We Are...Marshall, August 25, 2010

Office of Marshall University Communications
Marshall welcomes Class of 2014, expected to be a record number
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Marshall and the MU Alumni Association are presenting HerdFest 2010, which begins with a street fair at 5 p.m. on 3rd Avenue in front of Pullman Square. Music will be provided by "The DAWG."

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On Wednesday, Sept. 1, the day before Marshall opens the 2010 football season at Ohio State University, the entire Marshall community is encouraged to participate in Green Spirit Day and wear green in support of the Thundering Herd.

Marshall community mourns Elizabeth Gibson Drinko

Dr. Elizabeth Gibson Drinko, an outstanding supporter of academic programs at Marshall University, including the John Deaver Drinko Library as well as other major contributions and endowments, died recently. A memorial service in northeastern Ohio will take place Saturday, Aug. 28.

Research and technology update: Marshall to host statewide conference; NSF grant to support Internet2

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Huntington campus. This will be the first time the event has been held in Huntington.

Read more.

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Read more.

Marshall faculty member to present species discovery to Chinese science foundation

A Marshall University professor, whose fossil research led to the discovery of a new species of marine animal, has accepted a prestigious invitation from the Chinese government to share his findings with its National Science Foundation of China.

Dr. Robin O’Keefe, an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, will present his recent plesiosaur discoveries from the Jurassic Sundance Formation in Wyoming during the International Symposium on Triassic and later Marine Vertebrate Faunas at Peking University in Beijing.

Read more.

Marshall greets new faculty

Along with new students, more than 40 new faculty members were welcomed to Marshall. They participated in orientation activities last week.

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Profile: Sharon Lake - a series on interesting Marshall University people

Sharon Lake was busily pursuing a doctorate in music when she faced a dilemma—finish the degree or enter the workforce. With a job offer from Marshall, she chose to refocus and enter a new phase of her life.

"I gave up my music studies to work and that might sound odd to some people. But I’m a great believer in lifelong learning," says Lake, who is the Associate Registrar at Marshall University, "so I’m still learning. I hope I never stop, and that helps me do my job better."

Read more.

The next issue of We Are Marshall will be distributed Sept. 8, 2010. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by Sept. 3.
Week of Welcome activities draw big numbers of freshmen

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Early estimates indicate that a school record of approximately 2,000 freshmen will attend fall classes, which started on Monday, Aug. 23.

An estimated 1,800 freshmen attended Thursday’s Freshman Academic Convocation at Cam Henderson Center, then later in the morning blanketed the Memorial Student Center plaza for a picnic lunch. Students in each college wore matching t-shirts that identified them with their academic program, resulting in a multicolored setting both in Henderson Center and on the plaza.

The students spent the day making friends, meeting their deans and getting started on the next chapter in their lives.

"It is a great day at Marshall University," said Dr. Gayle Ormiston, Marshall’s provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, as he scanned the big crowd on the plaza. "The Henderson Center was filled with a kaleidoscope of color as the students attended the academic convocation."

At the convocation, President Stephen J. Kopp addressed the students about a variety of topics, including attitude, preparation and keys to success. He encouraged them to stay in school and follow their dreams. The students also heard from head football coach Doc Holliday, who invited them to that day’s 6 p.m. practice and encouraged them to support the Thundering Herd by attending games this fall.

Other speakers included Dr. Cam Brammer, president of the faculty senate, and Patrick Murphy, president of the student body. Robert Wray, assistant professor of music, and students from the choral area of Marshall’s music department taught the new students the alma mater. The students also repeated the "We Are... Marshall" cheer.

"The purpose of the convocation is to have a first opportunity to speak with the students about expectations of them and the university," Ormiston said. "It went very well and the students were very impressive."

Like One person likes this.
Verlin Hughes named Employee of the Month

Verlin Hughes, Landscape Worker in Physical Plant, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for July, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed since 1987, he was nominated by Tony Cristlip, Assistant Director of Physical Plant; Virgil Crockett, Manager Electricians; Anita Hill, Office Administrator for Physical Plant; and Margie Phillips, Sustainability Manager.

The nominators wrote: "We have worked with Verlin for many years and believe he is a pleasant, generous person who is always willing to go the extra mile for his job. He is one of Marshall’s most dedicated employees. Verlin exceeds expectations as an employee by being courteous to all and showing commitment by rarely missing work. He addresses each employee by their name and always with a smile. His kindness extends not only in his job duties, but after work with his devotion to his church. Each of us should strive for his enthusiasm."

