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We Are...Marshall, February 24, 2006

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Joy Cline has been a nurse for 24 years and became the Director of Nursing. The hospital encouraged her to get a master's degree, which she did from Bellarmine University, a Louisville, Ky., institution which was offering classes at their Ashland branch. After joining the Marshall faculty, Cline once more was urged to complete another degree, this time a doctorate. It’s a good thing she seems to have an almost unlimited store of energy and she relishes furthering her education. Now she’s enrolled in the Marshall-WVU cooperative doctorate in education, busy taking classes—last semester she took four—while continuing to teach her own classes, take care of professional and family responsibilities.

“She seems that when I get a job they push me to get more education,” she says laughing. “But it makes me go further, which is good.”

She has an unbounded enthusiasm for MOV’s nursing program. Distance education allows students to take classes without ever leaving the Point Pleasant area. They have a fully interactive classroom which allows them to take a year of prerequisites which includes chemistry, psychology, anatomy, statistics, math, English and any other requirements.

“Nursing is a long program,” she says. “The Marshall faculty are really dedicated.”

She has unstinted admiration for the library facilities offered by Marshall. “Students today don’t know how fortunate they are to have all the services that are available. Even back in the ‘80s, when I was a student and needed journal articles, I had to go to the veteran’s hospital to find them which meant I had to run all over Huntington. Now we have a computerized library where we can log on to the Denko library system and find virtually anything they want.”

These days her work schedule and doctoral classes don’t leave much room for leisure activities but Cline likes to relax occasionally with two of her favorite hobbies. She’s an accomplished basket-maker and needleworker. “I love making baskets,” she says enthusiastically. “I took classes years ago with a local basket-maker and I thought every basket I made was beautiful, but they weren’t. I wasn’t particularly talented but I liked working with my hands. I was persistent and after a few years the baskets started to get pretty good. It’s very relaxing but challenging as every basket you make has to be just right. You concentrate so much on making them that the tension just goes right out of your mind.”

She starts from scratch molding wet reeds and shaping them into patterns. She creates all kind—big ones, small ones, oddly shaped ones and now she’s incorporating a lot of color. Her creations are all one of a kind. She’s so proficient that she’s now a member of the West Virginia Basket Weaver’s Association and takes master classes in weaving.

All her baskets are either put to good use in her home or are given as treasured gifts to lucky friends and family members. Cline’s latest project is an arboretum, with a special flair for crewel embroidery and cross-stitch. And come spring she can’t wait to get outside to garden. “When I’m not busy doing papers, I love to be outside tending to my flowers and herbs. I just like to play in the dirt, I guess,” she says playfully.

The Cline family is close knit and Joy is delighted that her daughter, Lisa Thornton, a special education teacher, and her three children, Jennifer, D.L. and Terrence, live in Fronton, Ohio, allowing for frequent visits. Richard Shane lives on the eastern shore of Virginia, near Chiniceague Island, home of the famed annual roundup of the wild horses, providing some fascinating experiences for the family.

Cline’s days are sometimes overflowing with activities and she gives full credit to her husband Richard for his unwavering support of her and her goals. “It’s wonderful support and encouragement allow me to take classes and stretch my wings. I’m curious by nature and I like to see how things work.”

MOV has been a good fit for her, Cline says. “It’s so student oriented and everyone gets along so well... After working in hospitals for so many years, I’ve found that I really like working with students. I should have found this sooner. Working with students, sharing knowledge with them, seeing them grow and go on out on their own and find good jobs, that’s been so rewarding. Many of our programs are single parents, some have been on welfare and now they’ve gotten off and they’re doing well. That’s been the highlight of this era of my life. I feel good that I’m doing something worthwhile at this time of my life.”

Appalachian Diversity

also being co-sponsored by Marshall’s Women’s Center.

The final event of the series will be “Revelations: A Celebration of Appalachian Resistance in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered People,” which will be presented on Thursday, April 20 at 7 in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center. The theater production was written and directed by Carrie Kline of Elkins.

All events are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact (CSEGAL at ext. 62675 or contact Dr. Linda Spatig at Spatig@marshall.edu.

Poet to Read

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and essays have appeared in many publications, including the Poconos Poetry Review, Wild Sweet Notes: Fifty Years of West Virginia Poetry 1950-1999, Prairie Schooner, Shenandoah, Laurel Review, The Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide, Crab Orchard Review, West Branch, Rebel Yell, and Appalachian Heritage. Mann’s appearance is sponsored by the Marshall English Department and the College of Liberal Arts. It is free to the public. For more information, persons may contact Art Stringer in Marshall’s English department at (304) 696-2403.

