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The gift, to be distributed over a five-year period, was announced on the Huntington campus during a news conference at the MU Foundation Hall, Home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

Read more.

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Marshall University has received $4.7 million in federal funding to support the new Center for Diagnostic Nanosystems at the university’s Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center.

The funding, which was announced by U.S. Senators Jay Rockefeller and Carte Goodwin and U.S. Congressman Nick Rahall, was added to Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 Senate Appropriations bills at the request of the late Senator Robert C. Byrd. U.S. Department of Energy officials have formally released $2.9 million, with an additional $1.8 million expected soon.

Read more.
Marshall University expands sustainability partnership with EPA, raises bar on environmental goals

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s mid-Atlantic region joined with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in recognizing Marshall University for expanding its environmental goals under EPA’s Sustainability Partnership Program.

EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin and WVDEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman met with President Stephen J. Kopp Monday to sign the agreement, which formalizes the working partnership.

Read more.

World renowned biologist Dr. Lynn Margulis to speak at Marshall

World renowned biologist Dr. Lynn Margulis will be on the Huntington campus Friday, Sept. 24, to deliver a public lecture titled Gaia as Planetary Symbiogenesis? The Rediscovery of Kozopolansky.

Margulis, a distinguished professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, will speak at 7 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The event, presented by the College of Science and the Drinko Academy, is free to the public.

Read more.

Sherri Stepp is Employee of the Month
Sherri Stepp, Interim Director of University College, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for August, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since 1988, she was nominated by Sarah Craiger, Steve Hensley, and Jennifer Kennedy.

Read more.

Fall General Faculty Meeting set for Sept. 29 at Marshall University

The fall General Faculty Meeting of Marshall University's 2010-11 academic year will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29 in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

The agenda will consist of welcoming remarks by the Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Cam Brammer; singing of the Star Spangled Banner by Dr. Larry Stickler; introduction of new administrators by Provost Dr. Gayle Ormiston; introduction of 70 new faculty by Brammer and School of Medicine Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Dr. Joseph Werthammer; a State of the Faculty Address by Brammer; and a State of the University Address by University President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp.

All faculty, staff, students and members of the public are invited to attend. After the meeting a reception to honor the new university personnel will be held in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

Curator of Holocaust Memorial Museum’s highly acclaimed exhibition, ‘The Holocaust,’ to make presentation Sept. 23

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Luckert, who also serves as director of the exhibition, will speak on “State of Deception: the Power of Nazi Propaganda,” a companion volume to the exhibition, which he wrote with Susan Bachrach.

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Read more.

Faculty Achievements
Dr. Sasha Zill, Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Pathology in the SOM has an article published in the journal Current Biology.

The article, “Invertebrate neurobiology: role of the insect brain in walking” reviews recent findings that bridge the gap between molecular and systems biology.

Profile: Lisa Allen - a series on interesting Marshall University people
She was a big city girl who willingly traded the frenetic bustle of the military life for the serene hills of southern West Virginia.

“'I was basically an 'army brat,'” says Lisa Allen, administrative assistant in Multicultural Affairs. “I was born in Washington, D.C., where my mother was a Registered Nurse. In addition, I was surrounded by lots of uncles and aunts who helped raise me, coming from a single parent home. My aunt was in the military and I frequently lived with her and her family so when she was transferred, I traveled with them.”

Read more.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Oct. 6, 2010. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by Oct. 4.

This issue is also available online at http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/newsletters/2010/nl_092210.html.
Any mass e-mail must adhere to the guidelines listed in the University E-mail policy (http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/emailpol.asp).

This e-mail has been forwarded at the request of the Office of University Communications, 304-746-1971.
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The gift, to be distributed over a five-year period, was announced on the Huntington campus during a news conference at the MU Foundation Hall, Home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

Maribeth Anderson, Director of Corporate Development with Chesapeake Energy, said $15,000 per year will go to scholarships - $7,500 each to students in Marshall’s Lewis College of Business and the College of Information Technology and Engineering, and $25,000 per year for the annual Exploring Engineering: Academy of Excellence (EEAE) held on the Huntington campus each summer.

“This latest generous gift from Chesapeake Energy is further evidence of their steadfast support for Marshall University students and high school students considering careers in engineering and business,” said President Stephen J. Kopp. “We are grateful to Chesapeake Energy for their leadership and commitment to strengthening and expanding college education opportunities for students pursuing careers in these high demand fields.”

