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We Are … Marshall, September 17, 1999

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • SEPTEMBER 17, 1999

A. Michael Perry Serving as President

Search for Next President Continues

In commenting on his new role, Perry noted, “I believe it's important to continue the work begun by Wade Gilley and the Board of Trustees. The past nine years have seen so many good and exciting things happen at Marshall and my goal is to keep that momentum going into the next century.”

Perry is a familiar figure to the university community. A native of Huntington, he was graduated with honors from Huntington High School in 1954 and from Marshall (continued on page 6)

July, August Employees of the Month Recognized

William L. (Bill) Lewis, supervisor, building trades in Physical Plant, and Gregory A. Beach, a trades worker in the carpenter shop, were selected as the July and August Employees of the Month respectively, according to Bill Burdette, chairman of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Lewis has been employed at MU for 19 years. He was nominated by Virgil Crockett and Woodrow Edmonds, HVAC mechanics. Crockett and Edwards said in their letter of nomination, “Bill is one of the finest people we have had the privilege to work with. His responsible attitude toward his job is reflected every day. He is not paid overtime, but he takes his turn at being on call at night and on weekends along with those employees he supervises. His work ethic is an inspiration.”

Lewis’ compassion and concern for fellow employees were lauded, along with his willingness to work (continued on page 6)

Letters of Thanks

Marshall Friends:
Thanks for everything you have done for Rita during her illness and in memory of her life.

The Rita Heinz Family

To All My Co-Workers:
I would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, telephone calls, hospital visits and words of encouragement during my long stay at Cabell Huntington Hospital. It was a long road to recovery but I’m back at work and I’m feeling great.

I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you’ve done for me.

Norma J. Keith
Community College

Brucilla Jordan
from Page 3

Brucilla Jordan

from Page 3

We Want to Hear from You...

Send us your news about your achievements, awards, professional, civic, and community activities or any other items you think would be newsworthy. We’ll consider them for inclusion in future issues of this newsletter.

Items can be sent by e-mail to Pat Dickason at pdickason@marshall.edu, by fax at 746-1922, by phone ext. 1971, or through campus mail to the South Charleston campus. The deadline for submission of items for the next newsletter is Wednesday, September 22.

A. Michael Perry

chairman of Banc One West Virginia, a Marshall graduate and long-time MU supporter, has been named interim president of the university. He succeeds Dr. J. Wade Gilley, who resigned from Marshall on August 1 to become the 20th president of the University of Tennessee.

Perry, a well-known Huntington businessman, is very familiar with higher education, having served 10 years as a member of the University System of West Virginia Board of Trustees.

“Marshall has always been so much a part of my life and my family’s life. It really is more than just an alma mater to us,” Perry said. “Now if I can make a contribution during this transition period, I’ll feel as though I am giving something back to the institution which gave me such a solid start in life.”

Gilley and his wife, Nan, were honored at a farewell ceremony during his last week in office. It was attended by Governor Cecil Underwood, members of the University Board of Trustees, several members of the legislature, and area business and civic leaders, as well as hundreds of supporters and well wishers from throughout the university and the community. John Deaver Drisko, Marshall alumnus and a major contributor for whom the library is named, came from Cleveland to help bid the Gilleys farewell.

Mrs. Gilley was active in campus affairs, helping to raise money for scholarships and developing programs that recognized staff accomplishments. The Nanna B. Gilley Employee Award is given monthly to an outstanding MU classified staff member.
Morrow Library Renovation Begins

Renovations that will allow better access and availability to materials in the James E. Morrow Library while partially restoring parts of the 68-year-old building to their former state are underway, according to Dr. Edward Grose, Senior Vice President for Operations.

In addition, some space on the first floor is being readied for relocation to other campus units. Grose says all work will be done by Marshall physical plant workers over the next several months. And the library will remain fully open for its regular hours during the renovations. Monica Brooks, Interim Dean of libraries says, “Renovating the Morrow Library was always part of the planning for the Drinko Library and now that it is up and running, we’re going ahead with the plans for the Morrow,” Grose said.

The John Deaver Drinko Library, a $51 million dollar state-of-the-art facility, opened last fall. Most of the work will be done on the first and second floors where government documents and special collections are currently housed. Plans call for expanding the entrance to government documents with an entrance to the stacks to be located across from that area, giving users greater access to both collections. In addition there will be a wheelchair lift on the campus side.

“This will give us an opportunity to organize government documents and our special collections. We have some valuable documents in the special collection and more comfortable environment for all our patrons,” she says.

