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MU NewsLetter, August 22, 1996

Office of University Relations

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Staff Council holds open forum at meeting

(The following report on the July 18 meeting of the Marshall University Classified Staff Council was submitted by Connie Zirkle, secretary.)

Members present were: Nina Barrett, David Blackburn, Jill Chapman, Muhammad Chaudhry, Shannon Christian, David Cremeans, Judy Damron, Patricia Gallagher, Ronnie Hicks, Anita Hill, Verlin Hughes Jr., Earl Johnson, Rowena Napier, Elizabeth Nickell, Terry Olson, Ken Reffeitt, Mark Ross, Joe Wortham, Connie Zirkle.

Members absent were: Lisa Allen, Sharie Altizer, Sherry Brooks, Kay Hesson, Chris Kennedy, Jennifer Long, Kelli Mayes, David Napier.

Guest speakers were William Eddie Harman (West Virginia Department of Highways, WVSEU), Earl Woolley (AFLCIO) and Sam Sims (Ohio state employee).

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Nina Barrett, president. The minutes of the June 20 meeting were accepted. Barrett asked that council members introduce themselves and give a brief description of their tenure at Marshall and on the council.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership/Election Committee—Joe Wortham, chair, said the committee would meet 7/25/96 and discuss elections since five positions on the council are vacant. The election to fill the positions probably will be held in September when staff members are back from vacations.

Personnel—Sharie Altizer, chair, submitted a written report that discussed the suggestions that 10 of 12 committee members had made regarding issues that the committee should address in the coming year. The suggestions included: opportunity for promotion within, creation of a Staff Council homepage, the need

Employee achievements

RAYMOND WELTY, director of auxiliary services, participated in the second annual Advanced Management Institute sponsored by the National Association of College Auxiliary Services June 28-30 in Colorado Springs. The NACAS is a nonprofit higher education association serving auxiliary services and student support services professionals at nearly 1,300 colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Australia, Asia and the United Kingdom.

Dr. JOHN L. SZAREK, professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the School of Medicine, attended the annual International Conference of the American Lung Association/American Thoracic Society held recently. He presented results of his research in two posters titled "Capsaicin augments airway hyperresponsiveness induced by hyperoxia in rats" and "Sensory nerve activation and substance P relax airways isolated from Fischer 344 rats." BEVERLY SPURLOCK of the Department of Pharmacology was co-author on the posters. The abstracts were published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine (1996; 153:A164 and A631). SZAREK also attended the recent annual meeting of the American Lung Association of West Virginia and was elected vice president of its board of directors. SZAREK, Dr. MARIE VEITIA of the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. HYLEA HARVEY of the Department of Family and Community Health and Dr. SARAH McCARTY of the Department of Medicine attended a workshop titled "Effective Teaching: Improving Your Skills" sponsored recently by the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia.

for more and updated training videos, more flexibility for maternity leave, the five-year plan, more training sessions and increased staff development, flex time, mandatory training for all supervisors concerning personnel policies, outsourcing, 9-10-11-month contracts per Senate Bill 547, day care, increment pay \$50/30 vs. \$36/20, classified/non-classified issues, Habitat for Humanity, Classified Staff Handbook.

Service Committee—Judi Balzano gave a report in place of Kelli Mayes, chair, who was on vacation. Balzano reported that flyers about fall tuition waivers had been sent out and applications were being returned to the committee. The committee was to meet Aug. 1 to review the applications.

ACCE Report—David Cremeans discussed the July 8 meeting that was held in Morgantown. He stated that this was an organizational meeting where officers were elected. Issues to be investigated were discussed and included a proactive political stance of the ACCE, contracting out of state employees' jobs and the classified/non-classified issues.

New Business:

Barrett informed the council of the ad hoc committee formed by Marshall students, staff and faculty that was convened at the request of a Students Government member.

The committee was formed to investigate the issues of a possible asbestos problem that occurred after a roof leak the weekend of June 22. The executive board of the Staff Council attended the meetings due to the urgency of the situation.

