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We Are ... Marshall, June 12, 2009

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JUNE 12, 2009

Graduate College, Honors Deans Named

Marshall University has named a new Graduate College dean and a founding dean for its new Honors College in the past several weeks. Both announcements were made by Dr. Gayle Ormiston, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. Donna J. Spindel, who has spent the past 33 years as a faculty member and an administrator at Marshall, has been named dean of the university's Graduate College.



Dr. Donna J. Spindel

Ormiston said Spindel will begin her duties on July 1. She replaces Dr. Leonard Deutsch, who is retiring after 39 years of service to Marshall.

Spindel's administrative background at Marshall includes service as a chair in two different departments, as associate dean and interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, as faculty coordinator for online instruction and as director of University Honors. She came to Marshall in 1976 as an assistant professor of history.

Most recently, Spindel served as interim chair of the department of

English from 2008 to 2009.

"I am very pleased that Dr. Spindel has accepted the position of dean of the Graduate College," Ormiston said. "Her extensive administrative experience will be a great benefit as she facilitates planning and development of graduate programming. Her understanding of the demands placed on graduate programs at this time presents considerable opportunities for review and development."

Spindel graduated in 1971 from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts with a B.A. in History, with distinction, received her master's in 1972 from Duke University, and received her Ph.D. in Early American History in 1995, also from Duke.

Engineering Academy Attracts Students from Seven States

Thirty-six students from high schools in seven states will be on Marshall University's Huntington campus Sunday, June 14 through Friday, June 19 to take part in the ninth annual Exploring Engineering: Academy of Excellence (EEAE).

Dr. Betsy Dulin, dean of Marshall's College of Information Technology and Engineering, said the engineering academy is one of the highlights of summer for the college. It provides an excellent opportunity for high school students to explore engineering as a career, to meet practicing engineers, and to experience living on Marshall's campus.

Dr. William Pierson, chair of the Weisberg Division of Engineering and Computer Science at Marshall, said one theme of the camp's activities is teamwork – the importance of teamwork in planning and in working together to achieve

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Dr. Mary Todd

Dr. Mary Todd, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty for the past five years at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio, has been named Founding Dean of the Marshall University Honors College.

Ormiston said Todd will start her new job Aug. 1. She also will hold a faculty appointment as full professor in Marshall's Department of Religious Studies.

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Crystal Stewart Named Employee of the Month

Crystal Stewart, Program Assistant, Distributed Education Technology, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for April, according to Amber Bentley, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since 2000, she was nominated by Krista Murch. In her nomination Murch wrote:

"Crystal goes above and beyond when it comes to completing tasks. Crystal's customer service is exceptional; when someone is on the phone and she cannot help them ... she will find the answer for that person and not just say 'That is not my department.' Crystal's relationship with faculty, staff and students is commendable. Crystal does not only do (her) duties but if someone is in need of assistance that she can help out, she is more than willing. Crystal is many faculty and staff's go-to person."

And, the nomination continues, "She is in charge of much of the MU Online program, the budget, the courses and the payments. She also works ... with Marshall University Outreach, Instructional Television Services and Marshall's Informational Technology. She not only organizes the



Crystal Stewart (left) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

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Marshall Theatre to Premiere Four New Works

The Marshall University Theatre Alliance and College of Fine Arts will premiere four new plays by local and national playwrights during the New Works Festival 2009 beginning June 18.

The three-night festival will present both staged and unstaged readings of four new plays over three consecutive evenings, June 18-20. All readings will begin at 7:30 P.M. in the Francis Booth Experimental Theatre of the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Each evening's readings will be followed by a discussion/question and answer session with the playwright, director and cast. Participation is both welcome and encouraged. The schedule of events is as follows:

On Thursday, June 18, two new one-act plays by local/national playwright Jonathan Joy will be presented. The first, "Senate Idol," is a satirical look at the Ohio senate race using the popular reality television show as a backdrop. Contestants compete for one of the most important jobs in the state of Ohio, not in the polls, but by "phoning or texting." The only thing that will ensure their place of a senate seat is the TV viewing audience. The second, "Fly by Night," is a comedy that asks the question, "Is there extraterrestrial life

out there, and if there is, are they interested in American politics, marital infidelity and life in southern Ohio?"

