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J-School accreditation recommended

An evaluator for the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) has recommended full accreditation for Marshall University's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Dr. Harold Shaver, director of the school, said the evaluator, Dr. Thomas Bowers, met earlier this week with Marshall officials to report his conclusions after a two-day visit.

Bowers, associate dean of journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was also the leader of a five-person accrediting team which visited Marshall a year ago. Although high in its praise of the school’s academic program and the success of its graduates, the team had concluded Marshall’s journalism school should be given provisional accreditation for a year pending progress in several areas of concern.

"Dr. Bowers told me Tuesday he was impressed with the significant progress we had made over the 12 months since he last visited Huntington," Shaver said. "He indicated he was prepared to recommend full accreditation. Naturally, I was ecstatic. A lot of people have worked very hard so we could reach this point."

ACEJMC’s accrediting committee will consider Bowers’ recommendation in early April with final approval from the full council expected in May, Shaver said. "Although the recommendation of on-site evaluators may be changed at any step in the process, such changes are highly unusual," Shaver said.

In addressing the committee’s concerns, the school has made a number of improvements, including:

- Merging a broadcasting program in the Department of Speech with the broadcasting sequence in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, thereby increasing the number of faculty teaching broadcasting and bringing greater faculty diversity.
- Additional equipment allocations.

(Continued on page 2)

Rhoten named chairman

Dr. William Blocher Rhoten is the new chairman of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the Marshall University School of Medicine, Dean Charles H. McKown Jr. has announced.

Rhoten comes to Marshall from the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where he had been an associate professor of anatomy. On occasion, he served as acting chairman of that school’s Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. He also has taught at a Ugandan medical school as a senior Fulbright scholar, at the University of Cape Town and at the University of Illinois.

"Dr. Rhoten is an outstanding addition to our school," Dr. McKown said. "He already is working to develop a learning resource facility for students which will include electronic logic systems for acquiring and analyzing information."

(Continued on page 2)

Group honors Marshall for minority programs

Marshall University has been recognized by the Tri-State African/American Coalition for the opportunities it offers to minorities.

David Harris, one of the coalition’s organizers, said Marshall and two other Tri-State employers, BASF Corporation and Lens Crafters, were honored because they "went out of their way" to offer such opportunities. Those opportunities included hiring, training, retraining and promoting minorities.

The coalition specifically cited Marshall for the number of minorities it employs in administrative positions and the improvements the university has made in the past few years in hiring and retaining minorities among its staff.

Approximately 10 percent of the university’s 1,300 employees are minorities, according to Queen Foreman, director of human resources at Marshall.

Harris said the Tri-State African/American Coalition was organized in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He said the group’s focus is on positive reinforcement.
Rhoten named chairman of department
(Continued from page 1)

Rhoten also is making plans to revise the human gross anatomy course to better enable students as future physicians and to more fully support the curriculum changes coming through the Kellogg Initiative and the Caperton Plan, McKown added.

Rhoten’s research has focused on aspects of pancreatic endocrine cell structure and function, and the role of calcium-binding proteins in cells. His studies have included morphological, physiological, biochemical and, more recently, molecular biological approaches.

He reviews manuscripts for several prominent scientific journals including Science, Endocrinology, and the Anatomical Record. He has contributed to three medical textbooks in the fields of microanatomy and endocrinology.

In addition, he is a reviewer for the National Science Foundation and a referee for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

Rhoten is active in several professional societies and has served as co-chairman for scientific sessions for meetings of the American Association of Anatomists and the American Society of Zoologists.

After receiving his Ph.D. in anatomy from the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center of the Pennsylvania State University, Rhoten did a fellowship in experimental pathology at Washington University in St. Louis. He received his bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University and his master’s from the University of Illinois.

J-School recommended
(Continued from page 1)

-- Employment of an additional minority faculty member.

Historically, Marshall’s journalism program has been considered exceptionally strong and the school has earned many awards for excellence over the years. The accrediting committee last year cited “a dedicated, committed and hard-working faculty” who are “excellent” teachers and advisers, “excellent service activities,” “excellent supervision of internship experiences” and “outstanding student morale.”

ACEJMC, the only accrediting agency in the field of mass communications and journalism, operates with approval from the U.S. Department of Education. Currently, only 93 colleges and universities have accredited programs. Marshall’s program has been accredited since 1977.

