RBA degree program becoming more popular

Since 1975, Marshall University's Board of Regents Bachelor of Arts degree program has provided an alternative method of higher education granting a B.A. degree, many to people who otherwise might not have gone to college.

A record number of 122 students graduated through the program this year.

The RBA is a nontraditional program designed for the adult student. It is different from the usual baccalaureate degree plan in many respects, according to Dr. James E. Barrett, director of Marshall's program.

College credit counting toward the degree requirements may be awarded to students in the program for documented learning resulting from work or life experience. While the program is designed to renew the RBA student's learning foundation, rigid specialization requirements are not imposed. Each applicant creates with the assistance of an adviser the course program that best fits individual needs.

The central principle that underlies the life experience assessment process is that what the student knows is more important than how it was learned. If a student can demonstrate knowledge and skills reasonably comparable to what the college-trained student knows, credit hours may be awarded toward the degree.

The student must provide evidence of possessing college equivalent knowledge or skills.

Since the RBA degree is designed for responsible adults, a person must have graduated from high school or passed a high school equivalency test at least four years prior to being admitted to the program.

Just as important as the program's popularity to two factors: the history and past success of the program has made it more recognizable and better-known, and the economy in which major employers are present this year.

"Our enrollment tends to rise when there are layoffs and people losing their jobs because of downsizing and other factors," said James. "On the plus side, most of the people who enroll under those conditions have had good work experience that can translate into credit hours. Many also have taken various classes and programs in their work environments that can be utilized for the RBA degree.

We also get a lot who have associate degrees through community colleges who find the RBA is the best way to obtain a baccalaureate degree.

James said some educators were skeptical when the program was first devised 21 years ago. "Some people thought the program would be an easy way out for students who wanted baccalaureate degrees. However, those concerns soon were put to rest and the RBA became recognized as a viable alternative degree program."

She said major employers in the region never had a problem accepting the program or its graduates. "They recognize that the RBA students usually have considerable work experience and that often is quite an advantage. In fact, many companies encourage employees to enroll in the program and help them gather materials for their credit assessment applications."

Enrollment in the program is expected to remain stable. James said that for a number of years the program annually granted 70 to 80 degrees. Last year 112 degrees were awarded. This past spring semester only three colleges or schools at Marshall granted more than double the number of degree degrees under the RBA program.

To obtain further details about the Regents Bachelor of Arts degree program contact James at Marshall University, 304-696-6400.

Applications due for stipends

The Marshall University deadline for submitting applications for 1997 National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipends is April 21, according to Dr. Sarah Demann, vice president for academic affairs.

Stipends will provide support for faculty and staff members from two-year and four-year colleges and other persons working in the humanities. Stipends will enable recipients to devote two consecutive months of full-time study and research to their projects.

An applicant's project may be one that can be completed during the stipend period or an endeavor that extends beyond the period.

Each stipend provides $4,000 for projects that do not require travel. The stipends normally support work carried out during the summer months but arrangements can be made for holding tenure at other times of the year.

To obtain further details contact the Marshall University Aca­demic Affairs Office, 696-3007 or 696-5442.

Newsletter deadline announced

The Marshall University Newsletter is published on a biweekly schedule during the university's summer terms. Items for the Marshall University Newsletter must be submitted to University Relations by the Monday prior to the Thursday in which the newsletter is to appear. In order to be published the following Thursday.

WSAZ pledges $50,000

WSAZ Television 3 has pledged $50,000 over a five-year period toward construction of Marshall University's library/information center.

Frank P. Justice Jr., Marshall vice president for development, recently accepted the first installment on WSAZ's pledge from Don Ray, the station's general manager.

Justice said the new library's media services room, which will include data in microform and CD-ROM formats, will be named in honor of WSAZ. "WSAZ is a television station, which has studios in Huntington and Charleston, is owned by Lee Enterprises.

Marshall's new library will provide access to the Internet and other on-line information resources worldwide in addition to meeting the needs for traditional research.

Construction is expected to begin this summer and be completed in 1998.

Two MU offices merged

Marshall University's Office of Parking and Transportation has joined the Office of Public Safety, according to Tom Johnson, chief of the MU Police Department.

In conjunction with the merger, Parking and Transportation offices are now located in the Office of Public Safety in the Welcome Center. Marshall University Emergency Medical Services has relocated to the Parking and Transportation Building.

All telephone numbers for these offices remain the same.
Marshall University employee achievements

SUK H. JONG, MONICA A. VALENTOVIC, DIANNE K. ANESTIS, JOHN G. BALL and GARY O. RANKIN of the Department of Pharmacology in the School of Medicine and PATRICK I. BROWN of the Department of Anatomy in the School of Medicine are the authors of an article titled "Neurotoxicity of 4-amino-2-chlorophenol and 2-amino-4-chlorophenol in the Fischer 344 rat" published in Toxicology (110, 1996, 47-58). HONG, ANESTIS, VALENTOVIC, BROWN, RANKIN and NATALIE M. HAWCO of the Department of Pharmacology are the authors of an article titled "Neurotoxicity of N-(3-bromocinnamoyl)-2-butyrophenone II: Role of halogen groups in the neopteroxic potential of N-(halophenyl)cinnamimides" published in Toxicology (110, 1996, 17-25).

ROBERT BICKEL and MEGHAN MCDONOUGH of the College of Education and Human Resources are co-authors of a paper titled "Opportunity, Community, and Reckless Lives: Social Distress Among Adolescents in West Virginia." The paper has been accepted for publication by The Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless.

Dr. CHRISTOPHER DOLMETCH, professor of modern languages, has contributed the following reviews to the June 1996 issue of CHOICE (Vol. 33 No. 10): Wally Strauss, "The Young Man," translated by Roslyn Theobald (Evanton, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1995); and "German Epic Poetry," edited by Francis G. Gentry and James K. Walter (New York: Continuum, 1995).

