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MU NewsLetter, September 5, 1996

Office of University Relations

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NEWSLETTER

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25755 • Sept. 5, 1996

McDowell named MU Employee of the Month

Tracy McDowell of Huntington, an administrative assistant at the Robert C. Byrd Institute, has been selected as the Marshall University Employee of the Month for August, according to Bill Burdette, chairman of the selection committee.

McDowell has worked for the university for more than three years.

She was nominated for the award by Jennifer Moran, a communications specialist at the Byrd Institute. In making the nomi-

nation, Moran said, "Tracy should be named Employee of the Month because she is tireless and energetic while performing her job and is extremely dedicated to it, constantly rising to new challenges with enthusiasm.

"Because she basically performs two jobs, she constantly juggles many different tasks exhibiting a professionalism that makes it all seem so easy. Many times she has gone beyond the requirements of her job to ensure the successful completion of a project.

"No matter how busy she is, she is always sensitive to her co-workers' needs—pitching in to help whenever necessary. Further, she provides encouragement through kind words and deeds. Tracy is well respected by her colleagues and can always be counted on to provide insightful advice. By performing disparate tasks that need to be undertaken throughout the Byrd Institute while maintaining the highest quality work, she exemplifies the ideal employee.

"Beyond the role she fills at work, Tracy plays an active role in our community by volunteering for projects, such as Huntington Main Street, the Huntington Museum of Art and the Huntington Chamber of Commerce, that benefit everyone. Tracy, in a final assessment, exemplifies the ideal employee."

McDowell will receive a plaque and \$100 for being named Employee of the Month and will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.

Marshall University President J. Wade Gilley and his wife, Nanna, provided funds through a grant to establish the Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year program.

The program has been designed to recognize outstanding performance by classified and non-classified staff at the university.

Awards will be made to MU employees who have exhibited exceptional levels of work performance and displayed high regard and loyalty toward the university and their job responsibilities.



McDowell

'New Music' premiering

"New Music," a documentary celebrating the development of Katherine Hoover's "Dances and Variations" for flute and harp, will premiere at a preview event Thursday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre in Marshall University's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

The preview is a fund-raising event to support this and other media projects in the Marshall University Department of Music.

Produced by Witek and Novak Inc. and WPBY Channel 33, the documentary explores the process of producing and performing a new musical work in the late 20th century. It considers important artistic issues such as: Why create new music? How do the performers interpret it? How is new music financed? Are there particular problems for women composers?

To answer the questions, director Deborah Novak and director of photography Russ Barbour took an in-depth look at the rehearsal and world premiere of Hoover's "Dances and Variations" which was commissioned by Dr. and Mrs. James P. Carey and Marshall University. The work was premiered Oct. 11, 1995, by Wendell Dobbs, MU professor of music, and renowned harpist Lawrence Odom at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The documentary takes viewers inside the professional world of music and includes background interviews with the composer and performers, footage of rehearsals and backstage moments leading to the premiere performance.

The preview event will begin with a wine and savories reception to greet Hoover, Novak, Barbour and others associated with

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Gilley to make address

Marshall University President J. Wade Gilley will present a State of the University address during the general faculty meeting Thursday, Sept. 19, at 4 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

The agenda for the meeting will include: introduction of new faculty members by department chairs, nominations for a faculty member to sit on the Institutional Board of Advisors, nominations for replacements on the Institutional Hearing Panel, discussion of changes to Policy Bulletin 36, remarks of the president, and announcements.

A reception for new faculty members will be held immediately following the meeting in Marco's in the basement of the Memorial Student Center.

Phased retirement policy to be discussed Sept. 17

An informational meeting to discuss Marshall University's phased retirement plan will be held Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge.

James Sims, executive secretary of the Consolidated Public Retirement Board, Douglas Chittenden, second vice president and regional office manager with TIAA-CREF, and Katherine Coffey, benefits counselor in Marshall's Human Resources Department, will attend the meeting.

The meeting will be open to all Marshall University employees.

