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We Are...Marshall, August 11, 2010

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We Are... Marshall.
The Newsletter for Marshall University        August 11, 2010

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- John Cummings Named Employee of the Month
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- 'Time for Music' registering for fall
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Read more.

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Profile: Linda Beaver - a series on interesting Marshall University people

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CSX Corporation has presented a gift of $50,000 to Marshall University for research at the university’s Nick J. Rahall II Appalachian Transportation Institute (RTI).

U.S. Congressman Nick Rahall and Marshall officials accepted the check from J. Randolph Cheetham, CSX regional vice president for state relations, in a ceremony in conjunction with the National Rural Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference, which was held earlier this month in Huntington.

The donation will be matched through the state’s “Bucks for Brains” West Virginia Research Trust Fund.

"CSX is pleased to work closely with Marshall University’s Rahall Transportation Institute on a variety of important transportation research initiatives," said Cheetham. "Our contribution is meant to recognize that work and, with the matching grant from the research trust fund, position the Institute for continued initiatives that will help the railroad industry continue its role as the safest, most efficient form of surface transportation."

The contribution will be used to further transportation research conducted by RTI through its Railroad Safety and Operations Research Center of Excellence (Rail-SORCE). The center was formed to enhance the study of technologies that address railroad industry challenges nationwide. The Rail-SORCE at RTI provides an array of services including technology testing; research and development for asset mapping and inspections; train, car and mobile worker tracking; and intelligent grade crossings.

This was the second donation CSX has made to Marshall. The company made a $50,000 contribution last year for transportation research at RTI. That gift was also matched by the trust fund.

President Stephen J. Kopp also thanked the company for the donation, saying, "Once again, CSX has demonstrated their support for the Rahall Transportation Institute, Marshall University and our community. This latest gift complements the significant investments made in transportation research at Marshall over the past several years, and we thank CSX for their continuing commitment. We also salute Congressman Rahall for his unwavering dedication and support of our university and this entire region."

CSX Corporation, based in Jacksonville, Fla., is one of the nation’s leading transportation companies, providing rail, intermodal and rail-to-truck transload services. The company’s transportation network spans approximately 21,000 miles, with service to 23 eastern states and the District of Columbia, and connects to more than 70 ocean, river and lake ports.

A National University Transportation Center located at Marshall RTI is a multimodal institute with an emphasis on intelligent transportation systems, rail research and enhancements, and custom web-based Geographic Information Systems. RTI fosters strategic relationships with private industry and public agencies to leverage resources, technology and strategic thinking to improve mobility and stimulate economic development in West Virginia and throughout the 13-state Appalachian Region.
The West Virginia Research Trust Fund was established in 2008 to serve as a catalyst for economic development across the state. The trust fund program allows Marshall to double private gifts that support expansions to research faculty and infrastructure in key areas linked to economic development, health care and job growth. The West Virginia Legislature initially appropriated $15 million to the trust fund for Marshall. Qualifying private gifts to the university are matched dollar-for-dollar by the state's fund.

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Photo: From left, Lance West, vice president for development at Marshall University; Stephen J. Kopp, president of Marshall University; J. Randolph Cheatham, CSX regional vice president for state relations; U.S. Congressman Nick J. Rahall II, and Bob Plymale, director and CEO of the Nick J. Rahall II Appalachian Transportation Institute, participate in a check presentation at the Pullman Plaza Hotel. CSX presented a gift of $50,000 to Marshall University for research at the Rahall Transportation Institute.

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John Cummings Named Employee of the Month

John Cummings, assistant director of Enterprise Applications, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for June, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

He was nominated by Howard L. Young, who wrote, "...he has provided me with support with our new website on multiple occasions. He has always helped me with any situations that I have not been able to solve on my own. He would then fix the problem(s) and also explain how he fixed the problem(s). I am learning a lot from him in website editing."

Cummings was presented with a plaque and a check for $100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.
Evans Named Drinko Fellow for 2010-2011

Dr. Dan Evans, professor of biological sciences and curator of the herbarium, has been selected as the 2010-2011 Drinko Academy Fellow.

Drinko Fellows receive a stipend, financial support for research, a student assistant and reduced teaching loads to undertake research or curriculum development. Evans, who is the 18th Drinko Fellow, will present the results of his work to the university community at a symposium next spring during Marshall’s annual Celebration of Academics.

"I am very pleased to be named a Drinko Fellow," Evans said. "I am acquainted with others who have received this excellent fellowship in recent years and I am honored to be counted among them."

