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We Are...Marshall, May 12, 2006

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Harmony Institute

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the self-emanicipation of slaves through the Tri-State region from 1800 to 1860. The Harmony Institute’s collection of artifacts will be displayed in a room currently being renovated on the second floor of Old Main. It is expected to open in about a year.

Service Awards

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Community and Technical College

15 Years of Service: Lisa Beckett
20 Years of Service: Stephanie Neal

To be eligible for awards, employees must have completed 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 years of service to Marshall University/Marshall Community and Technical College by May 1, 2006.

Menu: Roast Beef Jardiniere with celery and carrots, mashed potatoes, green beans, and Italian dressing, dinner rolls with butter and assorted pies and cakes. Water, tea, and coffee. Vegetarian offering: Baked Cheese Tortellini Primavera.

Graduate Advising Awards

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One of Scary’s nominators called her “the most encouraging professor she had at Marshall. Another added, “Her energy and passion for literature and her profession inspire others to learn and to make a difference in this field.” One student commented her for “single-handedly creating an academic climate in the state to offer a medieval/renaissance emphasis,” the Graduate Certificate in Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Sullivan said the award had high praise for him for the work he does beyond the classroom and beyond the world of his research. One student called him “one of the most committed and caring people I know when it comes to the needs of those students who participate in special education.” A colleague comments, “ Routinely he is available to current and former students and spends untold amounts of time patiently guiding and directing them.”

Smith earned his bachelor’s degree from Marshall in 1967 and completed his master’s degree at West Virginia University in 1971. His work has been active in energy issues related to power plant development, ethanol, biodiesel, and coal technologies. For a number of years he was on Marshall’s Advisory Board for the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences.

Parks earned his bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University and a master’s degree in public administration from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies. He has had extensive experience in health care administration. Currently he is the director of the North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill. He also serves as CEO of Rex Healthcare, a 400-bed hospital in Raleigh that is part of the University of North Carolina Health Care System.

Ida Reed Named Employee of the Month

Ida Reed, Administrative Secretary Sr. in the Division of Student Success/Opportunities, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for April, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee of Marshall for 29 years, she was nominated by Erin Arnold, Bob Barnett, Raymond Busbee, Jeff Byram, Peggy Carter, Susan Childress, Jennifer Mak, Mary Marshall, Bill Martin, Dan Martin, Jean Claude Martin, Gary McLain, Sandra Parker, Freda Richardson, Dave Robertson, Rick Robinson, Lynn Snyder and Sharon Stanton.

In their nomination they wrote, “Ida began working at Marshall in 1977 and has been an invaluable part of the Student Success/Opportunities office ever since. She is...”

Ida Reed (left) received her Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopf.

Garnet McKinley

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“Before we moved here, I worked for a large chain department store in Sharonville, Ohio where I did production control, inventory control and later had my own area to supervise. I was promoted up the ranks fairly quickly but when I got to a certain point, I stopped. I had several bosses who were promoted but I wasn’t eligible to be promoted into their jobs because I didn’t have a degree, even though I could do the work. The company had a policy that at a certain level you had to have a degree and someone without a degree. I had married young and had a family but I always wanted to go to college. I thought of the job opportunities I was missing, so with the full support of my husband I started taking classes part-time. For a while I was juggling a job, a family and classes, but he supported me 100 percent. When our daughter, Jennifer, was small, we decided I would be a stay-at-home mom until she went to school and I would take classes part-time. I started out at Miami of Ohio and completed my degree at West Virginia State while I was in school. It was a proud moment for the entire clan when she graduated in December 1991, and to her surprise, now I can recall. And, she says proudly, she had no fluff in her academic work. She loaded up on demanding classes such as advanced math and other college-level courses, but she says, “I’ve always loved math” and she had been good at it in high school. People thought I was nuts!” She says with a hearty laugh. And, she’ll definitely work on a master’s degree at some point. “I’ve dipped my toe in that academic pool, in a manner of speaking,” she says. But for now there’s so much going on in her life that classes can wait a bit longer. There are the visits to the children and grandchildren who are spread out over the Midwest, in Ohio, Kansas and Missouri. Only Jennifer, a Marshall graduate with a bachelor’s in business administration like her mother, lives nearby in Charleston with her 6-month-old daughter, McKinley is especially close to her grandchildren, Michael, a home-schooled eighth grader who lives in Ohio. She’s his math tutor and they stay in close touch through the Internet and of course, visits.

