1-8-2014

We Are...Marshall, January 8, 2014

Office of Marshall University Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter

Recommended Citation
http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter/316

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Marshall Publications at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in We Are ... Marshall: the Newsletter for Marshall University by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.
Schray named finalist for Professor of the Year

Dr. Kateryna Schray, professor of English, has been named a finalist in the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia’s “Professor of the Year” award this year. The winner of the award will be announced in March.

Last month, Schray was the featured speaker at Marshall’s winter commencement. Earlier in the year, she received the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award winner for 2012-2013. That award is named in honor of Charles Hedrick’s father, Charles E. Hedrick, a former history professor and later Chairman of the Graduate Council, and one of the founders of Marshall’s graduate program.

Schray has been at Marshall since 1996, when she was hired as an assistant professor of English.

“Dr. Schray is, quite simply, an exemplary teacher,” said John Van Kirk, also an English professor at Marshall. “Dr. Schray is one of those rare people who can shine brilliantly both in the classroom and on the page, an innovative and truly inspiring teacher and a scholar of the first rank.”

Schray describes her teaching philosophy as “embarrassingly simple: provide students with a supportive learning environment, identify and build on their strengths, and make each person an active participant in his/her own education, all the while remembering that learning is inherently joyful.”

Dr. Jane Hill, chair of the department of English, said she has “never had a colleague who more vividly and completely embodies the ideals of our profession.””Dr. Schray’s reputation as a teacher is, quite literally, national in scope,” Hill said.

“From the moment she started work on Marshall’s campus, she has established a record of outstanding scholarship, teaching and service, and maintained the excellence in all these areas
consistently over all the years she has been here – an extraordinary achievement,” said English Professor Shirley Lumpkin.

Schray previously received the Pickens-Queen Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001 and the Reynolds Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009.

Reminder: Be sure to vote for your choice of Marshall vision statement by Friday, Jan. 10

Since October, teams of Marshall University students, faculty and staff have been diligently working to develop the university’s latest strategic plan. The intensive discussions were sparked following a summit that identified Marshall’s key challenges as it faces dwindling state funding for public higher education.

During the Oct. 11 summit, known as the 20/20 retreat, one of the first priorities was to create a new “shared vision statement,” which will help set the stage for Marshall’s overall goal as a university, said President Stephen J. Kopp. Summit participants set a deadline of Jan. 10 to develop a draft vision statement.

“A vision statement should be both inspirational and aspirational, and serve to motivate all stakeholders,” Kopp said. “It should declare the august ambitions of an organization and answer the question, ‘What do we seek to become?’ It should be clear, memorable, and concise as it will serve as the guide for present and future university priorities and actions.”

As a result of the 20/20 retreat, an action plan was developed and participants were asked to choose two of eight action items to work on. Kopp co-chaired the 21-member Shared Vision Statement team with Dr. Tracy Christofero, professor of technology management. Those who chose working on the vision statement team as their first choice became the MUV (Marshall University Vision) team. The participants were organized into three teams. Each team included faculty, staff, senior staff, and two students enrolled in a strategic planning graduate course.

Christofero said each team was asked to identify aspirational and inspirational keywords for the university. They reviewed vision statements of businesses and other institutions of higher education to determine what they liked and disliked in a vision statement, she said.

“Our teams additionally worked on developing a cover story about what they wanted for the university. They used what they learned through these processes to develop a vision statement for the university that can be spoken in one breath,” Christofero said.
In addition to the three six-person teams, Kopp, MU Foundation CEO Dr. Ron Area, and Christofero developed a statement. Now that each of the teams has prepared a statement, they are asking campus and community members as well as alumni and friends across the globe to identify from among the four statements, the one that will best serve Marshall University as its inspirational, aspirational (bold, audacious), clear, memorable, and concise vision for the future.

The proposed statements, in no particular order, are:

1. We are the most student-focused university in our region, united in realizing our students’ potential through learning and service.
2. Marshall University... where you want to be.
3. The vision of Marshall University is to inspire learning and creativity that ignites the mind, nurtures the spirit and fulfills the promise of a better future.
4. Marshall University’s vision: Every student succeeds.


Marshall’s existing vision statement is:

> “Marshall University, an exemplar of excellence in teaching and learning, will continue to place its highest priority on providing outstanding undergraduate and graduate education, resulting in national recognition in academics and in scholarly, artistic, and creative achievement. Marshall’s students will graduate well prepared for the responsibilities of life within a culturally diverse and globally interdependent society. Marshall will address the changing needs of the state and region and will return to the community and state an outstanding value for the resources invested in the university.”

Once a new statement is selected, it will be brought before the Marshall University Board of Governors for official adoption in 2014.

In addition to the MU Vision Team, the strategic planning retreat created seven other “action teams” that are addressing topics ranging from the university budget and service quality to academic offerings and communications. More information about the process is available at [http://www.marshall.edu/2020/](http://www.marshall.edu/2020/).
In Memoriam: Buck Harless

President Stephen J. Kopp issued the following statement about James H. "Buck" Harless, who passed away Jan. 1:

"Truly the rarest of the exceptional human beings who have graced our world, James H. "Buck” Harless was a devoted West Virginian who dedicated himself to making this state a better place to live, work and raise a family. He was renowned for his business acumen and esteemed by the elite and well-connected. He was a touchstone for political aspirants; however, it was the countless lives of everyday people he touched through his generosity, caring and willingness to share his wisdom that set him apart. His love of the people of West Virginia was genuine and endeared him to all who knew him. He understood the virtue of hard work and lived it every day, even at the age of 94. He understood the virtue of compassion for others less fortunate and was the embodiment of a life well-lived. I regard Buck as a legend who exemplified the power of serving and the virtue of empowering others.

