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## We Are ... Marshall, August 28, 2009

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • AUGUST 28, 2009

## Marshall Expects Increase in Fall Enrollment

Based on initial projections before the start of the 2009 fall semester, Marshall University anticipates a significant increase in enrollment for the coming academic year.

The number of overall full-time students has increased by 3.5 percent over last year. Also, the number of new, first-time freshmen has increased by 11 percent over last year's count of 1,686, including an increase of approximately 200 new freshmen from West Virginia.

"We are extremely pleased that, despite tough economic times, Marshall University is seeing an increase in both our overall and freshman enrollment," President Stephen J. Kopp said. "These increases are an indication of the quality of education offered by Marshall University and the hard work by our Offices of Recruitment and Admissions, and our faculty and staff. More and more people are realizing that a degree from Marshall University will prepare them well for the future."

### *New program designed to promote involvement and success of Marshall University commuter students*

In a cooperative effort between Student Affairs and Residence Services, Marshall University has created a program that is designed to promote the involvement and success of its commuter students.

The goal is to get commuter students – those students who travel to campus each day for classes – involved in activities that will connect them more with campus life. About 76 percent of the students who attend Marshall University commute to classes.

"Too often commuter students maintain the same friendships, the same habits, the same social contacts, and the same daily schedule they maintained in high school," said Steve Hensley, Dean of Student Affairs. "The risk in this lifestyle is that students may miss some of the most important parts of college – expanded social contacts, including making new friends from all over the state and country, and even other countries. Student organizations enrich the lives and careers of students, but students have to be on campus to be a part of this."

Several activities for commuter students were part of the regular Welcome Weekend held last week, with more planned for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 28-29.

John Yaun, Director of Residence Services, said Marshall plans to offer commuter students a myriad of enjoyable and engaging experiences that will fulfill their college experience and get them more connected to activities and events on the Marshall campus.

"Commuter students are diverse in many ways, in age, ethnic identity, family status, working status, how they get to campus, the distance they commute, living arrangements and so forth," Yaun said. "In spite of all the

*(continued on page 4)*

The number of full-time undergraduates has increased by 4 percent over last year and the number of full-time graduate students has increased by less than 1/2 percent.

"While we are very happy with these numbers, we must continue to improve our retention rates," Kopp said. "We must be committed to do everything we can to ensure that students who start at Marshall University complete their education and earn their degrees."

Additional enrollments for off-campus and off-calendar classes will be added throughout the next few months, and more detailed enrollment counts are not expected until late October.

## Julia Dickens Named Employee of the Month

Julia Dickens, Executive Secretary, MURC/Office of the Vice President for Research, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for July, according to Amber Bentley, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee for 20 years, she was nominated by John M. Maher and Eric B. Kmiec.

In his nomination Maher wrote: "Julia keeps the VPR office organized and running efficiently, maintains good relations with clients and organizes events and keeps the office compliant with policies and procedures. She serves as coordinator for IRB and the MURC Board of Directors and under normal circumstances is an exemplar of productivity. Recently she has stepped up beyond her usual high level of output and assumed additional duties

to support the facilitation and start-up of MIIR and the adoption of IRBNet, a software solution to compliance in human subject research, by the Office of Research Integrity. Her attention to detail, dedication and follow-through were key to effecting the transfer of

*(continued on page 3)*



Julia Dickens (right) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

## Camp NEW You to Debut Next Summer

Marshall University's School of Kinesiology has announced the development of a new youth-oriented healthy lifestyles camp.

The camp, called Camp NEW (Nutrition, Exercise, Weight management) You @ MU, will open beginning summer 2010. Organizers say the camp will offer a two-week residential stay for campers, followed by three follow-up weekends throughout the year to help campers and their families stay motivated and encouraged. Each child will also be assigned a personal lifestyle coach who will work with the camper throughout the year.

"This camp focuses on goal setting and decision making and emphasizes the importance of parental participation in helping create a home environment that provides regular opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity," said Dr. Eric Arnold, Interim Chair, School of Kinesiology. "Our signature features include a multidisciplinary approach, state-of-the-art facilities, a structured program, and qualified and experienced camp staff."

Arnold says the camp marks an effort by the Department of Kinesiology to partner with other departments on campus, community health groups, and state institutions of higher learning. Camp NEW You was developed by Huntington native and West Virginia University professor of pediatric cardiology, Dr. William Neal, who has worked in tandem with his colleagues at West Virginia University's College of Physical Activity and Sports Sciences, and Dr. Eloise Elliot of the Department of Human Performance at Concord University.