The McKinleys relish visits to all of their brood. And on one point she’s absolutely emphatic: In the McKinley family there are “no steps,” other than the kind you climb. That means no stepchildren, step-parents, stepbrothers or sisters. “We’re one family; we have been since Bill and I were married. There are no mine/your/ours, it’s a shared family.”

But no matter how busy her schedule, one activity she makes time for is her service writing, a part of the Virginia Conference of Christian Initiation of Adults, at her church, St. Agnes Catholic Church in Kanawha City. It’s a big commitment of time, she says, regular two-how few and half-hourly sessions from September through May. “The purpose of the group is to let people know what the church really believes.”

McKinley and her husband make time for themselves when they can. St. Patrick’s Day is very special for the couple since they were married on March 17. (With a name like McKinley, that figures.) To celebrate, they try to take a trip around that time, either to visit some of their kids or head out on a trip of their own, as they did this year to Florida, where Bill, an avid golfer, attended golf school.

She’s a skilled and creative seamstress who once turned out elaborate clothes and dance costumes for the children. She doesn’t have much time to sew these days—unless the grandgolf, attended golf school.

“Look at the drive as a chance to unwind. I mentally plan things. I listen to books on tape. We have a Sirius radio, so I get a lot of channels. And books on tape.”

“Maybe, there’s a lot of shopping between Poca and Huntington. Just think of all the shopping plazas and malls I pass!”

We Are... Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MAY 12, 2006

The funeral for philanthropist Joan C. Edwards, who died May 7 in Cabell Huntington Hospital, took place Thursday May 11 at Trinity Episcopal Church.

At her request, the six pallbearers at the funeral included three former Edwards Schools of Medicine students wearing their white coats and three current Marshall football players wearing their jerseys. Also at her request, music was performed by a Marshall jazz combo during the funeral service. "Joan Edwards was a glamorous and gentled person—charitable, vision­ ary, generous, sophisticated, insightful and very, very intelligent," said Dr. Charles H. McKown Jr., dean of the School of Medicine.

"One of her passions was good health, and with virtually all of her passions she had one significant perspective: to focus her resources to provide long-lasting, far-reaching benefits."

"In health, she made her impact known through Marshall University's College of Health Sciences, which has brought to our region a new level of care for malignant illnesses. The people who will benefit most from her efforts are not necessarily those who are out of work or who lack health insurance. Her children, our grandchildren and many generations to come."

Bob Marcum, director of athletics, described Edwards as an "amazing woman who touched countless people through her generosity.”

Marcum added, “She and her husband loved the Thundering Herd and their contributions to athletics are immeasurable. The fact that our football team plays in Joan C. Edwards Stadium and that Joan C. Edwards Field is a testament to their incredible legacy.”

Dr. Marshall Onofrio, chair of the music department noted Edwards’ many contributions to the arts at Marshall.

"Mr. Edwards’ contributions to the arts range from the performing arts center that bears her name to the jazz center which reflects the names of her and her husband, and the jazz studies program which was her inspiration,” Onofrio said. “With her support we initiated Jazz-MU Tazz, which this year will celebrate its eighth festival."

Onofrio said many Marshall students have been impacted by Edwards’ generosity and encouragement.

"I am sure that several music students will remember fondly their meeting Mrs. Edwards at luncheons and receptions where she never failed to encourage them to pursue their dreams,” Onofrio said.

President Stephen Kopf said Edwards was a role model for people who wish to make a positive difference in the world. "She was a boundary-breaker, someone who refused to let others limit her in any way,” Kopf said. "In many ways her love of jazz music and the performing arts were metaphors for Joan’s persona and life."

"She was a strong-willed individual who livened up the room wherever she was. She encouraged women to make an impact in areas in which she had been male domin­ations for too many years, like medicine. That impact is evident in Marshall University’s medical school, which is named for Joan. It is the first in the country to be named after a woman.”