Anderson stressed the importance of the company’s support of Marshall University and higher education in general.

“The partnership with Marshall University is important as we continue to build a workforce prepared for the exploration and production of natural gas in West Virginia and throughout the Marcellus Shale,” Anderson said. “Additionally, Chesapeake has a long tradition of philanthropic outreach in the communities in which we operate, and support of higher education is a key component of our culture.”

Chesapeake Energy Corporation is the second-largest producer of natural gas and the most active driller of new wells in the U.S.
Marshall receives $4.7 million for Center for Diagnostic Nanosystems

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The funding, which was announced by U.S. Senators Jay Rockefeller and Carte Goodwin and U.S. Congressman Nick Rahall, was added to Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 Senate Appropriations bills at the request of the late Senator Robert C. Byrd. U.S. Department of Energy officials have formally released $2.9 million, with an additional $1.8 million expected soon.

President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp applauded the announcement and expressed appreciation to the Congressional delegation for their support of the new center and research at the university.

“‘Our Congressional delegation believes very strongly in the potential of the Center for Diagnostic Nanosystems, because advances in the center’s labs can make a real difference in the health and welfare of our citizens,’ Kopp said. ‘Senator Rockefeller’s leadership in helping to fulfill Senator Byrd’s intentions regarding the center, along with the whole-hearted support of Senator Goodwin and Congressman Rahall, continue to be invaluable as we build our research programs. We salute them for their dedication to Marshall University and our entire region.’”

Researchers at the Center for Diagnostic Nanosystems will focus on designing, developing and fabricating state-of-the-art diagnostic devices for cancer, cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, dementia, infant care, and air and water quality.

Center Director Dr. Eric Blough said, “Work at the center will help scientists, physicians and the public better understand and integrate the implications and applications of nanotechnologies, particularly as they unfold over the next decade. The center also will play an important role in stimulating unprecedented interdisciplinary collaboration nationally among faculty members and students in the medical, biological, chemical, physical and life sciences, and engineering.”

Dr. Chuck Somerville, dean of the College of Science, congratulated Blough and his colleagues, saying, “During the last seven years Dr. Blough’s research program has benefited from significant investment from both federal and state sources, as well as local resources here at Marshall. That investment has paid tremendous dividends by allowing his team to move aggressively into an area that combines the...
power of nanotechnology with our growing understanding of cellular and molecular biology. The research made possible through this funding will further advance our understanding of basic biology, and will lead to revolutionary changes in how we detect and treat diseases.

An additional $2 million for the center recently was approved in the Senate Appropriations process. This legislation must be passed by the full Senate and House of Representatives in the coming months before becoming law.

*Photo:* Dr. Eric Blough, director of the Center for Diagnostic Nanosystems.

**Marshall University expands sustainability partnership with EPA, raises bar on environmental goals**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s mid-Atlantic region joined with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in recognizing Marshall University for expanding its environmental goals under EPA’s Sustainability Partnership Program.

EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin and WVDEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman met with President Stephen J. Kopp Monday to sign the agreement, which formalizes the working partnership.

“Today, Marshall is stepping forward as a leader among universities in promoting sustainability,” said U.S. EPA’s mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. “By joining with EPA, Marshall is not only working to reduce its own carbon footprint but also helping to create the next generation of environmental leadership.”

Marshall is no stranger to environmental activities that protect the planet and conserve resources.
Currently, the school serves 22 counties in West Virginia through its Southern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center. The brownfields program is a major vehicle for converting derelict or formerly contaminated land into useful and productive property. The program includes grants for assessment and clean-up.

On campus, Marshall is implementing innovative programs to reduce waste streams and greenhouse gases through a bike loan program, providing refillable water-bottles and hydration stations, installing LED lights, using reusable bags made from recycled materials, and creating, at students’ request, a “green fee” which is being used to help fund the university’s sustainability efforts.

But university officials believe there is more to be done, and they have joined EPA’s Sustainability Partnerships Program (SPP) in part to further their efforts even more. Future goals include conducting a campus sustainability assessment, implementing comprehensive composting and biodiesel projects, developing and maintaining a rain garden.

In addition, Marshall is committed to increasing on-campus recycling and awareness through participation in the 2011 RecycleMania competition. RecycleMania is a friendly competition that pits nearby colleges and universities, especially arch rivals, for the glory of being recycling champions.