'Glass Menagerie' to open MU theatre season

The Marshall University Theatre will open its season by presenting a special production of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" Sept. 25-27 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Produced by the award-winning Cleveland Signstage Theatre, the play will be presented simultaneously in American Sign Language and spoken English by a combined cast of hearing and deaf actors.

The Cleveland Signstage Theatre (formerly known as the Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf) will be in residence at Marshall for more than two weeks in September as they prepare for the production. While at Marshall, production members will conduct workshops on theatre that brings deaf and hearing people together, physical communication, and acting and differently abled performers.

Exhibit features works by state art professors

The West Virginia Universities and Colleges Art Faculty Exhibition will be held at Marshall University's Birke Art Gallery beginning Saturday, Sept. 7, according to Michael Cornfeld, chair of the MU Art Department.

An opening reception for artists and friends will be held in the gallery Monday, Sept. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the West Virginia College Art Association, the exhibition showcases the work of art faculty from colleges and universities throughout the state.

In addition to Marshall University artists, the exhibit will include works by representatives of Bluefield State College, Concord College, Shepherd College, West Liberty State College, West Virginia State College, West Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, West Virginia Wesleyan College and the University of Charleston.

Works will range from representational figurative painting to experimental use of media and subject matter.

Cornfeld said the exhibit reveals the depth of talent, experience and professional high standards of the dedicated art teachers who inspire our college students.

The exhibition will continue through Sept. 25. Birke Art Gallery, located on the ground floor of Smith Hall, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday.

'New Music' premiering

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the project.

"New Music" will be shown at 8 p.m. Hoover's "Dances and Variations" will be performed for its Huntington premiere at 8:30 p.m. by flutist Dobbs and harpist Mary Tryer.

West Virginia Public Television will broadcast "New Music" Sunday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m.

Individuals who would like to receive invitations to the event or obtain further details should contact the Marshall University Department of Music, 696-2359.

Dr. Jeffery Scott Elwell, chair of Marshall's Theatre and Dance Department, said an extraordinary group of individuals and organizations have come together to make this opening production possible.

Contributors include: Very Special Arts West Virginia, the Birke Symposium, the Society of Yeager Scholars, the MU Multicultural and International Programs Office, Marshall President J. Wade Gilley, and MU alumni John Fiedler and Robert Hinchman.

Elwell also announced that the Marshall University Theatre received a grant to expand services for patrons.

The James H. and Alice Teubert Charitable Trust provided funds that now make it possible for the theatre to offer an assistive listening system. The system provides personal amplification for people who have hearing problems.

Elwell said the grant will allow the theatre in the near future to provide a descriptive listening service for the visually impaired.

Tickets for "The Glass Menagerie" will be \$8 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and youth 17 and under. Marshall students with valid identification cards and MU retirees will be admitted free. Discounts will be available for part-time MU students and groups.

To obtain further details about the production of "The Glass Menagerie," Signstage Theatre workshops, the assistive listening system or obtaining season tickets for the Marshall University Theatre contact the MU Box Office, 304-696-2787, or stop by the Fine and Performing Arts Center. Box Office hours are from 1 to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Retired professor dies

Dr. E. Lewis Plymale, 81, of Huntington died Thursday, Aug. 22, at his home.

Plymale was chair of the Marshall University Botany Department from 1946 until his retirement in 1973.

He was born Sept. 20, 1914, in Wayne County, a son of the late William Edward and Leah Malcolm Plymale.

Plymale was a graduate of Buffalo High School, Marshall University and the University of Kentucky. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Marguerite Bartley Plymale; two daughters and one son-in-law, Malinda and Charles Paskewicz of Maitland, Fla., and Dotty Ellis of Huntington; one son, Robert Plymale of Tucson, Ariz.; one granddaughter, Serena Paskewicz of Maitland, Fla.; three sisters and one brother-in-law, Hope Plymale and Jewel Shingleton, both of Kenova, and Mary and Robert Garst of Louisville, Ky.; one brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Mary Jo Plymale of Huntington, and several nieces and nephews.

Newsletter deadline set

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.