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Spagit Appointed Drinko Fellow for 2006-2007

Dr. Linda Spagit, professor of Advanced Educational Studies and co-director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia, is the Drinko Academy Fellow for the 2006-2007 academic year. To allow faculty members more academic research time, the John Deeray Drinko Academy for Educators was created in 1994. The fellows receive reduced teaching loads for an academic year and summer and undertake original research for curriculum development. In addition the fellow is allowed to select a Drinko Student Scholar, a student who will help the fellow with research. Spagit has selected Heaven Rand for that position while working on her master's degree in secondary education.

Spagit’s research will be collaborative ethnography with the Lincoln County Girls Resiliency Program. The idea of the program is to provide teenage girls with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, according to Spagit. She has been working with the program since 1999, doing evaluative research as her time permitted.

Spagit will work with students from Hamlin and Duval high schools. She will also do follow-up research on girls who have been in the program in the past, and what experience the program has had on their lives.

Plans Complete for Service Awards Luncheon

Marshall University’s 4th Annual Service Awards Luncheon will take place Wednesday, May 24 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus. In addition to the service awards, the Employee of the Year will be named at that time.

The following is the list of university and community technology staff members who will receive awards:

Marshall University


30 Years of Service: Sarah Denman, Stephanie Gray, Charles McKinney, Glena Racer, Kristine Standiford, Shelia Willey, and Kendrick Wood.

35 Years of Service: Paul Dempsey.

40 Years of Service: Elfrida Beaver.


Harmony Institute Receives Gannett Grant

A check for $6,000 from the Gannett Foundation has been presented to The Herald-Dispatch to support the Harmony Institute. The check was presented by Pete Zammiller, president and publisher of The Herald-Dispatch. Dr. Betty Jane Claecky, vice president of Multicultural Affairs, said the money will be used to support the Harmony Institute and its “New Passages into the Underground Railroad” program in particular. The Gannett Foundation supports local organizations in communities where Gannett Co., Inc. owns a local daily newspaper or broadcast station. The Herald-Dispatch.

The Harmony Institute, created in 1997, is dedicated to facilitate the unification of multicultural mission through community engagement. The “New Passages into the Underground Railroad” program will serve as a regional site to document and exhibit (continued on page 4)

We Are...Marshall!

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The next regular issue of We Are...Marshall! will carry an issue date of May 26, 2006. Deadline is May 19. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, We Are...Marshall! The Student Charleston campus or by e-mail to pdickson@marshall.edu.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

Iida Reed from Page 1

Marshall University as secretary in the Chemistry Department. She has worked in the Division of Exercise, Sport, and Recreation since 1990. She has consistently worked in exemplary fashion. Her rapport with both faculty and students is exceptional. She has exhibited exceptionally high standards in the performance of her assignments; beyond that, she performs all of her tasks in an efficient and effective manner. She consistently commits to work every morning before 8 a.m. to prepare things for faculty and staff. She is also genuinely concerned about the well being of others. Iida has consistently worked for many years in this division, along with a smile and a professional attitude. She notes that when Reed attended the professional organization’s annual Christmas party this past December, she was presented with an award for all the work and help she has given to the students in the Recreation and Park Resources program.

The nominators conclude, “Her pleasant attitude and demeanor towards students as well as faculty is deeply felt throughout the division. Iida is a dedicated employee who strives for excellence in the performance of her duties and always strives to do her best.”

She was presented with a plaque, balloon bouquet and a check for $100 by President Stephen Kopp.

Sullivan, Schrady Receive Graduate Advising Awards

Two faculty members, one from the Huntington campus and one from the South Charleston campus, along with twenty Graduate College alumni, were honored at hooding ceremonies in South Charleston and Huntington last week. Dr. Kathy Knaus, Associate Professor of English from the Huntington campus, and Dr. Michael Sullivan, Professor of Special Education from the South Charleston campus, received the Outstanding Graduate Advising awards. These awards were made through the generosity of the Graduate College Advisory Board.

Sullivan, who received Distinguished Graduate Student Alumni Awards were Scott R. Smith representing the Huntington campus and Gary L. Park for the South Charleston campus.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

Dr. Allan Stern, chair of the Division of Applied Science and Technology, and College of Information Technology and Engineering, and Dr. Kathy Miezio, Associate Professor of Applied Science and Technology, CITIE, along with graduate students, faculty and staff experienced the International Mining Health & Safety Symposium held in April at Wheeling Jesuit University. The symposium, the first of its kind, brought together leaders from industry and labor technology developers, legislators and members of the academic community to focus on the future of mining.