"This initiative represents the coming together of many partners to develop a summer camp program that will positively and proactively promote healthier behaviors and lifestyle choices for hundreds of West Virginia children and their families struggling with weight management issues," President Stephen J. Kopp said. "This exciting and important initiative has received widespread support at Marshall University and within the communities we serve. It builds on successes already evident through programming at West Virginia University and Concord University and is yet another example of how West Virginia public universities are working together to better the health and well-being of our youth and their families."

*(continued on page 4)*

## Marshall Community Welcomes New Faculty



New faculty members posed for this picture as they were welcomed to Marshall earlier this month. They took part in a series of orientation activities. Joining the faculty are Miyuki Akai Cook, Art & Design; Muhammad Amjad, Clinical Laboratory Sciences; Susan Booton, School of Nursing; Andrew Burck, Counseling; Kevin Cline, English; Andrea Criss, Nursing; Penny Daniels, College of Health Professions; Anthony Dixon, School of Kinesiology; Nancy Elkins, School of Nursing; Lori Ellison, Counseling; James Farmer, School of Kinesiology; Jamie Hickman-Weaver, English; Jane Hill, English; Christine Ingersoll, Journalism & Mass Communications; Daniel Kaufmann, Art & Design; Nicholas Kelling, Psychology; Derrick Kolling, Chemistry; Klara Kovacs, School of Nursing; Natalie Larsen, Art & Design; Doohee Lee, Management & Marketing; Seunglin Lim, Integrated Science and Technology; Genevieve Meyers, Political Science; Magdalena Muchlinski, Anatomy; Cody Mullins, English; Jeremy Mullins, Dietetics; Carl Mummert, Mathematics; David Peavler, History; Rachael Peckham, English; Eric Ruegg, Art & Design; John Sammons, Integrated Science & Technology; Suman Sanyal, Mathematics; Anara Tabyshalieva, History; Jennifer Tiano, Psychology; Mary Todd, Dean, Honors College; Cynthia Torppa, Communications Studies; Jill Tretz, English; Paulus Wahjudi, Computer Science.

### Exhibition of artwork by the late Stanley Sporny on display in Birke Art Gallery through Sept. 10

Marshall's Department of Art and Design is presenting an exhibition of artwork by the late Stanley Sporny, a longtime Marshall faculty member, in the Birke Art Gallery through Thursday, Sept. 10.

The opening exhibit of the fall semester, "Stanley Sporny Paintings," features numerous oil paintings from the artist's River series – many completed in 2008 – as well as other select artworks spanning the past 25 years. Several watercolor paintings will also be on view, some of which have never before been publicly displayed.

Sporny, who passed away unexpectedly in October 2008, was a professor with the College of Fine Arts for 20 years.

"To his students, Stan Sporny was more than a professor of painting," Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts, said. "He taught them more than just art. Stan was a philosopher and his provocative discourse helped students come to understand them-

*(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 Sept. 11, 2009. Deadline is Sept. 4. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).

## Profile: Carolyn Schwarz

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Carolyn Schwarz

Her ready smile and sunny outlook belie the treacherous curves life has sometimes thrown at her, but Carolyn Schwarz's indomitable spirit and zest for life has kept her on track through good times and some unimaginable bad times.

"Family, friends, food and fun, that's my motto," the administrative secretary senior for the Graduate College Elementary/Secondary program, says brightly.

She was raised in the Sissonville area where she had a near-idyllic childhood, playing outdoors whenever possible, competing at kickball and picking berries for her mother's delectable cobbles. Following graduation from Sissonville high School, she attended Garnet Career College in Charleston, where it was soon apparent that she had a flair for numbers and accounting. Schwarz would shortly put her newly honed skills to good use with a gutsy decision to pick up and move to New Orleans.

"I had a group of friends, including my two best friends, who had moved there so I decided to join them. There were 10 of us altogether and we all lived in the same apartment complex. I got a job as a supervisor a Holiday Inn and I also did some accounting. New Orleans was going through boom times then and we did a lot of fun things. ... I fell in love with the music, the food, the history, just the whole culture. I even got to ride on a float during Mardi Gras throwing beads to the crowd. Now that was an experience!"

But after five years, even the appeal of laid-back New Orleans began to fade, so the group slowly broke up and Schwarz, along with two friends, decided to head back home. They had lived frugally and were able to leave with pretty full pocketbooks. But should they go straight home or make a stop at the beach? The beach won, hands down. So for over six months the group lived the carefree life of "beach bums" ... no work, all play, long sunny days at the beach, a "Beach Blanket Bingo" kind of life. And then, she says wistfully, "We decided it was time to grow up and get back to the real world." When they did finally did go their separate ways, they were tanned, fit, and broke, but very, very happy.

