We Are...Marshall, July 20, 2011

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Read more.

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- a series on Interesting Marshall University people

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The next issue of We Are Marshall will be distributed August 3, 2011. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by Aug. 1.

http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/Newsletters/2011/nl_072011.html
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Leaving the board are Gary Adkins, Brent Marsteller, faculty representative Larry Stickler and student representative Edward Pride IV.

Arnold is regional president for BB&T Corp. and Haden is owner of I-Source, LLC, an insurance agency in Charleston. Their terms end June 30, 2015.

"I am honored and excited about becoming part of the Marshall University board of governors," Arnold said. "The experience of attending Marshall University to earn my MBA contributed greatly to my career and I view my years on the Marshall University Foundation Board and future service on the board of governors as opportunities to give back.

"Over the past six years Marshall has shown impressive growth in enrollment and curriculum development," she said. "President Kopp's leadership and working relationship with the board of governors has been pivotal to this success."

Haden is a longtime follower and supporter of Marshall University.

"I look forward to the challenge," he said. "I have a lot of years of practical knowledge of business and how Marshall is perceived in the community and the state."

He, too, has observed Marshall's improvements in recent years. He said the university has made some "major strides," and cited as examples the new engineering program, the building of the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center and the hiring of a strong leader in the athletic department in Athletic Director Mike Hamrick.

"We've made quantum leaps in the last four or five years," Haden said.

The four new board members will be sworn in at the Aug. 9 meeting, which will be conducted in the Memorial Student Center's Shawkey Room.

The other 12 board members are Letitia Neese Chaaf of Williamson; Oshel Craigo of Winfield; Michael J. Farrell of Huntington; Verna K. Gibson, chair, of Sarasota, Fla.; John G. Hess, vice chair, of Barboursville; Ed Howard of Phoenix, Ariz.; Dale Lowther of Parkersburg; Joseph McIvor of Milton; H.F. Mooney Jr., of Charleston; Michael G. Sellards of Huntington; Joseph Touma, secretary, of Huntington; and Mike Dunn, classified staff representative.

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According to Dr. Jan I. Fox, senior vice president for information technology and chief information officer, the SEGP sponsorship allows Marshall to share its existing connection to Internet2’s nationwide advanced research and education network with the state’s undergraduate higher education institutions, community and technical colleges, K-12 community, state and local governments, healthcare facilities, libraries and museums, and other partners.

Fox said those entities are typically not eligible or able to become Internet2 members themselves due to the size of their institution or the costs associated with Individual access, but will now be able to use the network to expand global and local collaborations, from participating in "live" ocean voyages with famed oceanographer Bob Ballard through his JASON project to telemedicine and other advanced virtual health care applications.

"In rural states like West Virginia, Internet2 is the leveling agent that allows us to compete and collaborate globally while still remaining in our beautiful state," she added.

The project was funded by a National Science Foundation grant (NSF) to West Virginia’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) for a comprehensive initiative to enhance cyberinfrastructure across the state’s higher education system. Last year, Marshall received $525,874 from the grant to enable inter-campus Internet2 Network access.

"We extend a warm welcome to The West Virginia Internet2 Consortium in becoming the 40th Internet2 SEGP and applaud Marshall University for its sponsorship of the many West Virginia educational Institutions now enabled for connection to Internet2. There is no clearer example of Higher Education technology innovation tangibly benefitting its surrounding community. It’s our hope that the state education system will very rapidly begin to experience the benefits Internet2 Network access and community involvement provides in driving next-generation educational delivery," said Rob Vietzke, Internet2 executive director of Network Services.

An advisory group, including Fox, will oversee implementation of the West Virginia SEGP project.

Fox also acknowledged Marshall staff members who spearheaded the Initiative, including Dr. Arnold R. Miller, assistant vice president for Information technology; Allen Taylor, chief technology officer; and Michael Adkins, director of Information technology Infrastructure.

For more Information, visit www.marshall.edu/segp or contact Fox at 304-696-6706 or fox@marshall.edu.
Nerhood becomes interim dean of School of Medicine

Dr. Robert C. Nerhood has accepted the position of interim dean for the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, according to President Stephen J. Kopp.

Nerhood, who retired in 2010, is an emeritus faculty member who formerly served as the school’s senior associate dean for clinical affairs and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

He succeeds Dr. Charles H. McKown Jr., who was dean for more than 22 years. McKown will continue to serve the university as vice president for health sciences advancement.