“By their very design, universities can have a significant impact on the environment,” said Kopp. “That impact, however, does not have to be negative. Through mindful incorporation of sustainable practices, we are proving here that working toward a greener and healthier future for the entire Marshall University community is not only possible, but can be done with small steps, in manageable stages, realistically and affordably.”

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has entered into an agreement with EPA and is helping to promote SPP throughout the state.

“I commend Marshall University for being the first school in West Virginia to sign the Sustainability Partnership Agreement,” said Huffman. “By reducing its operating costs through energy efficiency, water conservation and waste reduction and purchasing local products and using local services, Marshall University is heading in the right direction.”

Photo: Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp, standing, watches as EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin signs an agreement, formalizing the working partnership between the U.S. EPA and Marshall University.
Stepp Named Employee of the Month

Sherri Stepp, Interim Director of University College, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for August, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since 1988, she was nominated by Sarah Craiger, Steve Hensley, and Jennifer Kennedy.

In her nomination Craiger commented on Stepp's care and attentiveness to both students and employees. "The way she speaks to students shows not only that she is empathetic, but that she will go the extra mile to see any student succeed. ...if someone needs her help, she is always ready to give it. Right now she is working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.—and she never complains about it. She truly exemplifies the traits of an Employee of the Month."

Hensley noted that Stepp worked in Student Affairs for several years before becoming Interim Director of the University College. "In that position Sherri has taken responsibility for hiring and training the new staff in that area, as well as establishing policies and procedures that will allow the unit to succeed." he wrote. "Sherri is not constrained by items on her job description. She consistently develops creative ways to make a difference for students. As director of our leadership development program (John Marshall emerging Leaders Institute) she has made this group a powerful force for students here. She is a creative wizard with publications."

Kennedy said, "She is truly a remarkable person. Whatever is asked of her, she does without complaint. Not only is Sherri the interim Director of University College but she has also been charged with the task of overseeing all aspects of the new Student Resource Center, from hiring staff to coordinating and observing our month-long intensive training. Sherri is eager to see students succeed and will give her all to make that possible. Her dedication and service to students and University are without end."

Stepp was presented with a plaque and a check for $100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

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Luckert, who also serves as director of the exhibition, will speak on “State of Deception: the Power of Nazi Propaganda,” a companion volume to the exhibition, which he wrote with Susan Bachrach.

The exhibition encompasses three floors of the Washington, D.C., museum. It displays thousands of individual artifacts and features more than 70 audio-visual components. In addition to his other duties, Luckert selects artifacts, writes texts and handles public and media inquiries concerning the exhibition.

Prior to coming to the museum, Luckert taught European history at several campuses of the State University of New York and at George Mason University. He received his Ph.D. in modern European history from the State University of New York.

Luckert has also curated or co-curated six other special exhibitions at the museum including Father Jacques; Kristallnacht: The November 1938 Pogroms; The Voyage of the St. Louis; Life Reborn: Jewish Displaced Persons 1945-1951; The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk; and Life in Shadows: Hidden Children and the Holocaust.

His Huntington appearance is being sponsored by Marshall University’s College of Liberal Arts and the Huntington Jewish Benevolent Association.

Marshall Artists Series to present Fall Film Festival

The Fall International Film Festival, part of the Marshall Artists Series, will take place Oct. 1-7 at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center and will feature the following films:

A Prophet (France) - Condemned to six years in prison 19-year-old Malik El Diebena cannot read nor write. Cornered by the leader of the Corsican gang who runs the prison he is given a number of “missions” to carry out to toughen him up and gain the gang leader’s confidence in the process.

The Wind Journeys (Columbia) For most of his life Ignacio Carrillo travelled the villages of northern Colombia playing traditional songs on his accordion, an instrument said to have once belonged to the devil. After the death of his wife, he embarks on a last journey to return the instrument to its rightful owner and while traversing the vast Colombian terrain with a young pupil discovers the musical diversity of Caribbean culture.

I Am Love (Italy) This film tells the story of the wealthy Recchi family whose lives are undergoing sweeping changes. After the family patriarch surprises everyone by turning over the reins of his massive industrial company to his son and grandson, thereby splitting power, the stage is set for a series of unexpected consequences.