Now raising a son, Todd, as a single mother, she looked for work and her New Orleans experience paid off well, landing her a job with the Civic Center Holiday Inn in Charleston. She has particularly fond memories of that period because that's when she met her future husband, also coincidentally named Todd, who was at the time a football coach and teacher at South Charleston Jr. High School. She left the Holiday Inn to take one of her favorite gigs, a do-everything job at the Willard and Associates Advertising Agency. Owner Mike Willard dubbed her the "key grip," a job title taken from movie titles to indicate a person who does a little bit of everything. "I loved that job," she says fervently. "I even sold the personalized bricks that are inlaid on the downtown riverfront park. I've always said if you can sell a brick, you can sell anything!"

She left the agency only when it closed its doors, but quickly found work at a bank where she remained for the next eight years. By then the mother of another son, Matthew, she came to the Graduate College to work in the Admissions Office and eventually accepted a position in Elementary/Secondary Education.

Life was good for the Schwarz family. They were always on the go and always running ... from a fun event organized by Carolyn to a school activity for Matthew to an athletic event for the whole family. By this time the elder

(continued on page 4)

## Julia Dickens

from Page 1

personnel and materials from the University of Delaware. Her can-do attitude and assistance were essential in the successful IRBNet Implementation. In her spare time she developed a very useful document tracking system for the office. Julia's dedication, skill, sensitivity, productivity, and judgment are truly exceptional"

Kmiec has high accolades as well for her efficiency and dedication. "Our move to West Virginia was a tough one, considering the size of our lab and our needs. Julia went out of her way to help us get started, beyond what all of us expected. She is held in high regard and...I am not sure that the transition could have happened without her patience and guiding hand. I am in her debt."

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

## Composer Byron Petty to Perform Aug. 31

Renowned composer, flutist and pianist Byron Petty will present "Casual Notes," a program of recent compositions including several world premieres, at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31 in Smith Recital Hall.

"A concert of music by a visiting composer lets you experience in a special way another's musical thoughts," said Dr. Wendell Dobbs, professor of music, who is the organizer of and a performer on the concert. "And what's special about these inner thoughts is they're all hot off the press."

Petty will be accompanied by guest artists from sister institutions and Marshall music faculty. Hornist Wallace Easter from Virginia Tech and classical guitarist Robert Trent from Radford University will accompany Petty and his wife, Dr. Shuko Watanabe, to Marshall to perform on the concert. Flutist Wendell Dobbs, soprano Linda Dobbs, hornist Stephen Lawson and pianist Pam Johnson from the Marshall music faculty will join them. In addition, two of Wendell Dobbs' fifers from the John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps, Callie Huff and Laura Simpson, will join him in performing "River Crossing," a four movement piece written especially for the Corps. "Casual Notes," a new flute duet for which the concert is named, will be premiered by Petty and Wendell Dobbs.

A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Petty was trained as a flutist, studying with longtime principal of the Baltimore Symphony Britton Johnson. After graduation, Petty toured throughout the eastern U.S. and Japan with Watanabe, his classmate and wife. Currently, Petty and his wife both teach at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va.

Petty's experiments as a composer, which began at Peabody, continued to grow until now composition occupies most of his time. The Virginia Music Teachers Association, K. & W. Group Inc., Olin Conservation Inc., the Department of Geology of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the Toho Koto Society of Washington, D.C., have commissioned new works by him. "Shadows" for small orchestra, by the Elon University Orchestra in Elon, N.C.

"Byron's music spans the emotional gamut," Wendell Dobbs added. "At times it's dark and rhythmically angular, and then, all of a sudden, jocular, light-hearted and witty."

Petty also will talk about his music at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, also in Smith Recital Hall. Both events are free and open to the public.

## Carolyn Schwarz

from Page 3

Todd had established his own successful business and Todd, Jr., as he was affectionately known, was out of college, living on his own in Charlotte, N.C., and sharing a special loving bond with his little brother. Then with the ring of a telephone in the early morning hours of September 23, 2003, Schwarz's life as she had known it, lurched, turned upside down, and stopped. Her handsome and charismatic son Todd had been killed in an automobile accident.

The family was shattered. Looking back at that terrible dark time, it was like swimming through mud, she says. Her grief was overwhelming. She got through it with the help of her family, her parents, her sister, Debbie, who also works at the Graduate College, friends and her Marshall family, who enveloped her with love and concern. Her faculty members came *en masse* to her home to offer their sympathy and support. When she returned to work, concerned co-workers daily brought home-cooked food to tempt her flagging appetite. On the bad days when the tears came, there was always someone to offer comfort and a hug.

"I would have never made it through that time without all the love and support I got at work," she says. "I can't say enough about what people here did for me and continued to do. And Debbie was always there, she checked on me, pushed me, made me keep going when I didn't want to. She is a real trouper."

Then imperceptibly, one tiny step at a time, she began the long climb out of the abyss of grief. She would never be the same again, but she was going to make it. And most of all, there was Matthew, who at age six was having trouble dealing with the loss of his doting big brother. "He is such a joy. Having a close relationship with my children is the best thing that every happened to me."