Dr. MAEED KHADER, government documents librarian, attended the 1996 American Library Association (ALA) annual conference held July 4-10 in New York, N.Y. The conference encompassed several official ALA committee meetings. KHADER is an appointed member to two of the committees.

Dr. JOHN A. SINGLEY, associate professor in the Safety Technology Program, attended the second Environmental Sampling, On-Site Analysis and Sampling Conference held June 26-27 in Pittsburgh, Pa. SINGLEY presented a paper titled "Carpet Particulates: An Indoor Air Quality Case Study." The paper was co-authored by PAUL MYERS, a graduate student in the Safety Technology Program. The paper was published in the conference proceedings.

CAMPUS police officers JOHN P. MURPHY, KARENA W. WILLIAMS, JOHN L. WALKER and RAGANA A. HOWELL, attended the Campus Crime Prevention Workshop held July 22-24 at the University of Louisville. The Campus Crime Prevention Workshop is nationally recognized for its training programs for campus crime prevention officers. Topics addressed during the seminar included developing programs to enhance personal safety, combat drug and alcohol abuse and evaluate physical plant security.

Dr. DONALDAE COCHRILLE, dean of students, made a presentation about Marshall University’s women’s programs for the American Vietnam Women’s Studies Association held Aug. 5 in Huntington. The West Virginia Women’s Commission is a state agency working to improve women’s lives through research, advocacy, education and community leadership from throughout the state attended the meeting.

Research awarded

Marshall University’s Graduate Student Council Student Research award went to Elizabeth Ritesse from Huntington, according to Dr. Leonard Deutsch, dean of the Graduate School.

Amy Morris of Huntington (biological sciences) received the A. Mervyn Tyson Award ($500) for her thesis project, "Floristics, Plant Community Structure, and Bunk Profiles for Five Sites along the Middle Ohio River." Morris’ advisor is Dr. Dan Evans.

Brad Yarish of Huntington (biological sciences) received the Rachel and Paul Stewart Award ($450) for his thesis proposal, "Seasonal and Yearly Changes in Soil Nitrogen in a Proportionate-Cutoffed Appalachian Hardwood Forest." Dr. Frank Gilligan serves as advisor for Yarish.

Sandy Diefendorf of Huntington (biological sciences) received the Chuck Crow Award ($450) for "The Natural History of the Four-toed Salamander, Hemidactylium scutatum, in West Virginia." Her advisor is Dr. Thomas K. Pauley.

Awards of $400 were presented to: John Bowen of Barboursville (mathematics/advisor, Dr. Evelyn Poppy-Cody), "Collaborative Teaching in Howling in the Mountain (music/advisor, Dr. Bradford R. DeVo), "The Cincinnati Music Festivals of the 1870s"; Andrea Henry of Huntington (biological sciences/advisor, Dr. Donald C. Tarter), "Ecological Life History of the Ambipoda Cryptognathus gracilis Smith in the Greenbottle bottom, Management Area, Cabell, County, West Virginia;"

Barton Paxton of St. Albans (biological sciences/advisor, Dr. Donald C. Tarter), "Ecological Life History of the real-time salamander, Neotrichthys viridescens (Rafinesque), in West Virginia;"

Veesa Trangtrakul of Bangkok, Thailand, (biological sciences/advisor, Dr. Frank L. Binder), "Comparative methods used for the detection of total and fecal coliform bacteria from selected small streams around Huntington, West Virginia;"

Robert Tucker of West Virginia (biological sciences/advisor, Dr. Thomas K. Pauley), "The Life History and Ecology of the Cow Knob Salamander, Plethodon punctatus High, from West Virginia;"

Deborah Wegmann of Hurricane (biological sciences/advisor, Dr. Thomas K. Pauley), "A Study of the Natural History and Potential Environmental Stress on Amphibians at Low and High Elevations in West Virginia;"

Robert Hood of Hambonton (biological sciences/advisor, Dr. Donald C. Tarter), "Seasonal and Flow Related Variation in Structure and Function of Hyporheic Fauna on the Fernow Experimental Forest;"

William McReynolds of Delbarton (biological sciences/advisor, Dr. Donald C. Tarter), "Reductive Biology and Electrophoretic Analyses of the Mosquiferous, Gambusia affinis (Pisces:Poeciliidae) in the Meadow River Wetlands, West Virginia;"

Erica Midkiff of Huntington (biological sciences/advisor, Dr. Donald C. Tarter), "Food habits and growth of three larval freshwater fish species (Cyprinidae) in the Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, West Virginia;" and

ad hoc Student Research Committee includes Deutsch, Dr. Donald C. Tarter, and graduate students Lashana Avila (chair), Joe Boggs, Angela Summerlin and Mark Hyre.

CIES grants available

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars has announced a deadline of Nov. 1 to submit applications for the following programs:

— The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program which brings visiting scholars to universities in the humanities, social sciences and related fields to campuses for a semester or academic year;

— The European Union Scholar-in-Residence Program which brings full-time officials to serve as a resident fellow;

— The Fulbright International Education Administrators Program which provides short-term group seminars in Germany, Japan and Korea for campus administrators in international education;

— The Fulbright German Studies Seminar, a three-week seminar on German society today for faculty in German studies, communications, history, sociology and political science.

There will be a Jan. 1, 1997, deadline for NATO Advanced Research Fellowship and NATO International Research Grant, which is open to science, technology, political, security and economic issues directly affecting the health of the NATO nation.

To obtain further details contact the Marshall University Office of Academic Affairs, 696-6690 or 696-5442.