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We Are...Marshall, September 15, 2006

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Selma Johnson
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“I had never experienced working in an academic setting before. It’s very different. I thought Marshall would be a great place to work and it has been. We’re a two-person office. We deal with legal matters as well as other things. My experience in dealing with confidential matters and working on a top secret major project has really come in handy here. Virtually everything that goes on in this office is confidential and we see that it stays that way.”

But mention the word “legal” and some people have strong reactions, she says. Actually their office really isn't a scary place at all, she says reassuringly. Basically their goal is to keep the university running smoothly and as trouble free as possible.

Still, she says with a laugh, “When people see my name come up on their phones, they say, ‘Oh, no, not her!’ It’s sort of like getting a call from the IRS. It doesn’t necessarily mean bad news but everyone seems to think it does. We’re actually here to help people and the university.”

And with her soothing personality and mature demeanor, she soon puts visitors to their office at ease. “I enjoy working at the university and seeing all the positive changes that are going on, the new buildings and the new programs to attract students. The campus has changed a lot. From our windows in Old Main we watched them build the Dinko Library; we saw the whole process. What a thrill it was to see it go up.”

Nominations for the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award and the Pickens-Queen Teacher Awards are now being accepted.

To be eligible for the Reynolds award, faculty members must be engaged in teaching and be on a full-time tenure-track appointment at or above the rank of assistant professor, with at least three years of service at Marshall.

Nominations for the award, which includes a $3,000 cash prize, can be made in a short, dated letter giving the nominee’s name and department and reasons for being nominated. Nominations forms and criteria can be accessed at www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/depth/forms.asp.

The deadline for nominations is September 22 and should be mailed to: The Reynolds Committee, c/o Dr. Elaine Baker, Center for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning, Old Main 109. The deadline for nominations is September 29.

Nominations for the Pickens-Queen Teacher Awards can be made in a short, dated letter giving the nominee’s name and department along with reasons for making the nomination. Nomination forms and criteria can be accessed at www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/depth/forms.asp.

A highlight of the celebration will be a regularly scheduled fall argument docket session of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals on Tuesday, Sept. 19 in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The session begins at 10 a.m. with several cases being presented.

A giant cake marking the 251st anniversary of the birth of Chief Justice John Marshall will be cut and served on the plaza of the Memorial Student Center beginning at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14. Everyone is invited to attend.

Throughout the week a quoits tournament will take place with finals on Thursday. President Kopp has also challenged selected members of the news media to participate in an invitational tournament on Thursday.

Quoits is an ancient but little-known pitching sport, related to horseshoe pitching, which dates back to the early days of the Olympic discus throwers. Quoits are doughnut shaped and the game is considered to be more challenging than horseshoes. The game of quoits was brought to the colonies from England in the 1600s and was a favorite sport of noblemen. John Marshall was a noted quoits player.

In preparation for Constitution Week, Rory Perry, Clerk of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, was on campus last week discussing the cases that will be heard during the court session.

Vickie Crager, program assistant II in the Department of Biological Sciences, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for August, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

She was nominated by Suzanne Strait and David Mallory.

In her nomination, Strait wrote, “Vickie is perhaps the most valuable person in our department. We have a very... (continued on page 3)
Artists, writers, scholars and performers will visit the Huntington campus, the Huntington Museum of Art and Pullman Square; panel discussions and receptions; a bus trip to Nashville and the Pullman Square Gazebo; the Art Guys gallery talk, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the symposium Arts Forum; Art Guys performance lecture, Sept. 28, at 8 p.m. in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre, Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

"Art Guys' to Appear as Part of Symposium

As part of the Arts for All Birke Fine Arts Symposium, two nationally known artists who call themselves the Art Guys have a work-in-progress display through Sept. 28 in the Birke Art Gallery. Their show is titled, "Two Guys Walk Into a Hurricane's Eye." The two artists, Michael Galbreth and Jack Massing, are known for their unpredictable mix of performance art, sculpture and works on paper. They often transform ordinary objects and situations into the extraordinary.

The two will give a gallery talk at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27. They also will be presenting a performance piece in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28.

The Art Guys' work is on display in galleries and museums nationally and worldwide. Their works are museums nationally and worldwide. Their works are

South Charleston Campus Host to Water Festival

The South Charleston campus will play host to the 2006 Children's Water Festival—Project Wet—Friday, Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 

Evening electronic voting is available on the Staff Council Web page (marshalls.info/staffcouncil) or by contacting the Staff Council office at ext. 6222. 

Profile: Selma Johnson

A series on interesting Marshall University people.

"Confidentiality" isn't really her middle name, but it could be. That's because Selma Johnson, a music professor in the office of the chief of staff and general counsel, has been there since she has done her job perfectly ever since. She is the one who makes sure that all the procedures of the office of the chief of staff and general counsel have been handled correctly ever since. The job has suited her perfectly, she maintains. 

Bus Trip Slated for Tennessee Game

Marshall University's Black Alumni, Inc., is sponsoring a bus trip to the Thundering Herd's football game Saturday, Sept. 23 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, according to Dennis Trotter, president of the organization.

The cost is $10 per person, which covers game ticket, light snacks on the bus and a tailgate party; Deadline for reserving a seat on the bus is Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Harris said the bus will leave the parking lot at Marshall's Joan C. Edwards Stadium at about 8:30 a.m. and return to Huntington immediately after the game, which begins at 4 p.m. at Neyland Stadium.

For more information, persons may call Harris at (304) 675-1405 or (304) 695-2979 or Janis Windfield at (304) 416-0950.

Local Delta Omicron Chapter Wins National Awards

Marshall University's chapter of Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity has received three awards from the organization. The awards were announced in July at Delta Omicron's triennial conference at Illinois State University in Bloomington, Ill.

The chapter received awards for the categories of music service, outstanding music programs, and campus-community relations.

“We are just so proud of our music students and the way they work together on this chapter,” said Dr. Vicki P. Stroher, chairman of the music department. “It is a great honor to see their hard work and dedication recognized.”

The chapter also received a special recognition for its efforts in promoting music education in the community.

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