The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications has 12 faculty members and 450 students. It offers six undergraduate sequences—advertising, broadcasting, broadcast journalism, journalism education, print journalism, public relations—and a Master of Arts in Journalism.

Program celebrates 20th year

The Upward Bound Program at Marshall University will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a “Birthday Banquet” on Friday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. in the W. Don Morris Room in Memorial Student Center.

Congressman Nick Joe Rahall and Marshall President J. Wade Gilley will be the featured speakers for the banquet.

More than 130 guests, including students and staff who have participated in the program during the past 20 years, are expected to attend, according to Jackie Hersman, director of the program.

“Between 80 and 90 percent of the program’s graduates go on to some form of post-secondary education,” said Hersman. “They will be honored at the banquet with awards and recognition.”

The activities will include a slide show and special entertainment.

To obtain further details about the Upward Bound Program at Marshall University contact Hersman, 696-6456.

‘Soul Food Feast’ set

A “Soul Food Feast” will be held in conjunction with Marshall University’s observance of Black History Month on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 3 p.m. in Marshall’s Campus Christian Center.

The menu will include chitlins, fried chicken, barbecued ribs, candied yams, collard greens, green beans, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, coleslaw, cornbread, rolls and assorted desserts and beverages, according to Macel Braxton, coordinator of Marshall’s Office of African American Students’ Programs.

Marshall’s Mass Choir will provide musical entertainment. Admission will be $3 for students and $6 for adults.

The “Soul Food Feast” is being sponsored by the Office of African American Students’ Programs and Marshall’s Black United Students’ Organization.

To obtain further details contact the Office of African American Students’ Programs, 696-6705.

‘Barnum’ scheduled

“Barnum,” the popular musical about the life of master showman P.T. Barnum, will be presented by the Marshall Artists Series on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. at the Keith-Albee Theatre.

The musical won Tony awards for best musical, best score and best actor when it opened on Broadway in 1980.

Activities actually will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the Laffy Taffy Half-Hour Pre-Show when clowns, magicians and acrobats will mingle throughout the audience and Keith-Albee lobby to help “warm up” the audience.

Tickets will be $16, $20 and $24. Youth 17 and under, part-time MU students and MU faculty and staff will be admitted for half-price.

To obtain tickets or further details contact the Marshall Artists Series Office, 696-6656.
Writer will discuss works for series

Sheila Schwartz, author of "Imagine a Great White Light," will read excerpts from her works at Marshall University on Monday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge.

Schwartz has received many awards for her fictional works, including an Illinois Arts Council Award, an Ohio Arts Council Award and a Pushcart Prize. She received the prestigious Wallace Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University.

Committee makes funds available for faculty

Marshall University’s Faculty Development Committee has a limited amount of money left for the 1991-92 academic year.

The committee has decided to use the money for helping faculty members attend conferences, workshops and seminars that will help them enhance their research, teaching and technical skills, according to Steve Shuklian, committee secretary.

He said the funds will be used to help faculty members attend meetings for the purpose of learning, rather than the presentation of papers.

All members of the Marshall University faculty are eligible for funding. Awards will be limited to $400 per year on a competitive basis. Applicants cannot receive more than two awards in a five year period. The funds will not be available to obtain equipment or advanced degrees.

Application forms are available from Stephanie Neal in the Faculty Senate Office, Northcott Hall Room 209A, 696-4376.

To obtain further details contact Pamela Gardner, 696-2980, or Merle Thomas, 696-5432.

Lebanon to be topic

Rene Melek, founder of the Association for a United Sovereign Lebanon and secretary of the board of directors of the Council of Lebanese American Organizations, will discuss "Lebanon Today" at Marshall University on Friday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Shawkey Room in Memorial Student Center.

Congressman Nick Rahall, who recently visited Lebanon, also will participate in the program.

Melek, who resides in New Jersey, was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, and is committed to the cause of freedom and democracy in Lebanon. He was educated in the United States and the American University in Beirut.

Melek said he believes all Lebanese have a desire for sovereignty and independence. He said the only way to guarantee sovereignty and independence in Lebanon is to rely on a constitutional process free from manipulation.

The program, sponsored by the Marshall University International Students and Scholars Office, will be open to the public free of charge.

To obtain further details contact Monica Wang, coordinator of the International Students and Scholars Office, 696-2379.

A member of the writing program faculty at Cleveland State University, Schwartz received her doctorate at the State University of New York at Binghamton. She previously taught at Stanford and Northwestern universities.

