopentadienyl Stabilized Paramagnetic Group VII Complexes."

The proposed work includes the preparation of a series of compounds that will model known reaction intermediates and the study of the catalytic activity of a series of previously prepared chromium complexes. Castellani said the grant provides funding for three years.

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**MU, four school systems develop credit programs**

Marshall University President J. Wade Gilley and school administators from Cabell, Mason, Putnam and Wayne counties have signed agreements that will provide new opportunities for high school students.

The agreements stipulate that Marshall and the four county school systems will work together and establish organizational structures to develop new credit opportunities for students.

Some qualified high school students have been taking Marshall introductory courses for a number of years, according to Dr. H. Keith Spears, dean of adult and extended education at the university. The most significant difference in the new agreements will be the times and places the classes are offered.

"In the past, high school students would have to take time off from high school to travel to Marshall, stay late and take the classes at their schools or come to the university campus in the evening, often having to make a choice of participating in extracurricular activities or taking the college credit courses," explained Spears.

Now the courses will be offered at the high schools during the regularly scheduled school day. "This will be a tremendous benefit for high school students planning to attend college," said Gilley.

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**Lance West named Marshall athletic director**

Lance A. West is Marshall University's new athletic director. The announcement was made June 27 by MU President J. Wade Gilley. West assumed his new duties July 1.

West came to Marshall from Michigan, Idaho, where he is the athletic director for external affairs at the University of Idaho. A graduate of Big Sky Conference football lineamn at Idaho, West earned two undergraduate degrees there in advertising/business management and public relations. He served as a graduate assistant football coach in 1985 and 1986, then became the head football director for Idaho athletics, covering the Boise area, in late 1986. He returned to the main campus in Idaho, in 1989 as assistant director of athletics and development and became associate director in December, 1994.

Gilley said West would have been very successful as Marshall's athletic fundraiser over the last year. "Lance is a hard worker with a great amount of energy and a pleasant, outgoing personality," Gilley said. "He clearly has been preparing himself over the last 10 years and we recognized him as a prospective athletic director when he was first interviewed at Marshall in early 1995.

A graduate of Roosevelt High School in Seattle, Washington, West was a Dean's List student at Idaho.
Marshall University President J. Wade Gilley and school administrators from Cabell, Putnam and Wayne counties sign agreements to provide new opportunities for high school seniors to take college courses. Figures pictured are, left, Cabell County Superintendent Richard Jefferson, Putnam County Superintendent Sam Senette, Gilley, Wayne County Assistant Superintendent Gary Addkins, and Suzanne Dickens, school administrator in Mason County.

New programs developed

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Spears. "They will be able to accumulate several college credits by the time they graduate from high school." Spears said the program will also benefit students who are unsure about attending college. "I heard about one student who was very apprehensive about whether he would be able to pass college-level classes. The student successfully took some of the college courses while still in high school. That student might not have gone to college if not for the classes he took in high school." The courses will be taught by school teachers, Marshall professors or adjunct faculty members. Some high school instructors already teach approved Marshall courses. Other qualified high school teachers who have the appropriate credentials will instruct courses after attending a special workshop designed to discuss new approaches and differences in teaching college-level courses.

A mentoring program will be established with Marshall faculty members who will work closely with the high school teachers. Marshall faculty will provide assistance in developing course syllabi, reviewing text material and things of that nature. Spears said. The teachers also will be involved in regular university departmental meetings and will periodically attend college classes.

Former professor dies

Dr. George Edward Parker, 54, of Huntington, died Wednesday, June 26, in San Antonio, Texas. He was born June 14, 1942, in Cabell County, a son of Alice Locery Parker Murdock of Chesapeake, Ohio, and the late Clarence Parker. Parker received bachelor's and master's degrees in safety management from Marshall University and a Ph.D. from Cleveland University.

As associate professor and chief executive officer of P&D Associates (a safety consulting firm) and on the faculty of Cleveland University where he was past president of the Alumni Association, Parker was formerly on the graduate faculty in the Marshall University Safety Department. He also served as safety director for Ameriquest and federal jobs coordinator for the city of Huntington.

While at Marshall, Parker received an award from Phi Delta Kappas for founding and directing a safety program for children. He was a past president of the West Virginia Kiwanis and served for many years as a honorary chaplain for the Navy and as a volunteer for Hospice of Huntington.

Survivors include his wife, Linda of Huntington; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jeffrey Edward and Heather Parker of Morgantown and Michael George Parker of Lexington, Ky.; a special aunt, Avie "Abby" Hensley of Huntington; a brother and sister-in-law, Clarence and Linda Kay Parker of Bankroft, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Don Harold of Barbeville.

Athletic director named

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He is a member of the Huntington Rotary Club, the chambers of commerce in Huntington, the Ohio Valley, and of the Men's Association of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. He has served as a "loaned executive" to the United Way of the River Cities.

West and his wife, Mary, are the parents of two children.

New nursing program set

Marshall University will accept applications through July 31 for a new program that allows participants to earn a Master of Science in Nursing with an emphasis in nursing administration.

The program starts with the fall semester, which begins Aug. 25. The specialized part of the course work will be offered in Charleston. Core component courses will be offered at Marshall University, and elective courses may be taken at Marshall or transferred from accredited universities offering graduate courses.

Marshall developed the program in response to requests from nurses and others in the community, said Dr. Giovanna Morton, associate dean of the School of Nursing. "The program will be individually tailored so that graduates will be prepared to assume broad-spectrum administrative positions in a variety of health care settings," she said.

Open to a limited number of qualified applicants, the 36-credit-hour program can be completed in one calendar year.

Marshall's Master of Science in Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing. Depending on their experience and stage of professional development, graduates of the left track are expected to seek certification in one of two tracks: the Examination of the American Nurses Credentialing Center: the Examination for Nursing Administration or Nursing Administration, Advanced.

All applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Marshall University Graduate School. More information can be obtained by calling the School of Nursing, 304-691-2066.

Marvin E. Billups dies

Lt. Col. Marvin E. Billups of Charleston, retired director of personnel at Marshall University, died Thursday, July 4, at his home after a short illness.

Billups also served as a military science instructor at West Virginia State College. He was a graduate of Tuskegee Institute and served in master's and doctoral programs.

A graduate of the Command General Staff College, he was a retired Army veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity in Morgantown.

Billups was the owner of M&M Lounge.

Marvin E. Billups was a past president of the Kanawha Valley Golf Club and served as the club's tournament director. He also volunteered at Totskewah Elementary School.

Survivors include his wife, Deborah Bradford Billups; daughters, Michelle Tucker of Columbus, Ohio, Jeanne Pridgie of At-Lanta; Marry Lynn Taylor of New Orleans, La., Deanna Williams of Philadelphia, and daughter, Audrey Clark of Charleston; mother, Christine S. Billups of South Charleston; brother, Reginald D. of Fort Myers, Fla.; sister, Rennitha B. Odendall of Los Angeles, Calif., and 10 grandchildren.

Newsletter deadline set

The Marshall University Newsletter will be published on a biweekly schedule during the summer terms.

Items for the Marshall University Newsletter must be submitted to the University Relations Office by 10 a.m. Tuesday in order to be published the following Thursday. Lengthy items should be submitted as early as possible to ensure publication.