So if life was never to return to normal, at least it was going on. And she found Compassionate Friends, a group for those who have lost children. "It's a group you never want to belong to," she says sagely. She's been an active member, one who is always there to console those who have suffered recent losses. "Time is the only thing that helps, but it's hard for people who are newly bereaved to believe that. You never get over it; you just learn to live with it."

These days, much of her old sparkle and zest are back. Her department, the largest in the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development, keeps her hopping, but she keeps things flowing smoothly. "My motto is once something comes across my desk I want to get it done and off the desk," she says with a smile.

Come football season the Schwarz family will be found in the stands cheering the Herd on from the same seats they've had since the stadium opened. They support the team through boom times and lean times. Husband Todd has both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Marshall and never misses a game if he can help it, Carolyn says. And Matthew is a Herd player in training. He's a gifted athlete and also an honor student who never misses school, his proud mother says.

Both Schwarzes are active in their neighborhood South Hills football and basketball leagues and Carolyn volunteers at Matthew's school as time permits. They relish family vacations and, since Todd Sr. was a history teacher, they particularly enjoy visiting places with historical significance and taking tours. But this active family is always up for adventures. They've basked in the Bahamas, she's swum with the dolphins in Mexico and they went whitewater rafting in Alaska. "We all like boating and swimming, but most of all we love trying new things." This summer the family made a stop at Lake Norman, near Charlotte, N.C., to relax on a boat that son Todd had owned with his best friend. "Lying on deck on a picture-perfect day with the sky so brilliant, I felt perfect peace because I felt Todd was with me." And in October—his (and Matthew's) birthday month—there will be the second annual Todd Powell Memorial Golf Tournament, organized by his friends to honor his memory.

She loves holidays and delights in planning and organizing special events. Her role models are her in-laws, Jack and Shirley Schwarz, who although in their 80s are still active in their surgical supply business. "I want to be just like them when I'm their age!" she says. She's not thinking about retirement quite yet, but since her son was an organ donor it's her fond wish that she can someday work with an organ donation group.

The tough times she's been through may have dampened but certainly not extinguished this extrovert's abiding optimism. "I realized how short life is and you have to put fun in your life and live every day."

## Commuter Students

from Page 1

differences, commuter students do have some common concerns: time management, balancing multiple roles, getting to campus, family obligations, and getting connected to campus life are all issues commuter students face. While many commuters face different challenges daily, they are an important part of the overall Marshall community and there are numerous opportunities to get involved and make the best of their college experience."

## Camp NEW You

from Page 2

Gov. Joe Manchin called the collaborative effort a positive step toward developing a healthier next generation of West Virginians.

"Health is the hardest thing to get back if you lose it and that's why it's important to teach our children how to take responsibility for their own health," Manchin said. "This camp will pay great dividends if we can get these young people to think about the health choices they will make as they grow older. I commend those affiliated with this camp for their hard work and willingness to emphasize the importance of healthy living."

For more information on how to get involved with Camp NEW You @ MU, contact Dr. Gina Sobrero Evans by phone at 304-696-2924 or by e-mail to [evansg@marshall.edu](mailto:evansg@marshall.edu), or Arnold by phone at 304-696-2412 or by e-mail to [arnoldc@marshall.edu](mailto:arnoldc@marshall.edu).

## Sporny Exhibit

from Page 2

selfes better. He was helping shape the entire individual and preparing the student for life and its varied challenges."

Organizing this show was particularly meaningful for Birke Art Gallery director John Farley.

"Stanley Sporny spent his life as an artist, teacher, mentor, inventor, musician, entrepreneur and a true visionary," Farley said. "As a former student, colleague and friend of Stan, it is an honor and a privilege to be involved in this exhibition."

Sporny studied at the Philadelphia College of Art from 1964 through 1968 and earned his M.F.A. at the University of Pennsylvania where he studied from 1969 to 1972 while under the direction of celebrated artists Neil Welliver, Alex Katz, Alice Neel and Elaine de Kooning. The graduating representative for the University of Pennsylvania, he spent the summer of 1972 at the prestigious Skowhegan School in Maine. He then traveled on a Fulbright Grant to Sri Lanka, taught at various universities and was a veteran of more than 40 solo exhibitions with work held in many prominent galleries, private collections and museums throughout the nation.

The exhibition will culminate with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1. Peter Massing, professor of printmaking at Marshall University, will lead an informal discussion of Sporny and his work.

For more information, contact Jaye Ike, Special Projects Coordinator for the College of Fine Arts, by phone at 304-696-3296 or by e-mail at [jaye.ike@marshall.edu](mailto:jaye.ike@marshall.edu).