"Both of these leaders bring tremendous experience and knowledge to their new roles," Kopp said. "I have great confidence in the talented administrative team that will be led by Dr. Nerhood and charged with advancing the priorities and mission of the School of Medicine. I also look forward to working closely with Dr. McKown to accelerate the university’s overall priorities in development and community relations."

Nerhood said, "I am very pleased and honored to have been asked to participate in this exciting and important transition at the School of Medicine. Dr. McKown has been a very able and dedicated leader, and we owe his existence to his efforts. We owe to him a great debt of gratitude, and I feel certain the faculty and staff are prepared to successfully deal with the challenges inherent in this transition as our school continues to move forward."

Nerhood previously served as chairman of the West Virginia Section of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and his other roles in that organization included serving on its Advisory Council, as chair of the Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality Committee, and as chair of the ACOG District IV Perinatal Committee.

He is a former chair of the West Virginia Perinatal Task Force and also was president of the Cabell County Medical Society, chairman of the Board of Directors for Cabell Huntington Hospital, and vice president of the Board of Directors for University Physicians & Surgeons Inc.

Before becoming chair of obstetrics and gynecology at Marshall, Nerhood was chairman of ob/gyn at Berkshire Medical Center and clerkship coordinator for the Berkshire Medical Center/University of Massachusetts School of Medicine.

He is a graduate of the West Virginia University School of Medicine, with internship and residency training at Harrisburg Polyclinic Hospital and WVU.
Foundation board welcomes new members

The Marshall University Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors has six new members, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ron Area announced last week.

The new members are James Farley of Cincinnati; Johnna Coats of Lexington, Ky.; Louis Weisberg of Charleston; John Ashford of Huntington; David Fox III of Huntington; and Gary Ambler of Ronceverte, W.Va.

Farley began his service in June while the other five, all serving three-year terms, began serving on July 1.

"We are pleased to welcome these six dedicated individuals to our Foundation board," Area said. "They all love Marshall University and they’re all taking on major volunteer roles to assist the advancement area. I am certain each one will play a major role in helping us fulfill our mission. I look forward to working with them and the entire board."

Board members with long-term service whose terms have expired will become emeritus members. The board has 36 members.

Board officers are J. Patrick Jones, chair; Joseph M. Gillette, first vice chair; Lake Polan III, secretary; John K. Kinzer, treasurer; and Phyllis H. Arnold, immediate past chair.
Himalayan Monk to Visit Huntington Campus July 20

A Himalayan monk, Swami Vidyadhishananda will be speaking on the Huntington campus at 7 p.m. this evening in Smith Recital Hall with the theme of Balancing Faith and Evolution. His appearance is sponsored by the College of Science and is free and open to the public.

Swami Vidyadhishananda teaches spiritual philosophy and guides seekers with Himalayan meditation techniques related to ancient Sanskrit philosophies, such as Vedanta, Samkhya and Yoga. He is among the few in the West who has been awarded the degree of Mahamahopadhyay (Great Ordained Teacher) in India because of his yogic, mystic and scholarly interpretation of Sanskrit literature.

Swami Vidyadhishananda has been trained in the tradition of Kriya Yoga Masters including Paramahamsa Swami Harharananda and Paramahamsa Swami Yogananda, the author of Autobiography of a Yogi. The Swami trained directly under Paramahamsa Harharananada who was himself a direct disciple of Swami Shryukteshwar Giri.

The program begins with Sanskrit peace chants by Swami Vidyadhishananda and will be followed by an hour long spiritual discourse. There will be an opportunity for personal blessings (darshan line) at the end of the session.

For more information, contact Chris Schlenker at ext.6-4307 or Jagan Valluru at ext.6-2409, or email charleston.wv@swamahiman.org.
Faculty member Kolling receives chemistry award

Dr. Derrick Kolling, a chemistry faculty member, has been awarded a $35,000 Cottrell College Science Award to continue his research on photosynthetic oxygen evolution. The grant funding is part of the spring 2011 awards given by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA), which seeks to support early career scientists at primarily undergraduate institutions.

"I'm very pleased to receive this award. It means that our lab will be able to continue research on the catalyst responsible for photosynthetic oxygen evolution," Kolling said. "A better understanding of this catalyst will allow researchers to design abiotic systems that may be used to generate hydrogen fuel from water and sunlight."

Kolling, who has been at Marshall since 2009, said the funds will allow five additional undergraduate students to participate in summer research over the next two years.