And, they conclude, "Verlin is a true team player, by putting his best efforts into making Marshall University a friendly and welcoming campus."

He was presented with a plaque and a check for $100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.
Kroll named Physical Therapy department chair

Dr. Penny Kroll has been named founding director of the new Physical Therapy Department. She comes to Marshall after serving for four years as head of the Physical Therapy Department at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center where she directed and taught in the physical therapy doctoral program as well as coordinated and directed clinical care aspects of LSU Health Care Services contracts in South Louisiana.

She began her new duties Aug. 23. She will lead the new physical therapy doctoral program, which was approved by the Marshall University Board of Governors in 2009. Students are expected to begin classes in the summer of 2012.

"I am honored to have been chosen as the founding director of the new Physical Therapy Department at such a prestigious educational institution as Marshall University," Kroll said. "I look forward to working with the faculty and administration to design a top-notch Doctor of Physical Therapy Program that will train professionals who exhibit the excellent skills, behaviors and attitudes necessary to meet the health care needs of the students of Marshall and the citizens of the City of Huntington, the State of West Virginia, as well as the entire region."

Kroll received her B.S. in Physical Therapy from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Physical Therapy from New York University. She served several years in the United States Public Health Service as a 1st Lieutenant. After leaving the service, she held staff and supervisory positions in a number of orthopedic settings including Director of Rehabilitation at the NYU Hospital for Joint Disease. During that time, she was also an adjunct and/or full-time faculty member at NYU, Long Island University, Ithaca College-Bronx Campus and Hunter College. In 1991, she took a full-time faculty position at the University of Miami in Miami, Fla., and in 2003 she became chair of the Physical Therapy Department at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

President Stephen J. Kopp said he is pleased to see an experienced professional such as Kroll at the helm of the new doctoral program, one he says is much needed.

"Our region has been in need of an accredited, entry-level physical therapy program for a long time," Kopp said. "The quality professionals that Marshall University will graduate will most certainly fill that need not only locally, but throughout the entire tri-state region, the State of West Virginia and beyond. I believe Dr. Kroll is the right person to ignite a superb program and look forward to seeing the department evolve and advance under her leadership."

Oley is excited about the level of leadership and experience Kroll will bring to the College of Health Professions.

"It has been truly rewarding to be able to recruit Dr. Kroll into the position as founding department director," said Dr. Gretchen Oley, who was serving as Interim dean of the College of Health Professions when Kroll was selected. "She is a top-quality individual with all the best personal and professional qualifications to see this program through its inception, development and accreditation. Physical Therapy education at Marshall will be off to a sound beginning with such an experienced and well-qualified individual."

"I am thrilled to be joining the Marshall family and the Huntington community," Kroll said. "I look forward to rooting for The Herd!"
HerdFest to feature street fair, free concert Sept. 9

A pair of rockin’ country music bands, numerous vendors and thousands of football fans from across the state will converge on downtown Huntington on Thursday, Sept. 9, to celebrate HerdFest 2010, a concert and street festival preceding the Marshall-West Virginia University football game.

Marshall and the MU Alumni Association are presenting HerdFest 2010, which begins with a street fair at 5 p.m. on 3rd Avenue in front of Pullman Square. Music will be provided by “The DAWG.”

A free concert, featuring country, southern rock, and bluegrass fusion band, the Davison Brothers Band, and multi-platinum-selling national recording artists, Little Texas, will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The Davison Brothers perform at 6:30 p.m., with Little Texas taking the stage at about 8:30 p.m. Dignitaries, including Gov. Joe Manchin and First Lady Gayle Manchin, as well as Marshall University coaches and officials, have been invited to speak to the crowd between musical performances. Marshall’s cheerleaders and Marco will be on hand as well.

“We are really excited about HerdFest 2010 and we’re expecting a great crowd of Marshall and WVU fans to come together and enjoy this free concert and the street fair, just as they did three years ago,” said Tish Littlehales, MU’s director of alumni relations. “The high-energy concert with Little Texas and the Davison Brothers Band will just add to the excitement that is building for this year’s Friends of Coal Bowl.”