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (Sweden) Forty years ago Harriet Vanger disappeared from a family gathering on an island owned by the powerful Vanger clan. Convinced that the killer is a member of his own tightly knit but dysfunctional family, her uncle hires a disgraced financial journalist and a tattooed, ruthless computer hacker to investigate. When the pair link Harriet’s disappearance to a number of grotesque murders almost 40 years ago, they begin to unravel a dark and appalling family history.
Fish Tank (UK) A coming of age story centered around 15-year-old Mia who is in a constant state of conflict with her family and the world around her with no creative outlet for her considerable energies except her secret love of hip-hop dance. Mia believes her mother’s new boyfriend can finally help her make sense of her life. The film has been termed a clear-eyed potent portrait of teenage sexuality and vulnerability.

The Owl and the Sparrow (Vietnam) Thuy, a scrappy ten-year-old has no choice in life but to work in her uncle’s bamboo factory until she runs away. Living on her own selling roses on the street, she meets a beautiful flight attendant and a lonely zookeeper. In modern day Saigon, the young runaway attempts to bring these lonely hearts together in hopes of forming a makeshift family.

For additional information, go to the Artists Series website, call ext. 6-3326 or e-mail artistsseries@marshall.edu.

H.E.L.P. Sponsors Annual Golf Scramble

The Marshall H.E.L.P. Program is hosting its annual Golf Scramble on Friday, Oct. 8, at the Riviera Country Club. As a self-supporting, non-profit organization H.E.L.P. (Higher Education for Learning Problems) relies on funds generated from the scramble, which is their only fundraiser, to sponsor scholarships for qualified students.

Suggested ways of supporting the scramble include:

- Corporate sponsorship for $525, includes a tee/sign and entries for four players.
- Tee/Green sponsorships for $150.
- Individual player entry for $100.
- Donating a prize to be given away at the scramble: gift certificates, golf items, gift baskets, etc.
- Donations from a business to help underwrite the scramble.
- Volunteering to work at the scramble.
- Asking a friend or business for a donation.
- Providing a cash donation.

For further information, contact the H.E.L.P. program at 304-696-6252.
Profile: Lisa Allen: A series on interesting Marshall University people

She was a big city girl who willingly traded the frenetic bustle of the military life for the serene hills of southern West Virginia.

“I was basically an ‘army brat,’” says Lisa Allen, administrative assistant in Multicultural Affairs. “I was born in Washington, D.C., where my mother was a Registered Nurse. In addition, I was surrounded by lots of uncles and aunts who helped raise me, coming from a single parent home. My aunt was in the military and I frequently lived with her and her family so when she was transferred, I traveled with them.”

Summers and vacations, though, were spent in West Virginia with her grandparents and other family members who lived in the Ronceverte and Lewisburg areas. Those were care-free filled times hanging out with numerous cousins. But soon she had a serious decision to make. Her aunt's family was being deployed to Japan and she was invited to go with her, but the appeal of the Orient wasn’t strong for the then-sixth grader. So, after many family consultations, it was decided that she would move to West Virginia to live with her grandparents, also passing up private school and living with her mother in Washington, D.C.

“My friends always said I’m a city/country person and I guess I am,” she says. “I really didn’t expect it to be that different but in fact it was very different from the big city. My cousins and I had always had so much fun.” But despite the differences she hung in there, made new friends and found new interests. After graduating from Greenbrier East High School she had every intention of going back to D.C. to attend Howard University or to head to West Virginia University, because that’s where most of her friends were going. But, unexpectedly, an astute older cousin pointed her toward Marshall. It would be a good place for her, the cousin believed.

“I had never been to Huntington and I didn’t know much about Marshall. Then in my senior year a very close friend invited me to come for Homecoming weekend and I had a great time. I loved that Marshall is in a little city format. I realized I had missed so many of the amenities of a big city, the museums, musical performances, live happenings, all the energy. My mother checked it out and approved, so that’s how I ended up at Marshall!”