Evans said he plans to use the reassigned time and graduate student assistance to produce Images of Marshall’s herbarium collections (research plant collection) for online data sharing.

"Also, I will continue to work on the ethnobotany of Ecuador and Nepal and it is this work that I will present as the Drinko Fellow," he said.

"The time reassigned from normal duties as well as graduate student assistance will provide a great opportunity to continue my research and complete a couple of overdue manuscripts."

Evans has been at Marshall since 1974. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biology in 1961 from Murray State University, his Master of Science in Botany in 1972 from Southern Illinois University, and his Ph.D. in Botany in 1976, also from Southern Illinois. Before coming to Marshall, he taught at Seneca High School in Louisville, Ky., and at Southern Illinois.

Evans has received numerous honors and awards. They include:
- National Science Foundation Fellow, Southern Illinois University, 1971
- James E. Ozment Award for Outstanding Achievement In Natural Sciences, Southern Illinois University, 1972
- Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, 1972
- Preceptorship In Botany, Southern Illinois University, 1974
- Chi Beta Phi Science Honorary, 1975
- Merit Award For Teaching and Research, 1996-99, 2004-2009
- The Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Bartholomew Award for Service to Botany, 1999

Previous Drinko Fellows were Dr. Simon D. Perry, 1994-95; Dr. Mack H. Giffinwater, 1995-96; Dr. William N. Denman, 1996-97; Dr. Montserrat M. Miller, 1996-99; Dr. Shirley A. Lumpkin, 1997-98; Dr. Kenneth P. Ambrose, 1998-99; Dr. Robert P. Alexander, 1999-2000; Dr. Beverly Twitchell-Marchant, 2000-01; Dr. Edwina D. Pendarvis, 2001-02; Dr. Michael L. Little, 2002-03; Dr. W. Edwin Bingham, 2003-04; Dr. Mary E. Reynolds, 2004-05; Dr. Charles C. Somerville, 2005-06; Dr. Linda Spätig, 2006-07; Dr. Wendell Dobbs, 2007-08; Dr. Marta Carmen-Riddell, 2008-09; and Dr. Elidon Larsen, 2009-10.

The Drinko Academy was founded in 1985 by the late John Deaver Drinko, a Marshall alumnus and noted attorney, when he and his wife, Elizabeth Gibson Drinko, established a million-dollar chair, the university’s first, in the College of Liberal Arts. The initial program proved so successful that in the spring of 1994, the Drinko Chair was redesigned, enlarged and renamed to encompass revised objectives.
The academy is devoted to enhancing public understanding of American Institutions and the responsibilities of citizens to their society and particularly the public's sense of shared values and common purposes.

The Drinko Symposium is presented in tandem with the other centerpiece, the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation. Established in 1994, it is the time the university collectively acknowledges its honor students.

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Fall Invitational at Gallery 842 continues through Sept. 9

Gallery 842's new exhibition, a fall Invitational, opened, Aug. 6, and will run through Sept. 9.

The Gallery is both a community- and university-held space to promote local talent and initiative. The gallery, a free cultural experience for any artist or art enthusiast, is located at 842 4th Ave. In downtown Huntington, and is open Wednesday through Sunday during the summer.

John Farley, gallery director and adjunct art and design faculty at Marshall, curated the show and says he has enjoyed the process.

"From start to finish, I have had the opportunity to manage all aspects of this exhibition: from organizing and Inviting the artists, selecting the art to be displayed, and finally installing the work itself," he said. "It has been a professional challenge and, watching it all come together, a source of great personal satisfaction. In one way or another, each of the participating artists has shaped and influenced my personal development and professional growth as an artist; I consider this my opportunity to give back. Viewers will see a very eclectic show, with fine woodworking and furniture pieces, sculpture, ceramics, paintings, drawings, prints, and photography all sharing the same space."

Marshall's chairman of the Department of Art and Design, Byron Clercx, will be participating in the exhibition.

"John selected dynamic and diverse works from Marshall University artists and key community artists that attest to the creative skills and spirit in the Tri-State region and embody the important shared mission Gallery 842 plays for Marshall University, the Department of Art and Design, and the community," Clercx said.

For some emerging artists, it's exciting to be showing work next to established key artists in the area.

"It's an honor to be invited to be in a show with artists whom I've looked up to as role models, teachers, and friends," said graduate education student Tommy Warf, who is also known for being instrumental in Marshall's Empty Bowls event each year. "I am very excited to see the show and to have my work next to some of Huntington's greatest artists."