The game between the Thundering Herd and the Mountaineers kicks off at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10 at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

Littlehales also is encouraging fans and supporters from both schools to attend the Friends of Coal Game Day Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10 at the Marshall University Foundation Hall, Home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

Former Marshall Coach Bobby Pruett and former WVU Coach Don Nehlen will be featured speakers. Cost is $25. More information is available and tickets may be purchased by calling the Marshall alumni office at 304-696-2901.

Littlehales said proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the Marshall University Foundation and the Marshall University Alumni Association with a scholarship.

“Like the concert, the Friends of Coal Game Day Luncheon is open to everyone, no matter if they root for WVU or Marshall,” she said. “It will be another opportunity for everyone to celebrate the Friends of Coal Bowl as the countdown to kickoff approaches.”
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Return to newsletter front page.
Marshall to observe 'Green Spirit Days' Starting Sept. 1

Marshall University faculty, staff, students, alumni and fans show their support of the Thundering Herd in many ways. During the upcoming football season, Herd fans have one more way of displaying their pride - by wearing their Marshall green on Green Spirit Days.

On Wednesday, Sept. 1, the day before Marshall opens the 2010 football season at Ohio State University, the entire Marshall community is encouraged to participate in Green Spirit Day and wear green in support of the Thundering Herd. The university will continue Green Spirit Days throughout football season by encouraging fans to wear their Marshall gear the day before a Herd game.

Marshall University employees will be encouraged to participate in Green Spirit Days to show their pride on the campuses and other Marshall locations. In addition, employees of local businesses in Huntington may take part in a contest in which they wear their Marshall gear and have the opportunity to win prizes from the university. Marshall alumni and fans are also being asked to wear green and participate in the event.

The university is also encouraging the entire Marshall community on Friday, Sept. 3, to participate in the sixth annual National College Colors Day and again show their support by wearing their Marshall gear. This event allows fans across the nation to wear their college colors and support their favorite university.

College Colors Day, organized by the Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC), coincides with "back to school" and the kickoff of intercollegiate athletics. By participating in College Colors Day, Marshall University is continuing a tradition of encouraging members of the Marshall community to wear their Marshall gear for the event.

For more information, contact Mallory Jarrell, Marshall University Marketing and Branding Coordinator, at 304-696-3490 or by e-mail at hayet@marshall.edu.
Marshall to host statewide science and research conference

The biennial statewide science and research conference is scheduled for Sept. 27-28 on Marshall's Huntington campus. This will be the first time the event has been held in Huntington.

Intended for members of the state’s business and research communities, the STaR (Science, Technology and Research) Symposium focuses on cutting-edge research being conducted in West Virginia, the national and state outlooks for scientific research, and the importance of technology-based economic development to the state’s future. The sessions will be held in the new Foundation Hall and the Memorial Student Center.

This year’s symposium will feature headline speaker Michael Specter, author of “Denialism,” an investigation of people’s growing mistrust surrounding the world of science and its byproducts. A staff writer at The New Yorker since 1998, Specter argues that misplaced skepticism has undermined public acceptance of the scientific marvels of the present age and the benefits they provide humankind.

The theme of this year’s program, “Sustainability: How Science, Technology and Research Can Sustain Our Future,” will be carried throughout panel discussions on energy, the environment, cyberinfrastructure and the economy. The symposium also will offer breakout sessions highlighting the work of some of West Virginia’s leading scientists, and a student poster competition that will feature the research of 26 outstanding undergraduate and graduate students from across the state, including 10 from Marshall.

The symposium early registration fee is $125 per person and includes all events, including Monday night’s dinner and program featuring Specter. Single tickets for only Monday’s dinner and Specter’s presentation are available for $50. The program of events and online registration are available at www.wvresearch.org/starsymposium. Early registration ends Aug. 26. For more information, contact Jessica Tice at 304-558-4128 ext. 6 or jessica.tice@wvresearch.org.
NSF grant to support Internet2

Marshall University will receive $525,874 from a $1,176,470 National Foundation (NSF) grant to enable inter-campus Internet2 access for the state's predominantly undergraduate institutions, community and technical colleges, and the K-12 community.

The grant went to West Virginia's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). It is expected to enhance cyberinfrastructure across the state's higher education system over the next two years.

Internet2 is an advanced networking consortium led by the research and education community. Marshall announced in January that it had joined the network, which connects nearly 70,000 research and educational institutions nationwide and interconnects with 80 international research networks. In addition to providing access to a number of significant emerging technologies not available within the limitations of previous networks, Internet2 links Marshall with people, equipment and information at partner institutions around the world.