"RCSA is one of the premier agencies that support the research of starting faculty," said Dr. Michael Castellani, chair of the Department of Chemistry. "Derrick's work is incredibly exciting and engages large numbers of our undergraduate students. He's been a great addition to our department."

The Cottrell Awards are given for research in the physical sciences or for research in closely related fields. According to a news release from RCSA, eligible faculty must be within the first three years of a tenure-track appointment and within 12 years of receiving a doctoral degree.

"Since 1988, five new faculty members in the Department of Chemistry have received RCSA awards, and four of those awards have come in the last six years," said Dr. Chuck Somerville, dean of the College of Science. "This shows that the Chemistry department is having great success in bringing top-tier chemists to the College of Science."

The Cottrell Awards, totaling $1.8 million, were given to 48 young scientists this spring.
Georgel to present poster at Era of Hope 2011 Conference

Dr. Philippe T. Georgel, a professor of biological sciences and director of the Cell Differentiation and Development Center, will present a poster on the effects of diet on breast cancer at the Era of Hope 2011 Conference in Orlando, Fla.

Georgel's abstract, done in collaboration with Dr. Elaine Hardman and titled “Maternal Consumption of Omega 3 Fatty Acids to Reduce Breast Cancer Risk in Offspring,” was chosen for the conference by the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

The Era of Hope Conference provides a forum for scientists and clinicians from a variety of disciplines to join breast cancer survivors and advocates in learning about the advances made by the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) awardees, to challenge paradigms and push boundaries, and to identify innovative, high-impact approaches for future research.

This year's conference is Tuesday, Aug. 2, through Friday, Aug. 5, at the Orlando World Center Marriott. The Era of Hope Conference is expected to attract more than 1,600 BCRP awardees, survivors and invited speakers.

The research project investigates the ability of a maternal diet rich in omega 3 fatty acids (found in fish oil and canola oil, for example) to reduce the incidence of breast cancer and to limit growth of malignant mammary tumors in the female offspring.

The mechanism involved appears to be linked to long-term changes in gene expression mediated by epigenetic events (regulatory events that do not involve DNA mutations).

"The DOD 'Era of Hope' selection committee picks projects they believe have a good chance to generate potential applications in the future in terms of prevention of breast cancer," Georgel said. "This type of study provides a window to the multiple long-term positive effects associated with a balanced diet, not only for the individuals but also for their offspring."

Georgel has been at Marshall since the fall of 2002.
Marshall University's Literacy Education students working to make stronger readers this summer

Area youngsters are learning to become stronger readers with help from some Marshall graduate students.

Literacy Education students in the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development are spending several weeks this summer in an advanced practicum teaching children interested in reading achievement. The month-long program is housed in the Dunbar Intermediate School and runs through July 21. Dr. Terrence V. Stange, a professor in the Literacy Education Department, is overseeing the course.

"The Summer Reading Program is a great opportunity for our graduate school candidates to gain experiences that will benefit children in our communities," he said. "We are grateful to the many parents who involve their children in Marshall's efforts to offer effective learning environments."

This particular practicum is a required course for Master of Arts Degree candidates in Reading Education and for those pursuing a Reading Specialist Endorsement, West Virginia Teaching Certificate. The summer session is currently full, but each spring Marshall University faculty members contact schools to establish sites and interest in a summer reading program. Students are invited by their classroom teachers to participate and their parents are contacted for permission.

Stange said the practicum is specifically designed to better prepare graduate students to use assessments, plan strategies and implement 15 to 20 sessions of one-to-one instruction to benefit children's literacy knowledge.
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Dr. Elsa Manglarua, professor in the cardiovascular disease, obesity and diabetes research cluster, is the director of the WV-INBRE Summer Research Program. She said both programs allow participants to gain valuable, hands-on experience doing graduate-level research in the labs of some of Marshall's top scientists.

"We are providing in-depth, mentored research opportunities for very talented undergraduates," she said. "The programs also promote awareness of graduate degree programs and careers in biomedical research."

Diana Maue, who coordinates the SRIMS program, added, "This is a chance for these students to do meaningful scientific research, share their findings, network and build academic competitiveness for graduate school."

While at Marshall, the interns are working in state-of-the-art facilities on research projects related to cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity and diabetes, toxicology and environmental health, and infectious diseases. The students will present their research results at a symposium held during the last week of the program.