For others, it's the unexpected opportunity to see the work of local artists who lead more administrative roles, including Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

Though Farley invited artists to submit primarily new works of art, some exceptions were made. Van Horn, for one, will have one new piece – a large piece of furniture he hand-crafted. But he will also be showing some older pieces of work.

"Given the fact that I am no longer actively making sculpture or exhibiting, I am pleased to be invited," Van Horn said. "I am including four small sculptures that are shown as one piece. The boxes are made up of components of models and molds I used in a series of pieces using dead birds as images. I treat these pieces as specimens, hence the title "Specimen Boxes."

The list of participants in the show includes Nik Botkin, Natalie Gibbs Burdette, David Castleberry, Fern Christian, Byron Clercx, Michael Cornfeld, Katherine Cox, Eva Cox, Seth Cyfers, John Farley, Diana Frazier, Adam Hodges, Rebecca Holbrook, Kathleen Kneafsey, Staci Leech, Leona Mackey, Clay Mclearney, Sholten Singer, Don Van Horn, Tommy Warf, Erin White, Ryan Worley, Chris Worth and Kristen Zanniello.

For more information, contact Jaye Ike, special projects coordinator for the College of Fine Arts, by phone at 304-696-3206 or by e-mail at jaye.ike@marshall.edu.

Four artists associated with the College of Fine Arts have been selected to exhibit artwork in the Nelson Gallery, located in Lexington, Va.

John Farley, Daniel Kaufmann, Andra Levy and Tommy Warf have been chosen to participate in the Nelson Gallery's 11th Annual Juried Show, which opened Aug. 6 and runs through Aug. 28.

Farley is an adjunct faculty member in Marshall's Department of Art and Design, and director of both the Birke Art Gallery and Gallery 842. His piece, "A Meeting of the Minds," is a pen/ink drawing.

Kaufmann, an assistant professor of photography, had a photograph from his "House Home" series chosen. He describes the works as "digitally constructed from photographs of my home, my friends' homes and objects from many different home-furnishing stores."

Warf is a graduate ceramics and education student at Marshall.

Sculpture student Andra Levy's piece, "The Blue Deely," is made of blue mist alabasterstone. Levy describes it as "mother nature vs. woman. It goes with my other art pieces of what a woman goes through from young to old and everything in between."

The show was open to residents of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia, with a theme of "OUTSIDE/INSIDE," which could be interpreted in any way the artist wished. It was juried by David Nickenberg, executive director of the Taubman Museum in Roanoke, Va.
'Time for Music' registering for fall

"Time For Music," a popular program for babies and children up to age 5 is once again being offered with sessions set to begin the week of Aug. 23. The program is offered through Marshall’s Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Classes are available for babies from birth to 18 months; toddlers from 18 to 36 months; 3-year-olds, and 4- and 5-year-olds. In the baby category, a "baby-and-sibling" registration is available so that parents may register two children at a combined rate.

Parent participation is required for the classes, which take place in the daytime and early evenings on Mondays through Wednesdays. A maximum of nine children is accepted per class and children with special needs are welcome.

Joni Pappas, director of the program, said the 45-minute sessions are designed to enhance a child’s cognitive, social/emotional, speech/language and physical development by using age-appropriate music activities and movement. Emphasis is made on American folk music, with which most of the parents will be familiar, and virtually all of it will be performed live.

Pappas is a board-certified neurologic music therapist specializing in early childhood intervention, special education and older adults. Her private practice has included work in numerous pre-schools, early childhood centers, special education programs, nursing homes and rehabilitative centers in Iowa, Mississippi and Indiana. She also is a music educator, having taught pre-K-12 general and choral music in Dubuque, la. She is currently serving as adjunct faculty for the Department of Music at Marshall.

For information on “Time For Music,” persons may visit the program’s website at www.marshall.edu/comm/dis/music, contact Pappas by e-mailing pappasj@marshall.edu, or call her at 304-697-0211.

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Profile: Linda Beaver - a series on Interesting Marshall University people

Although it didn't seem like it at the time, losing her job as a pharmacy cashier turned out to be a blessing in disguise for Linda Beaver. After all, this sunny optimist is a firm believer that when one door closes, another one undoubtedly opens. And sure enough, that open door let her straight to the Bursar's Office at Marshall, where she's been now for 26 years.

"I was working at a local pharmacy in Barboursville when they were forced to cut their staff in half. We were raising three sons at the time so this was quite a blow. But I had two sisters that worked at Marshall, (Nancy Dingess, who is retired from the Student Center and Karen Kirtley, who now is the Assistant Vice President for Administration) and they knew of an opening for a cashier, so I applied and was hired. Actually the job turned out to be much more than a cashier but that was fine with me," says Beaver, who is an Accounting Assistant I.