Barrett requested that this issue be placed under the Physical Environment Committee. Anita Hill, committee chair, stated that she would be at the next meeting (July 19) and if a conflict was not apparent with her position, the committee would address the issues. However, if a conflict did occur, the asbestos issues would be reviewed by the Personnel Committee.

Terry Olson, parliamentarian, discussed two issues that had been brought to his attention. One was in regard to the Medical School and concerns expressed by Philip Clay. The other issue was regarding Linda McComas and the possible involvement of staff and council in the Habitat for Humanity project that will be of benefit to her.

After a brief discussion, the Medical School issue was given to the Finance Committee to investigate. The Habitat for Humanity issue was given to the Service Committee for investigation.

Open Forum:

Barrett introduced a new facet of Staff Council meetings in which an open forum will take place. She explained that each member present will be given five minutes to discuss any issue pertinent to council concerns.

Several members brought up issues of concern including: Operation Streamline, Connections and faculty, division of staff and faculty (we need to work together—we are all here to serve the students), internal job applications, and contracting out of staff positions.

The guest speakers discussed their recruiting efforts for the West Virginia State Employees Union in a campaign titled "WVSEU's Summer Blitz" where volunteers from various states are working in West Virginia to educate and organize state workers in hopes of obtaining a collective bargaining system that would serve as a contract to negotiate salaries, working conditions and benefits.

Barrett discussed the meeting room for future meetings. Several meeting sites will be considered.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Marshall receives \$6 million from state for library

The state on Monday, Aug. 19, awarded \$6 million to Marshall University ensuring construction of the new technologically sophisticated library/information center, according to MU President J. Wade Gilley.

Gilley said a contract for the proposed \$28 million project may be awarded as soon as next week.

The West Virginia Legislature earlier this year authorized the sale of \$100 million in bonds to fund various projects with \$25 million of that going to capital improvements at state institu-

tions of higher education.

Approximately 15 universities and colleges requested money for infrastructure improvements.

Marshall's award was the largest construction project recommended by the five-member committee.

Gilley stressed that the university still needs to raise funds to pay off construction of the library. He urged all faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and friends of Marshall University to make contributions.

MU NEWSLETTER

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MU and ACC develop 'Two-Plus-Two' program

A new cooperative program developed by Marshall University and Ashland (Ky.) Community College will make it easier for area residents to obtain a four-year baccalaureate degree in business administration, according to a joint announcement released by MU President J. Wade Gilley and ACC President Charles R. Dassance.

The "Two-Plus-Two" agreement will allow students who complete the two-year associate degree program in Business Technology at ACC to enroll at Marshall for the final two years of study required for a bachelor's degree in business administration.

"The agreement assures ACC graduates who wish to obtain the four-year degree that they can transfer without loss of credits or having to spend additional time with prerequisites," explained Gilley. Dassance said, "The 'Two-Plus-Two' creates new and expanded opportunities for Ashland students."

Noreen is named chair

United States Army Lt. Col. Thomas R. Noreen has been named professor and chair of the Military Science Department at Marshall University, according to Dr. Sarah Denman, vice president for academic affairs at Marshall.

A native of Michigan, Noreen received his commission in 1975 from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a bachelor of science degree. He received a master's degree in chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University.

His military education includes the Signal Officer's Basic and Advance courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Department of Defense Systems Management College, Program Management Course. He recently was selected to attend the U.S. Army War College.

Noreen's previous assignments include platoon leader and assistant operations and training officer for the 33rd Signal Battalion and aide-de-camp to the commanding general for the 172nd Infantry Brigade at Fort Richardson, Ark.



Noreen

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Environmental incubator opens

Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences has opened its Environmental Management Incubator for business, according to Dr. James W. Hooper, executive director of Marshall's economic development programs.

The university received an \$800,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration in 1995 and provided \$300,000 in matching funds to develop the "incubator without walls" that will focus on environmental issues companies must deal with

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Dr. James W. Hooper, left, executive director of Marshall University's economic development programs, presents a plaque to Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II during the grand opening of the university's Environmental Management Incubator. Hooper recognized Rahall for his support and interest in the state-of-the-art facility.