In addition to the formal research training they each receive from their Marshall faculty mentors, the interns are taking part in workshops and seminars about a variety of topics related to research and graduate education. Students in the two programs attend many of the same seminars and interact socially through a bowling outing, ice cream socials and other special events intended to help them get to know one another outside of the laboratory environment.

The WV-INBRE Summer Research Program is funded through a $16 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. Marshall - in partnership with researchers at West Virginia University - received the award to help build expertise in biomedical research.

Support for the SRIMS program comes from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology/Minority Access to Research Careers program.

Each student receives a stipend. Depending on the program in which they are participating, they may also receive room and board, lab fees and reimbursement for travel to and from Marshall.
Profile: Gina Kates

Imagine growing up as a cherished only child, a universe of one, and one day unexpectedly finding that you have eight siblings, countless nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles—a flourishing family tree heavily laden with newly discovered relatives.

Gina Kates always knew she was adopted; her parents made sure of that. "I knew the word ‘adopted’ when I was two years old even though I didn’t have any idea what it meant." In fact, just six hours after a home birth in Logan County she was scooped up by her adoptive parents, Verla and George McCloud, and brought to Huntington where they were living at the time. Secure in her small family, she would grow up in the tri-state area, in Willow Wood, Ohio, and go on to graduate from Symmes Valley High School.

Today the administrative secretary in the Dean’s Office in the College of Liberal Arts is philosophical about the events that unlocked family doors and the labyrinth of new relationships through which she had to learn to navigate. But she’s eager to share her story.

“My parents did everything the right way,” she emphasizes. “From the very beginning I knew I was adopted and they assured me they would do anything possible to help me find my birth family if I ever chose to look for them.” But in truth, Kates admits she wasn’t particularly interested in looking for an unknown family and she didn’t work very hard at finding them. Oh, occasionally she would make some half-hearted inquiries or some desultory efforts but life as she knew it was good so mostly she left the door to the past shut. By now, married with three children, her life was serene and as uncomplicated as families with children can be. Then one day in the early 1990s the ring of a telephone changed everything.

“My older sister Judy was on the line. Her call came out of the blue and I was just dumbfounded. She had been looking for me but instead had found my older brother. Then they found me and they later located my other brother who had been adopted. Suddenly I had eight brothers and sisters and all the assorted relatives that go with them.”

Then followed a heady period of discovery, connecting with lost siblings she didn’t know she had, peeling back decades of family connections and lore. “It was such a joy when I would pick up the phone and a voice would say ‘this is your brother’ and I would think, ‘I have a brother!’ I never got tired of hearing that.” And today she and Judy have a particularly close relationship. They’re friends and confidents as well as sisters.

In a fairytale world, the now-reunited family would regularly hold joyous reunions and eagerly gather for special celebrations. But that hasn’t happened. The closest they’ve come to all being together was at a younger brother’s wedding, which several of the siblings, including Kates, attended. Initially there was the euphoria of finally solving the family puzzle, but in truth the family that so long ago was splintered by separations and tightly held secrets is not particularly close as a whole, she says. Members of the clan have pretty much gone their own ways and that’s okay with her. There are circles of relationships within the family where various siblings have their own family alignments. But the big difference now, she says, is that a long last the whereabouts of everyone is known and there is security in knowing that communication is as close as a phone or a computer click. And too, she says, “I have the feeling that my brothers and sisters didn’t grow up in the close family that I had and there’s a gap in our ages.”

And sadly three of her siblings have died, one a brother whom she never met, and another brother and sister she did get to know. Her brother’s loss was particularly devastating to her as they had become quite close before his death from a heart attack at age 37.
Kates met her birth mother only once over a weekend visit arranged by Judy at her Columbus, Ohio, home. Judy brought together the three adoptees and their mother in a meeting that was the subject of a story published in the Huntington Herald Dispatch. It was a bittersweet reunion, one that Kates remembers gratefully. "It was awesome. It was joyful because I had looked forward to that day. I don't regret one bit of it." Over the next few months she and her birth mother corresponded a couple of times by letter but had no more communication. Their relationship ended less than a year later with her mother's death. Kates bears no bitterness toward her mother. "I understand why our mother gave us up; it was for our own good," she says quietly. "At first I felt kind of guilty about going to this reunion but my parents supported me wholeheartedly. Just as they have my entire life."