And updated technology has brought monumental changes to the way business is conducted in her office, but that's been all to the good, she says. She remembers the days when everything had to be meticulously written down by hand and there were long lines of students snaking through the halls. Now there are rarely any lines and up-to-the minute financial information is available at the click of a key.

"Everything is computerized now, completely streamlined. It's much better for everyone--students, parents, and staff. They can go online and find exactly where their account stands. I'm a big fan of technology and the changes it has brought!"

A native of Huntington, Beaver graduated from Huntington East High School and married her high school sweetheart, Jim Elliott. With their three sons, James III, Jeremy, and Jeffrey, life was busy and good for this active family. Then tragedy struck in 1997 when Jim lost his battle with colon cancer. "I had such an outpouring of support from my co-workers and the Marshall family and from my church that I truly believe that God led me here in the first place. They supported me in every way and helped me get through a terrible time." And today she's a fervent advocate of everyone having colon check-ups and paying close attention to colon health.

Her husband's illness led her to become a volunteer for Hospice, which aided the family during his final days. "It's a wonderful organization; they help you get through really difficult times," she says quietly. "Their philosophy is to approach care in the home, to provide comfort--physical, emotional and spiritual--and to promote the dignity of the terminally ill person. Because of their help with my family that's why I became a volunteer."

And through her church, the energetic Beaver created the birthday ministry, which works with the Huntington City Mission to provide birthday parties for children who otherwise would not have them. As president of the United Methodist Women's group at her church, the Community of Grace United Methodist Church In Huntington, she was already immersed in the worldwide mission outreach projects that the church encourages, but she was looking for a need closer to home. After talking with the director of the City Mission's Project Hope, she thought, "Why not give a birthday party for a child who otherwise might not have a birthday observed?" The suggestion immediately struck a chord with the director because just the week before a mother had come to the mission asking only for a box of cake mix so that she could bake a cake for her child. So thanks to Beaver's efforts, the birthday ministry was born. Each month members of her church prepare a gala party for a child with a cake, gifts, drinks, decorations, even plates, napkins and eating utensils--in short, everything that is needed for a celebration. "It's been a great success but I certainly don't do this..."
alone," she says modestly. "We try to have the party on the child's actual birthday if at all possible and we do everything possible to make it a very special day for the birthday child."

It’s no coincidence that family celebrations are so close to her heart. Since her marriage to Charles Beaver in 2000, there is now a blended family with her three sons and his two daughters Andi and Sonya and 10 grandchildren in all, ranging in age from age 3 to 20. They’re scattered now. Andi and Eric Simmons live in Indianapolis; Sonya and Bill Harochuri are in Dayton, Ohio; James and Melissa Elliott also reside in Indianapolis; Jeremy and Joann Elliott live in Alabama; and Jeff and Karen Elliott are nearby in Barboursville. But no matter the distance the close-knit family members make every effort to get together as much as possible, on holidays; on special celebratory days such as her mother’s recent 90th birthday, when they threw a big gala party; and in the summer on vacations, preferably at the beach. At home, the Beaver have a pool, which makes hosting big family events even more festive. Avid Marshall fans all, they especially like to meet up at athletic events such as the upcoming Ohio State game in Columbus.

And they truly bleed green. They’re not fair weather fans—they’re always there to support the teams through good times and lean times. "We love all Marshall athletics and we have season tickets to football and basketball. We try to go to all the home games and to as many of the away games as we can. We always look forward to being joined by other family members whenever possible."

Her 26-year tenure in the Bursar’s office has allowed her to observe not only physical changes to the office but also a passing parade of students. Now she’s seeing former students bring their own children to their offices. "It’s a hands-on kind of job and I like that. I love dealing with students and we stay busy year around." The offices are now located in what used to be the old Marshall theater in Old Main.

And to help her keep up to date with the latest developments in her field, she even made time to go back to school and complete a degree in accounting from the then-Marshall Community and Technical College.

Even off the job Beaver maintains many Marshall connections. She makes time to serve on the Administrative Board of the United Methodist Church through the campus ministry. And, she explains, she even met her husband through a Marshall connection when her friend and co-worker Arlene Ferguson introduced them.

So that long-ago downsizing actually opened a whole new world for her. And these days life is very full. "Working, visiting family and having them come here, church groups, going to games, whatever we can do to celebrate family, that’s what makes us happy."

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