"This vital funding will allow Marshall University to establish the mechanisms that will help our partners and collaborators strategically position themselves to join us in cutting-edge opportunities not currently available on the commercial Internet," said Dr. Jan Fox, Marshall's senior vice president for Information technology and chief Information officer. "These enhanced capabilities will have particular significance not only for expanding science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs, research initiatives and clinical outreach, but also will bring significant economic development opportunities to the region."

Fox also acknowledged Marshall staff members who are working on the project, including Dr. Arnold R. Miller, assistant vice president for Information technology; Allen Taylor, chief technology officer; and Michael Adkins, director of Information technology infrastructure.

The grant was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. West Virginia EPSCoR is directed by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC).

This award builds upon a three-year, $2.6 million grant HEPC received last year from the NSF to upgrade networks and enhance immersive visualization capabilities for researchers at Marshall, West Virginia University and West Virginia State University in collaboration with the University of Arkansas system. That grant is assisting the Institutions with connection to high-performance computing networks and resources around the world, allowing researchers to collaborate in real time without geographic limitations.

Marshall received a little over $1 million from the 2009 award. Sen. Jay Rockefeller saw a mine safety demonstration earlier this year at Marshall's Virtual Interactive Simulation Environment (VISE) Lab—which received funding from this earlier grant.

For more information, contact Fox at 304-696-6708 or fox@marshall.edu.
Marshall faculty member to present species discovery to Chinese science foundation

A Marshall University professor, whose fossil research led to the discovery of a new species of marine animal, has accepted a prestigious invitation from the Chinese government to share his findings with the National Science Foundation of China. Dr. Robin O'Keefe, an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, will present his recent plesiosaur discoveries from the Jurassic Sundance Formation in Wyoming during the International Symposium on Triassic and later Marine Vertebrate Faunas at Peking University in Beijing. O'Keefe said he was honored to be asked to present his research at this prestigious international symposium.

"The research I will discuss concerns a marine reptile, a plesiosaur we called Tatenectes laramensis, discovered in the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming several years ago. Laboratory work with my graduate students has just been completed, and we are publishing our results now," O'Keefe explained. "The symposium in China is an amazing opportunity, and I hope it will enrich the teaching and research experiences I can provide."

According to O'Keefe, Tatenectes laramensis is a type of plesiosaur from the Jurassic Era, the period when large dinosaurs roamed the Earth. The marine animal had a long, wide, flat body, with four flippers, a tail and a long neck. O'Keefe's findings were made possible by a grant from National Geographic.

After the two-day symposium, Aug. 28-29 at Peking University's Geological Museum in the School of Earth and Space Sciences, O'Keefe will join colleagues from around the world to research fossil sites throughout China the following week.

"These areas are very hot for marine reptile fossil research right now, so this is a great opportunity for me to be exposed to, and perhaps participate in, cutting-edge research," O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe has taught biology and paleontology for Marshall since 2006. He teaches human anatomy and comparative vertebrate anatomy and serves as a graduate adviser. He received his B.S. in Biology from Stanford University and his Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Chicago. O'Keefe has published numerous scientific publications, and also has served as a scientific adviser for National Geographic, IMAX and the Discovery Channel.

Photo: Dr. Robin O'Keefe, an associate professor in Marshall University's Department of Biological Sciences, will present his recent plesiosaur discoveries from the Jurassic Sundance Formation in Wyoming during the International Symposium on Triassic and later Marine Vertebrate Faunas at Peking University in Beijing.
WE ARE...MARSHALL.
The Newsletter for Marshall University     August 25, 2010

Marshall greets new faculty members

Along with new students, more than 40 new faculty members were welcomed to Marshall. They participated in orientation activities last week, including this group picture.