But one mystery remains to be solved: where did Kates' eclectic musical abilities come from? "No one in my family has any music ability at all," she says candidly. However from the time she was a small child it was evident that she was musically gifted. Today, strictly by ear and totally self-taught, she plays the piano, guitar, trumpet, baritone and organ. She sings as well. In fact, for several years she was a church pianist. But happily it appears there is now another budding musician in the family who may follow in her grandmother's musical footsteps. Five-year-old Taylor loves to sing and wants to play an instrument which delights Kates, who is encouraging her. "I want to get her into lessons very soon," she says.

Actually Kates started piano lessons when she was eight but quickly grew bored with their slow progress. "I knew I could do so much more. I can sight read and I can hear a song and I can play it. It just comes naturally to me; I can pick up almost anything." Now carpal tunnel syndrome and arthritis in her hands are hampering her and have caused her to give up her church pianist position.

Last month Kates was among those honored for years of service to Marshall, in her case 25 years. She worked as a temporary employee in the medical school from 1984 to 1987 before taking a full-time job in Sociology and Anthropology. There she found one of her principal tasks was to be the transcriptionist for the oral history project. The project was tailored for various classes and provided a valuable record of events and the times in which they occurred. Interviews were mostly conducted by students and they covered a diverse range of topics, including the history of business in West Virginia, mining and labor disputes and the heated Kanawha County textbook controversy, which took place in the 1970s. She was heavily involved with a series of interviews with Owen-Illinois employees who lost their jobs when the Huntington plant closed and found them to be particularly memorable. Fortunately, these oral histories have been preserved and currently are housed in special collections in the Morrow Library, she says.

Intrigued by her work on the histories, she was trained to conduct interviews and in fact did some herself. Today she will speak when asked on the "how to's" of effective interviewing. Recently she's used her skills to initiate an oral history program in the South Point, Ohio Church of God, which she had been instrumental in organizing and where she was the pianist for several years. She'll be documenting the church's origins and the extensive planning that brought it into being.

She transferred to the Dean's Office three years ago, where she particularly likes interacting with students. "I'm kind of a mother or grandmother figure for some of them. I can empathize with them. They're away from home and even though they're considered adults, many still need some guidance. We try to make them feel comfortable and we're always here to help." She's a student herself, working on an associate degree, but she's thinking about switching to the RBA program at Marshall, in Anthropology. There she found one of her principal tasks was to be the transcriptionist for the oral history project. It's the same job she has at the Morrow Library, she says.

And just as she learned music, the same do-it-yourself approach led to her fascination with computers. "When I worked in the medical school, one day I had an Apple PC just plipped on my desk and someone told me to just learn how to work it, so I did. Luckily I took to computers immediately. I did take some classes here and there but mostly I'm self-taught. They're fun but I'm always willing to learn something new."

These days she says her family, reading, music and computers are her life. Husband Terry also works at Marshall in Plant Operations in Smith Hall. They're an integral part of the lives of their daughter Courtney and Gena's step-children Jeremy and Carissa, who live in South Point Ohio, and North Carolina, respectively. With six lively grandchildren life is never dull, but she says "We're pretty much homebodies; we both like watching sports and I love working on the computer and reading."

She's a frequent visitor to websites and Facebook pages concerning adoption and she's always happy to relate her experiences, answer questions or give advice when asked. Her candor is refreshing. "I am not bothered to talk about adoption at all. I will speak to anybody or go anywhere to talk about my life. Sometimes children who are up for adoption don't have anyone to speak up for them. It's important they have someone they can talk to, to relate to. And prospective adoptive parents often have concerns. I will tell everybody my adopted parents made me the person I am today and gave me the life I have today. They gave me my values."

And she has one firm bit of advice to all adoptive families—be upfront and candid about the adoption from the beginning. She's seen the pain non-disclosure can cause because it happened in her own family. One of her brothers was placed with a family that chose not to disclose his adoptive status. Actually, as a child, Kates knew him as a cousin and not her brother. He was in his 30s when he learned the truth, and the secrecy resulted in a great deal of bitterness and anger on his part which could have been prevented Kates says. "Adoption once was not talked about. It was a hush-hush subject. But today it's a much more open topic and it's nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, it's a wonderful thing because there are so many children that need good homes and parents with so much love to give."

Actually her adoption helps her relate to her work, she says reflectively. "I see students and I can relate to them and some of the issues they face, the problems they're dealing with. I know my life could have been a whole lot worse. I
I grew up in a loving, close family and I always say I am the lucky one. My parents chose me, they didn’t have to take me. I have had a very balanced life thanks entirely to them.”

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