Environmental incubator in 206 Gullickson Hall

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and the business opportunities that arise from environmental emphasis and regulations.

Hooper said the incubator is expected to help retain existing jobs in the area and attract new jobs.

"Our intent is to provide information, training and support services for existing and start-up companies through computer-based on-line environmental databases and reference materials," said Hooper.

Consulting services and training programs have been developed to help area companies better cope with technological, economic and legal aspects of current and future environmental issues.

Training topics will be based on need and are expected to include introductory environmental concepts, the establishment and operation of an environmental program and environmental regulations.

"This is an extremely important subject that you will hear about more and more in the future," said Marshall President J. Wade Gilley. "Environmental issues are becoming very complicated and can have a tremendous impact on the establishment of new businesses and the success or failure of existing businesses. I believe this program will have profound benefits for industry and potential new business ventures.

"This project fits in well with the goals and mission of our Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences. It also is an excellent example of the emphasis the university is placing on new technologies and our desire to work with area business and industry to help the Tri-State region."

Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II, Huntington Mayor Jean Dean and other local and regional dignitaries attended the grand opening of the incubator held recently in Gullickson Hall Room 206. Hooper presented a plaque to Rahall in recognition of the congressman's support and interest in the state-of-the-art facility.

Companies and agencies interested in participating in the project or obtaining further details can contact the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences at Marshall University, 304-696-5453.

Noreen is named chair

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He served two tours with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., where he was company commander of the 501st Signal Battalion, 2nd Brigade signal officer, division radio officer, and was the 501st Signal Battalion supply officer and then the operations officer.

Noreen also served as the executive officer and assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry at West Point and executive officer and test and evaluation officer at the Program Executive Office for Command and Control Systems at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

His most recent assignment was as commander of the 69th Signal Battalion at Wuerzburg, Germany.

Noreen has received several awards and decorations including the Meritorious Service Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab and the Air Assault Badge.

He is replacing Maj. Richard A. Neikirk who retires this summer.

"We have enjoyed an outstanding relationship over the years with the military through the ROTC and Military Science programs," said Denman. "We are fortunate to have had a succession of superlative officers lead the department. Lt. Col. Noreen is another in that distinguished line of commanders. His educational background is first class and his military service is exceptional. We are very pleased he has joined our program."

Noreen was accompanied to Huntington by his wife, Nancy, and their four children.

MU, ACC develop program

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Lorraine P. Anderson, associate dean of the MU College of Business, will coordinate the program at Marshall. She said, "This is a wonderful example of two higher education institutions working together. This program obviously will benefit area students but it also has the potential to have a positive impact on area business and industry."

Dassance and Gilley said the "Two-Plus-Two" agreement will set a precedent for establishing similar programs in other fields.

To obtain further details contact Barnett at Ashland Community College, 606-329-2999 (ext. 208) or 1-800-370-7191, or Anderson at Marshall University's College of Business, 304-696-2611.

Preschool program set

Marshall University's Autism Training Center and Cabell County Schools are sponsoring a preschool program for four-year-old children.

Eight children are being sought to serve as role models for four children with autism. The program will provide a typical preschool curriculum including crafts, music and outdoor play.

The program will follow the Cabell County school schedule and will be offered Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. beginning Sept. 9. There will be a fee of \$200 per child per semester.

To obtain further details contact Dr. Jennifer McFarland at the Autism Training Center, 696-2332.

Hosts sought for MU international students

A program at Marshall University will give Huntington area residents an opportunity to learn about and experience other cultures, according to Dr. William A. Edwards, executive director of Marshall's Center for International Programs.

The university is seeking local families to host international students during the fall semester through its Host Family and Homestay program.

Families who participate in the program will be compensated \$400 per month for providing room and board and transportation to and from the MU campus.