She got a two-year degree in Paralegal Studies and then went into the 2 plus 2 program and eventually earned a Regents Bachelor of Arts degree. She was on a trip to Hawaii, enjoying the sand and sea, when a call came from her close friend and sorority sister, the late Janis Winkfield. There was a part-time desk coordinator job working through Residence Services, Winkfield told her. Was she interested? Indeed she was, Allen says, and subsequently she was hired for that position. Actually, that job set her on a whole new career path.
"I found I really liked working with students and I wanted to do that rather than go into criminal justice," she explains. Within a year she moved to a full-time position in Greek Affairs, an enticing opportunity for her since she was a founding member of Marshall's chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. She has worked 19 years in the Student Affairs Division, where she has learned and loved to work with all the students and staff. They are my second family, she said. Then, three years ago she joined the staff of Multicultural Affairs and she bubbles with enthusiasm for their programs and the ongoing work they do.

“We work with diverse campus and community populations. We have multiple, ongoing multicultural programs and initiatives. Right now we’re expanding in new directions toward a more inclusive division. Our Vice President, Dr. (Shari) Clarke, wants us to work with all persons who have historically been underrepresented in society. Last year we hosted the inaugural Multicultural Faculty, Staff and Friends Reception, bringing ‘town and gown’ together in a celebration of diversity. We also sponsored a Top O’ the Morning St. Patrick’s Day Celebration for the Huntington campus, which featured Irish music, coffee, sweet treats and a leprechaun who then visited St. Joseph’s grade school. This year we will sponsor a celebration for Cinco de Mayo which will bring Native Americans to the campus for a weekend-long adventure. There are always events going on and lots of things coming up. I’m learning so much about diversity ... the languages, the customs and the music. It’s like being back in the city with all nationalities and their customs.”

And Allen has a diverse life off the job as well. Keeping up with her active son, Dominic, who is a freshman at Huntington High, is almost a full-time job. “In our family everyone is involved with their children,” she says “He’s a very good student and also very athletic. He’s involved in football, basketball and baseball. And he loves Marshall; he really grew up on campus .... he has season tickets to the games and his goal is to play football for Marshall.” She shows support off the field as well, as she sits on several youth boards in the Huntington area.

Game days in the fall you will find Allen helping out in the stadium boxes, something she was recruited to do by her friend, Winkfield. “Janis always worked in the boxes, hostessing, doing catering, overseeing food service. I’ve continued to be a hostess. It’s a fun thing to do and exciting to be there for the game.”

And then there’s the quilting. “I decided I wanted to learn to quilt, so about five years ago I started taking classes that met every Sunday at St. Joseph. I had never quilted before, but the instructor said I should do well. This is where I learned I’m a precise person; I want every stitch to be perfect. I found quilting to be very relaxing and it was a social time. The sewers were wonderful; if you made a mistake they knew how to fix it. Each of us was to make a quilt with the Underground Railroad theme. I have mine half done, but I had to quit working on it because I was so involved in other things at the time, particularly my son’s activities. But I really intend to finish it one day.”

Allen loves music and movies and has made sure Dominic has been exposed to all kinds of cultural events, she says. They take full advantage of the many concerts and plays that Marshall and the community offer. And she’s a good sport with a sense of fun. Look closely and you could even see her and Dominic at a midnight showing of a Harry Potter movie. “He knows if it’s a school night he has to get up the next day and go to school, no excuses, and he does,” she says firmly. In fact the late shows were such a lark she went to a recent “Twilight” preview and took a friend with her. “She was amazed at how people were dressed and at how many people were out at that time of night. For one of the Harry Potter movies people were lined up around the block.”

Allen always makes time to attend services at the Full Gospel Assembly and right now she’s carving out time to resume Zumba classes on Saturday mornings.
Each year her large extended family holds an eagerly awaited reunion, and each year they select a
different family locale. It’s a time for young and old to reconnect. “My mother is from a family of nine
children and there are 28 grandchildren. I’m the youngest, so I’m still the ‘baby’ to my aunts and
uncles. I get bossed around a lot,” she says laughing. Ironically, years after she turned down an
opportunity to go to Japan, she and Dominic may be heading there in the next year or so. A cousin has
been transferred there and the family is thinking about making Japan a reunion destination. “Right now
my future plans are to work on getting us to Japan!” she says.

Allen has never regretted her decision to work in the various student affairs areas. “I’m glad I realized
early that I wanted to work with students. Looking back I’ve seen so many students who weren’t sure
of what they wanted to do, where they wanted to be. Then they graduate, they go out and do well and
become professionals in their fields. It’s important for me to do things well. I have had so many people
who have helped me and mentored me. I like to pass that on.”