Her works have been published in several sources, including the “Editor’s Choice” anthology.

The program is part of the Marshall University Visiting Writers Series sponsored by the MU English Department and the College of Liberal Arts.

Schwartz’s presentation will be open to the public free of charge. To obtain further details contact Art Stringer in the Marshall University English Department, 696-2403.

Senior recital planned

Mark A. Smith of Portsmouth, Ohio, will present a senior voice recital on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall.

Smith, a candidate for a bachelor’s degree in music education, will be accompanied by Dr. Richard Lemke and Dr. Paul A. Balshaw.

The recital will be open to the public free of charge.

Nominations sought for award

The Marshall University Women’s Center is accepting applications for its “Women of Marshall” awards which will be presented to undergraduate female students.

Awards and $300 cash prizes will be awarded to several students based on the following criteria: contribution to community, academic achievement, contribution to interracial and multicultural understanding and to gender equity, and triumph over personal adversity. Each applicant will be evaluated in all four areas.

Applications may be obtained by contacting the Marshall University Women’s Center, 696-3338. The application deadline will be April 10.

‘Third House’ slated

“The Third House,” a political spoof of the West Virginia Legislature and state government in general, will be presented at 8 p.m. March 4 at the Cultural Center Theater in the state Capitol complex. Ample free parking should be available.

Marshall’s Journalism Alumni Association sponsors the annual event. All proceeds go to benefit the Marshall University School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Members of the capitol press corps write the script and portray the governor, congressmen and legislative leaders in a collection of songs and skits.

Tickets are $15 and include admission to a reception following the performance. They are available on the Marshall campus from Beverly McCoy in University Relations (2584) or the Alumni Office (3134), and at the state Capitol.
MU Senate discusses various subjects

(The following report on the Feb. 6 meeting of the Marshall University Faculty Senate was submitted by Dallas Brozik, secretary.)

Present for the meeting were 32 senators. Absent were Adkins, Blackburn, Cox, Duke, Gillenwater, Haddox, Hale, Manakkil, Perkins, Sasser, Shanholzer, Simmons and Tarter.

The chair made the following announcements:
1. The registrar has developed a machine-readable grade sheet that could be available this term.
2. Documentation concerning the addition of Automotive Technology and the bachelor of applied science programs is available for review in the Faculty Senate Office.
3. When all available sources of funding are considered, it is possible that this year’s summer school may be able to offer up to 98 percent of the number of courses that were offered last year.
4. The Academic Standards and Curricula Review (ASCR) and Student Conduct and Welfare (SCW) committees will review the possibility of adopting a “no overload” policy for registration.
5. Due to the costs of printing, it has been suggested that the university not print a new catalog, but use existing stock with an appropriate supplement. The ASCR and SCW committees will review this proposal.
6. It has been announced that the Carter G. Woodson Initiative will fund one graduate student beginning in fall 1992. Faculty members are urged to recommend appropriate candidates before the April 1 deadline.

The senate acted on the following recommendation from the Physical Facilities and Planning Committee: SR-91-92-81 concerning naming the running track. Brozik moved that the motion be amended to read: Walter “Lefty” Rollins Track. The amendment was seconded and passed. The original recommendation was approved as amended.

Brozik moved to have the meeting considered as quasi committee of the whole. The motion was passed.

President Gilley presented his thoughts concerning university governance. A discussion followed his remarks.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Cockrille gets award

Donnalee Cockrille, coordinator of women’s programs at Marshall University, has been awarded the Claude and Alma Rowe Award for Excellence Through Equity by West Virginia University, according to Judith Stitzel, director of the WVU Center for Women’s Studies.

Cockrille received the award based on her doctoral dissertation, “Transition to Equity: Attitudes Toward Women and Feminist Orientation Among Cabell County Secondary Educators.”

The award, presented for the first time this year, was established during WVU’s Women’s Centenary by Eldridge and Rosaline Rowe and their son, Larry, in honor of Claude and Alma Rowe’s contributions to the education of their children and grandchildren.

It was designed to promote the importance of education in West Virginia and support writing and research which contributes to increasing access to education in Appalachia.

Excused absences...

Absences have been excused by the respective college deans for the following:

JAN. 31—ROTC cadets attending field trip to Dunbar Armory.
FEB. 7—ROTC cadets participating in winter field training.
FEB. 18—Brad Williamson, Paul Swann, Jeff Liss.