"This is an excellent opportunity for local families to learn about foreign cultures," said Edwards. "International students in our program are bright, motivated young people who are ea-

CEGAS doing research

Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences recently was awarded a \$60,155 contract by Mason Research Incorporated in Point Pleasant to develop a Health, Safety and Environmental Protocol for the U.S. Navy Fire Support Program, Louisville, Ky.

The first portion of the multi-phase effort involving the development of an initial draft software protocol that incorporates mitigating procedures and processes for health, safety and environmental (HSE) impact has been completed, according to Dr. James W. Hooper, executive director of Marshall's Office of Research and Economic Development.

Dr. Tony Szwilski, who holds a joint appointment as professor of environmental engineering and science with Marshall and the West Virginia Graduate College, is the principal investigator for the project.

Szwilski said the work involves the development of environmental safety and health procedures for Naval surface weapon systems.

"We are developing procedures that will be incorporated in user-friendly software so that weapons systems program managers in the Navy can evaluate products they purchase or procure," explained Szwilski. "This will also allow them to evaluate any product or any procedure in a system that might be used for Naval surface weapons fire support."

Other Marshall faculty and staff members working on the project are Dr. Hisham Al-Haddad, assistant professor of computer science; Elizabeth Hanrahan, program specialist at the Environmental Center; Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, manager of information technology programs at the Environmental Center and associate professor of computer science; Dr. Will McCumbee, professor of physiology; Dr. Gary Rankin, chair of the Pharmacology Department; Dr. Gary Wright, chair of the Physiology Department, and Hooper.

Jenkins dies in crash

Michael Shawn Jenkins, 26, of Milton, an information systems specialist at Marshall University, died Sunday, Aug. 11, after the small airplane he was piloting crashed near Summersville.

He was born Jan. 8, 1970, in Huntington. He is survived by his parents Robert L. and Linda Kinder Jenkins of Milton; his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Rhoda Douglas Jenkins of Milton; his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Geraldine Johnson Meadows of Milton; his maternal step-grandfather, Raymond Meadows of Milton; and several aunts and uncles.

ger to learn about our country and teach us about their cultures and customs."

Eric K. Spears, coordinator for international student services at Marshall, will administer the Host Family and Homestay program.

According to Spears, host families should have an interest in living and interacting with people from other cultures, be able to provide breakfast and dinner every day, and be able to provide the student with transportation to and from the university or live within walking distance of the university or near a bus route.

"International students have many more challenges and barriers to face than the typical student," said Spears. "They are encountering a new culture and everyday language so it is important to find a caring family that will provide a helpful and encouraging environment for these students."

Spears said at present there is a demand for families to host students from Asia and the Middle East. He said students from other regions also may need to be placed with host families. Students will need to be placed in homes by the first week of September.

Applications to become a Homestay family are available from Marshall's Center for International Programs in Old Main Room 212. To obtain further details contact the center at 304-696-6265.

Mentors are needed to help incoming freshmen

The Marshall University African American Students' Program Office is seeking volunteers for its mentoring program, according to Fran Jackson, program coordinator.

The African American Mentor/Mentee service is a multifaceted program designed to put freshmen students in touch with a member of the university's faculty, staff, administration or an upper class student. The mentor will serve as a confidant to the student throughout his/her freshman year.

Jackson said the program assists African American students in recognizing available resources, setting realistic goals, working within the bureaucratic system and in feeling a part of the total university student body.

Currently, 25 administrators, faculty and staff members have volunteered to be mentors. Mentors are required to spend 10 hours a month with their assigned freshman and keep a monthly report of all meetings and activities with the student. Participants also must attend at least four meetings to discuss any problems or make suggestions that might benefit the student or the program.

Several group activities have been planned throughout the year for participants including a Thanksgiving dinner, a pizza party, and an end of the year banquet to recognize and honor students and mentors.

To obtain further details or volunteer to be a mentor contact Jackson at the African American Students' Program Office, 696-6705.

Library schedule given

Marshall University's James E. Morrow Library will be closed Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24-25, according to Josephine Fidler, director of libraries.

The library's regular fall schedule will begin Monday, Aug. 26. The library also will be closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Aug. 31 through Sept. 2, for the Labor Day holiday.