Buck was revered by the Marshall University community and we thank him for all he has done for the people of West Virginia and Marshall University. The greatest honor he could have bestowed on us was the ‘Harless’ name. It is a proud and lasting legacy that affirms the profound influence that he had on this university, our people and our beloved state.”

Harless was born in Taplin, in Logan County, on Oct. 14, 1919, but lived most of his life in Gilbert, W.Va. He enjoyed success in the timber and coal industries, and was Chairman of the Board with International Industries Inc. He was past chairman of the Marshall University Board of Advisors and a former member of the Marshall University Foundation Board.

Harless also received an honorary doctorate from Marshall, was named to the Marshall University Business Hall of Fame, and received the John Marshall Medal of Civic Responsibility.

His generous financial contributions have supported the Buck Harless Student Athlete Program at Marshall, and the June Montgomery Harless Center for Rural Educational Research & Development at Marshall is named for his late wife. The Harless Dining Hall at Marshall, which opened in January 2004, also is named for him. And, the Harless Auditorium at the Marshall University Medical Center is named after Buck’s late son, Larry Joe Harless.

Harless also was one of the first contributors to the Society of Yeager Scholars at Marshall University.

Click to visit Buck Harless tribute Web page.

Rebecca Hansen named Employee of the Month

Rebecca Hansen, Coordinator of the College Program, Autism Training Center, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for September, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed for more than 10 years, she was nominated by Hillary Brown, Adam Fry, Kerrie Harris, Bianca Hynes and Eszter Kiss.

In her nomination Brown wrote, “Rebecca Hansen never wants to be referred to as ‘the boss.’ She’s a part of a team, a team she has helped build from the ground up. Her passion for her job is indescribable and she motivates our team daily to make our work environment one of the most nurturing and collaborative to be a part of. Rebecca works one-on-one with students, staff and graduate assistants on a daily basis and helps everyone feels as though we are a part of something grand.”

Fry noted, “Becca has impeccable management and organization skills. The success of the College Program here at Marshall can be attributed to her genuine passion in the field and her ability to collectively lead by creating a work environment in which employees want to perform at the highest levels.”

Harris said, “Rebecca is extremely dedicated to the College Program and works each day to further its success and improve the support it offers. Her position is not just a job, but a way of life and she is very passionate about it. She has a strong work ethic and isn’t afraid to take on new challenges/adventures.”

Hynes wrote, “Rebecca Hansen is the backbone of the College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is a phenomenal leader who fights for what is right, not only with our students but for all students on Marshall’s campus. She has inspired me and many other young women to pursue our goals and make our dreams realities. She is not just the coordinator of a nationally known program in the field of autism, she is also a full-time wife, mother, daughter, sister, mentor and friend to many. She gives 150 percent to all she does, which explains how the College Program has grown substantially in size and is now a national model…she is the definition of what every Marshall employee should strive to be.”

Kiss added, “Miss Hansen is the most amazing, dedicated leader and woman that I have ever met! Her priority is always the family of employees and students that she works with. She is a pioneer in the field of autism!”

Hansen was presented with a plaque and a check for $100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

__Photo:__ Rebecca Hansen, right, receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

***
Marshall to present annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration

Marshall University’s annual “Living the Legacy” Awards Luncheon will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, in the Don Morris Room on Marshall’s Huntington campus.

The event will feature bestselling author Omar Tyree, whose works include the nonfiction *The Equation: Applying the 4 Indisputable Components of Business Success* and novels such as *Flyy Girl, Welcome to Dubai (The Traveler)* and *For the Love of Money*.

The luncheon is free to the Marshall University community, but reservations are required. Reservations may be made by e-mailing allenl@marshall.edu or calling 304-696-4677. Deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 15.

The program is dedicated to the memory of Janis Winkfield, who was a staff member in the Office of Financial Aid at Marshall until her death in 2009. Winkfield also was member of the Marshall University Foundation Board of Directors and a past president of the Marshall Black Alumni. Donations will be collected at the luncheon for the scholarship in Winkfield’s name.

The event is sponsored by Marshall’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, with assistance from corporate sponsor Walmart.

Marshall Recreation Center announces ‘Boredom Busters’

The Marshall Recreation Center is starting the New Year right with a new program designed to strengthen the bond between parents and their children, as well as teach kids how to stay healthy and active.

The program is called “Boredom Busters” and takes place one Saturday each month starting in January and ending in May. Alex Boyer, assistant director of youth programming at the Rec Center, came up with the concept. “We want to provide a program to help parents lure their children away from TV, video games and tablets so that they can spend quality time with them trying something new.”

Mini Busters is for children in grades 3 through 5, and Junior Busters is for children grades 6 through 8. Some of the activities parents will be able to enjoy with their children include yoga, belaying and climbing the rock wall, backpacking and knot tying, camping and “Kidobics,” a fitness activity. All sessions will take place inside the Rec Center, which is located on the corner of 5th Avenue and 20th Street in Huntington.
The program costs $10 for Rec Center members and $20 for non-members. All supplies for the activities will be provided.

For more information or to sign up, call Boyer at 304-696-4101 or e-mail boyer3@marshall.edu.

Marshall Medical Outreach invites Marshall community to participate in event to assist the homeless

Marshall Medical Outreach, a student-run organization assisting the homeless with health care, will conduct an event with Qdoba in Barboursville Jan. 17-19.

Members of the Marshall community who bring three pairs of new socks to the restaurant will receive a free entree in return for their donation.

Persons who would like to assist, but cannot visit the restaurant those days, may contact Missy Clagg Browning at the School of Medicine by phone at 304-691-1511 or by e-mail at clagg11@marshall.edu.

Click to read event flyer.

The next issue of We Are…Marshall will be distributed Jan. 15, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13.