Joining the faculty (not all are pictured) are Estee Beck, English; Jody Bishop, Sociology/Anthropology; Allison Carey, English; Paul Constantino, Biological Sciences; Mery Crytzer, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Molly Daniel, English; Robert Deal, History; Godwin Djiletro, Geography; Nancy Dunn, Nursing; Robert Ellison, English; Kristi Fondren, Sociology/Anthropology; Benjamin Garcia-Egea, Modern Languages; Anil Gurung, Management Information Systems; Ian Hagarty, Art and Design; Anna Harris, English; Michael Householder, English; Jana Hoyland, Dietetics; Kelli Johnson, Instruction and Reference Services; Vicki Justus, Nursing; Cynthia Kolsun, Leadership Studies; Susan Koz, Kinesiology; Penny Kroll, Physical Therapy; Nancy Lankton, Accountancy/Legal Environment; Mallory Legg, English; Bane McCracken, School of Kinesiology; Robin McCutcheon, Finance/Economics; Tracie McKenzie, Sociology/Anthropology; Tammy Minor, Nursing; Ivan Munsin, Management/Marketing; Shiva Nadavularkere, Management/Marketing; Nicole Perrone, Theatre; Johnathan Platte, English; Anushri Rawat, Management/Marketing; Daniel Ray, Communication Studies; Margaret Richardson, Art and Design; Shawn Schulemburg, Political Science; James Eric Smith, English; Laura Sonderman, English; Walter Squire English; Laura Stapleton, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Anara Tabyshalieva, History; Devon Tynan, Mathematics and Applied Sciences; Benjamin White, English; Jeanne Widener, Nursing.

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Profile: Sharon Lake - a series on Interesting Marshall University people

Sharon Lake was busily pursuing a doctorate in music when she faced a dilemma--finish the degree or enter the workforce. With a job offer from Marshall, she chose to refocus and enter a new phase of her life.

"I gave up my music studies to work and that might sound odd to some people. But I'm a great believer in lifelong learning," says Lake, who is the Associate Registrar at Marshall University, "so I'm still learning. I hope I never stop, and that helps me do my job better."

Actually, before coming to Marshall she had a rich educational background that included both studying and teaching. Her educational odyssey began in her hometown of Montgomery, W.Va., where she received an undergraduate degree in music education from the West Virginia Institute of Technology. Music was always a big part of her life growing up, nurtured, she says, by her mother, who was a musician herself. Lake characterizes her as "a vocalist with a beautiful voice and presence."

Encouraged by her mother, she studied piano and displayed a talent for the French horn. "Music was very important to my mother. She made sure I had a quality upbringing and had all kinds of musical training. I took piano and horn lessons and she gave me encouragement and exposure to all kinds of music. I credit her with giving me all these opportunities." Her mother's belief in her talent paid off. As an undergraduate, Lake was taken under the wing of a Tech faculty member who was the principal hornist for what was then the Charleston Symphony, now the West Virginia Symphony.

"For three years, under my teacher's mentorship, I was an apprentice with the orchestra. That was a wonderful experience—to be that young and to perform with a professional group of musicians."

With that heady experience under her belt, it was only natural that Lake would pursue a master's degree, again in music, this time in Michigan. After completing her Master of Music degree at Andrews University, she returned home to ponder her next career move, and got a tantalizing offer from her alma mater, West Virginia Tech.

"I was contacted by the learning center and hired as Tech's tutor coordinator. That's how I started my career in higher education, working at Tech and I was also an adjunct faculty member in music. In the tutoring position I hired, trained and supervised people for the program and I also taught study skills. I did that for two years and then the third year I was hired for one year as a full-time faculty member in music, replacing a professor who was completing his doctorate." Since that position was ending, several of her colleagues urged her to also pursue a Ph.D. in music with the goal of returning to Tech as a full-time faculty member. She was still young and her calling for music was still strong, so after narrowing her search for a doctoral program she was admitted to the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati where she studied for the next year and a half. Then came her fateful decision to return home to West Virginia to pursue full-time work, hoping one day to return to doctoral studies.

Marshall University had just developed a tutoring program and needed a tutor coordinator. Sharon applied for the position—and got it—and was able to teach study skills. "Then, in the 1980s, Marshall began to see a growing number of disabled students, and with the era of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Institutions needed to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. There was a great need to develop a Disabled Student Services program and I, along with others, was fortunate to be one of the first to work with that program. So I was both tutor coordinator and disabled students coordinator for the Student Development Center. I loved working with the students and for the first 26 years at Marshall I worked almost exclusively with students, providing services for them."

After 10 years serving students in tutoring and disabled student services, Lake moved to the Student Support Services program, this time as a learning specialist in the Trio program, which, she explains, is a federally funded program for at-risk students. Her duties were varied, but again she felt right at home. "I worked with students to help them improve their academic skills. I taught them how to learn, test taking, notetaking, how to read textbooks better to get maximum learning from them, held classes and I also met with them individually, I did career counseling, helping them find the fields they were best suited for. I helped seniors get ready for a professional life and job interviews as well as for graduate tests and professional school exams. One of the best things about these jobs was watching students grow and

http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/Newsletters/2010/082510/nl_082510_8.html

9/24/2010
develop and get into careers and see them contributing to society. Some have gotten advanced degrees, many are professionals in various fields. It's so rewarding to see them in successful careers.