Marshall University’s Office of Multicultural Affairs and the United States Postal Service in Huntington are sponsoring a ceremony to unveil the 2006 edition of the postal service’s Black Heritage Series of Stamps. The ceremony is part of the annual Black History Month celebration. This year’s Black History Month theme is “Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions”.

Hattie McDaniel, who in 1940 became the first African American to win an Academy Award for her role as best supporting actress in the 1949 film, “Gone With the Wind,” is featured on the stamp. The Hattie McDaniel 2006 Black Heritage Commemorative U.S. Postage Stamp is the 29th in the postal service’s series.

The stamp unveiling takes place at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27 in the Memorial Student Center’s Don Morris Room. The public is invited to attend.

“Dr. Betty Jean Cleckley, vice president for multicultural affairs, said, “It is very important, not only because it is the first African-American on the stamp, but because of the collaboration between Marshall University and the postal service. We are excited to extend this event.”

McDaniel, who was born in Wichita, Kansas, in 1895, and raised in Denver, Colorado, was an actress, singer, and radio and television performer. The actress, who played maid in several productions including the title role in “The Beulah Show” which ran on radio for five years, is remembered for saying, “I’d rather play one than be one.”

Encountering racism in Hollywood, she and several other black actors worked to change the film industry from within during the 1940’s. She is believed to be the first African American to appear in as many as 300 films, including uncredited roles as an extra, chorus singer or maid.

McDaniel died in 1952 at age 57 from breast cancer.

Special music will be performed by the Kellogg Elementary School choir, under the direction of Stacy Morrison, Maurice Cooley, director of the Center for African American Students’ Programs, and William Smith.

There will also be door prizes, including a football signed by Marshall football coach Mark Snyder, will be provided. A reception will follow the program.

Women of Color Program

Slated for March 7

The Women of Color Program is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 beginning at noon in the Alumni Lounge of the Memorial Student Center.

This year the program will present a play, “Claiming the Dream,” a one-woman drama by Dianne Oyama Dixon, which shares the struggle for freedom, justice and equality through the memories of a young African American girl, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Mary Church Terrell, Mary McLeod Bethune and Rosa Parks. In Women of Color awards will be presented and a reception will follow. Vendors and displays will be set up in the lobby of the Student Center throughout the day.

The program activities are coordinated by Franci L. Jackson, The Center for African American Students Programs; Leah Tolliver, director of the Women’s Center; Taela Hill, Developmental Specialist; and Lisa Allen, Student Development.

For more information, contact Franci L. Jackson at ext. 60705 or Leah Tolliver at ext. 63112.
Celebration of Books Continues Feb. 27

The third and final event of Marshall’s Celebration of Books, which features MU faculty who recently published books, will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Reading Room on the second floor of the Drisko Library.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. Guests may ask questions of the authors, learn what inspires them and hear how they wrote their books and got them published.

“We want to give the community the opportunity to talk to these published writers to find out what motivated them and what inspired them to get published,” Barbara Winters, dean of libraries, said. “We encourage everyone to join us for this unique opportunity.”

Authors scheduled to appear and their featured works are:


Dr. Ashok Vasasala, professor of physics and electronics, Nanostructured and Advanced Materials for Applications in Sensor, Optoelectronic and Photovoltaic Technology (2005)


Dr. Thomas Ellis, professor of psychology, Cognition and Suicide: Theory, Research and Therapy (2006)

Jack Dickinson, bibliographer, Special Collections, Civil War Papers from the Rosanna Blake Confederate Collection (2005)

Dr. Janet Badia, associate professor of English, Reading Women: Literary Figures and Cultural Icons from the Victorian Age to the Present (2005)

Baritone to Perform March 13

Bulent Atesoglu, a Turkish baritone, will perform a recital at 8 p.m., Monday, March 13 in the Jimmie Jazz Concert Hall. Atesoglu, associate director of the State Opera and Ballet in Ankara, Turkey, Atesoglu will be accompanied by Fugen Serbest, a Turkish pianist, and Solen Dikener, the director of the Symphony Orchestra at Marshall.

The program will include Neapolitan songs, arias from Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and Rossini, and selections from the scores for cartoons, particularly the Looney Tunes, starring Bug Bunny and friends. Master of Ceremonies for the performance will be the Marshall professor and activist, Dr. Bobbi Nicholson, professor of political science and director of the State University's Political Science Program.

Admission is free to students, $5 for Marshall faculty and staff and $7 for the general public.