One major undertaking and much needed improvement is the complete rewiring of the building which is currently underway. During this renovation period the Library will be without lights temporarily. The Library staff prefers to retrieve materials for users but can accompany them with portable lights into the stacks, if necessary. The end result will be much brighter and better lighting in areas that were formerly darker or shadier.

The library staff will be working closely with faculty in preparing for the moving and condensation of materials. Part of the condensation of books in the stack tower, which are general circulation materials, is in preparation for the addition of new books, she says.

“The faculty is probably going to be the major threat for choosing their materials for their disciplines. We don’t presume to make those decisions. We listen to faculty all the time for their input,” she notes.

Brooks emphasizes that the Morrow Library will be fully functioning during the renovation process. Hours differ somewhat from the Drinko library but it is open at night and some on weekends.

“The mission of Morrow is different but we try to accommodate peoples’ needs and if someone needs to get in when we’re not open they can usually make special arrangements or we’ll try out best to get the materials they need.”

Our goal is to make it a nicer and more comfortable environment for all our patrons,” she said.

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She points out that the Morrow Library is considered a classic example of library architecture with its wide steps, imposing columns, liberal use of marble and ornate ceilings and murals. Although it’s been restored completely but the workers are going to do their best to make it as nice as they can and we think there will be a very appropriate environment for the archives and special collections. We have unique collections that make Marshall’s without lights temporarily. The materials we’ve collected which scholars from all over the country have used.”

She cites, among others, the West Virginia Collection which deals during the period of West Virginia, with manuscripts dating from the 16th century to the present containing photography, letters, diaries, scrapbooks, and other types of records; the rare books and maps collection including “The Fourth Folio Edition of the plays of Shakespeare,” published in 1656; the Rosanna Blake Library of the Confederacy, which contains nearly 3000 books as well as sheet music, almanacs, aerials, prints, photographs and maps, all dealing with the history of the Confederate States of America; the Charles Hoffman Library of the Medical sciences, and the University Archives.

Brooks says the community actually uses the Morrow Library more than the Drinko Library because the Morrow has close ties to civic organizations and historical organizations through its extensive historical collections.

“The community members are big supporters of the Morrow Library and we want to make it a nicer and more comfortable environment for all our patrons,” she says.

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“The community members are big supporters of the Morrow Library and we want to make it a nicer and more comfortable environment for all our patrons,” she says.

In her letter of support Dorton says, “I would like to nominate George Beach for Employee of the Month. I have found him to be a helpful and resourceful employee, always friendly to the staff, faculty, and students. He will willingly perform any duties assigned and volunteers to help with other tasks. He is friendly and outgoing and I have found him to be an excellent worker with a positive attitude and a ready smile for everyone. The shops in Physical Plant Operations must work closely together at times to accomplish projects on campus and I feel George Beach is a hard worker for the campus.”

Each will receive a plaque and $100 for being named Employee of the Month and will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.

A. Michael Perry from Page 1

in 1958. In 1961 he finished first in his law class at West Virginia University. Following a 20-year career with the Huddleston-Bolen law firm, he entered the banking business in 1981.

He and his wife Henrietta share their home and their love of antiques through the Heritage Farm Museum & Village, which was established on their property in Wayne County. Thousands of carefully chosen antiques from the couple’s personal collection and restored buildings, are on display, with more being added from year to year.

Perry is accepting no salary during his tenure as interim president and has requested that any funds allotted for compensation be used instead for scholarships.

“Henrietta and I prefer to see the money go toward scholarships,” he said. “Our goal is to help our students to begin or to continue their education,” he said.

Profile: Brucella Jordan

Brucella Wiggins Jordan, of Ansted, is currently the Minority Faculty Fellow at Marshall University Graduate College. The fellow program enables her to teach several classes in Marshall’s humanities program, primarily in South Charleston, while completing her doctoral dissertation.

A graduate of West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Jordan, who is completing work on a Ph.D. in history from West Virginia University, brings a richly textured background to the study of the history of African Americans. She and her husband, Norman, founded the African American Heritage Family Tree Museum in Ansted in 1991, located in a turn-of-the-century coal company house.

The museum came about, according to Jordan, because of the extensive collection of memorabilia handed down through the family’s line.

“My husband is a collector,” Brucella Jordan explained. “He realized that he had enough family and community memorabilia to make a display. He received such a positive reception from the people in the Ansted area that we worked together on the project and it opened in 1991.”

The Jordans’ success with the Ansted museum led to being asked to speak at the development of the Scott’s Run Museum near Morgantown. Norman Jordan put his organization (continued on page 4)