Then after 15 years with the Trio program, Lake felt it was time for a change. In 2004 she made the move to the Registrar's Office which, she says, was a very wise one. "I like this kind of work and I'm very familiar with curriculum, programs and majors. I was fortunate to have been chosen for this job and I'm thankful every day. Now, while I don't work as directly with students as I once did, I'm still providing services for them—only I'm doing it in the background, coordinating courses and registrations. And while I may not be teaching, I'm certainly still learning!"

Off the job, Lake is still learning as well, she says. She's a dedicated Hospice volunteer, an avocation that came about after her mother, for whom she was the primary caregiver, died and she took advantage of Hospice's bereavement counseling services. "Hospice did a wonderful thing for me, so it's now my turn to give back. They helped me through a very difficult time, coping with my mother's loss and my own grieving process. I wanted to pay it forward so I took the training to be a volunteer. It's all about the patient and the family and what their needs are. There's a real commitment when you agree to work with them but you get so much out of it yourself. There's a sense of commitment, not an obligation, because you're doing the work because you want to. I would do anything for this wonderful organization and I plan to do more work with them in any way I can when I retire."

Then there's the traveling. She's a travel agent's dream, because she loves everything about it. She likes flying, meeting new people, trying new foods, exploring new territories. She's completely open to new experiences. On weekends she's apt to hop on a bus or train and set off for a new adventure. She frequently drives to Charleston Cincinnati or Lexington to take advantage of an especially enticing cultural event or shopping, particularly in bookstores. And add to that her passion for trains.

She has a real affinity for steam trains, partly, she says, because her father worked for a railroad company and she grew up around them but also because they evoke memories of an earlier time. "I have such affection for trains; it is like going back in time. For me one of the most comfortable sounds is the sound of a steam train whistle blowing from a distance. Not surprisingly, she has taken full advantage of all the opportunities in the region to take train excursions. She's traveled to Pocahontas County many times to ride on the Cass railroad and she's made several trips to southern West Virginia on the Collins P. Huntington train outings.

Actually, her friends tease her that she was born a generation too late, she says good-naturedly. "I do love things from the '30s and '40s. In addition to the steam trains, I like big band music, memorabilia and reading about that era. My favorite person from that era is Eleanor Roosevelt; her life and contributions continue to inspire me."

Of course music still plays a big part in her life and, just as with travel, her tastes are eclectic. Again she credits her mother with shaping her tastes because she saw that Lake was exposed to a veritable buffet of musical experiences. "I enjoy all kinds of music. Of course my favorite is classical, but I also enjoy pop, jazz, Broadway show tunes, southern gospel, big bands and marching bands," she says. She takes full advantage of the wide spectrum of musical programs offered by the university and Marshall Artist Series. And while academically she was principally an Instrumentalist, she's inordinately modest about her vocal ability, which won her a spot in West Virginia Tech's concert choir and their equivalent of a show choir. "Today I just make a joyful noise," she says. But one event she looks forward to and enthusiastically takes part in is the Impromptu Old Main caroling group that gathers each year before Christmas and goes office to office with their cheery serenade.

Lake also is an avid Marshall sports fan with season tickets for both football and basketball who attends virtually all home games and many away games. She enjoys following professional sports as well.

After 31 years at Marshall, she's firmly connected to the university, which she has seen grow and flourish during her tenure. Even her dog Emma has a MU connection. Seven years ago, a crafty coworker came to her with the sad tale of a small homeless mixed-breed terrier that had been hanging around the building site of Marshall's new parking garage. Construction workers had been feeding her from their lunches but it was Friday and the poor thing would be going hungry for two days, the coworker sighed, knowing full well that the soft-hearted Lake was never going to let that happen. So Emma, as she was promptly dubbed, went home with her that evening where she joined two other family dogs. "I took that precious thing home with me and she has brought such joy to my life. She greets me every evening like it's just the best part of her day."

These days Lake is mellow about the past three decades she's spent on the Huntington campus and, although her career plans took detours from West Virginia Tech to Cincinnati to Marshall, she says she has absolutely no regrets about her long-ago decision. "I found the place I was supposed to be."