On Friday, June 19, a new holiday comedy will be performed titled "The Pep Sturdley Family Christmas Special," by Clint McElroy. Pep is an American icon and his family gathers annually to celebrate the holidays with some good ol' fashioned fun, song and humor. The problem is, Pep's family dysfunction turns the hour-long live broadcast into a chaotic nightmare of epic proportions.

On Saturday, June 20, "Best Imitation," a new musical drama by West Virginia playwright and Marshall University Theatre Alumnus Jeremy Richter, closes out the festival. A contemporary twist on the "boy meets girl" musical genre, this is a dark and sensitive story that follows the strained relationships of mismatched couples looking for love and rarely finding it.

Tickets go on sale Monday, June 14 at 1 p.m. For further information, or to purchase tickets, visit the Marshall University Theatre box office in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center or call 304-696-ARTS (2787). Box Office hours are Monday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$12 per evening or a full festival pass (all three nights) for \$20.

Med School Makes Rural Clinician Awards



Dr. Gary Cremeans

The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has presented its 2009 Outstanding Rural Clinician and Medical Educator Award to two Wayne County physicians, Dr. Gary D. Cremeans and Dr. Glenn A. Harper.

The awards were presented earlier this month by Jo Ann Raines, senior program coordinator and assistant dean for rural programs. She quoted graduating medical students who described the pair as "awesome faculty members" and "very attentive to the learning of students."

The annual award recognizes the teaching contributions of outlying physicians who allow medical students to do a block of their training in the physicians' offices. Raines said this allows students both to further refine their skills and experience the rewards and challenges of rural practice. Last year, Harper and



Dr. Glenn Harper

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Jazz Festival Begins June 24

Jazz-MU-Tazz, Marshall University's summer jazz festival, will present the faculty combo Bluetrane; guest artist, bassist Dr. Toby Curtright; and the Jazz-MU-Tazz Festival Big Bands in concert at the Jomie Jazz Center on Marshall's Huntington campus and at Pullman Square beginning June 24.

Bluetrane, the Marshall faculty jazz combo which will perform Thursday night, includes Ed Bingham, saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies at Marshall; Martin Saunders, trumpet; Mike Stroehrer, trombone; Sean Parsons, piano; Mark Zanter, guitar; and Steve Hall, percussion.

Collegiate and high school students will participate in the Jazz-MU-Tazz Festival Big Bands and student combos Friday and Saturday.

Here is a complete schedule of events:

- Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 p.m. at the Jomie Jazz Center: bassist Toby Curtright
- Thursday, June 25, 7:30 p.m. at the Jomie Jazz Center: Bluetrane with bassist Toby Curtright
- Friday, June 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Jomie Jazz Center: Jazz-MU-Tazz Student Combos
- Saturday, June 27, 5 p.m. at Pullman Square: Jazz-MU-Tazz Festival Big Bands with Toby Curtright

All events are free and open to the public. For further information, persons may contact Bingham at 304-696-3147 or by e-mail at bingham@marshall.edu.

Tuition Assistance Procedure Announced

The procedure for applying for the Employee Dependent Undergraduate Tuition Assistance Program is available on the Marshall University Student Financial Assistance Web site. Go to www.marshall.edu/sfa, click on the Forms & Applications tab, and then on the Scholarships & Grants tab. Faculty and staff may access the Employee Dependent Undergraduate Tuition Assistance Program application directly by going to: <http://webcontent.marshall.edu/sites/sfa/Downloads/EmployeeDependentUndergraduateTuitionAssistance.pdf>.

WE ARE... MARSHALL.



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an

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Profile: Faye Malone Ronk

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Faye Malone Ronk

Her quiet demeanor and calm efficiency have had a soothing effect on the clients who have visited the quarters of the Communication Disorders Department over the past 30 years. And before Faye Malone Ronk had her own office, many children who came there for therapy felt comfortable enough to climb into her lap.

"Kids would sometimes be all around me and I would occasionally be working with one on my lap, but I loved being around them," she recalls fondly.

In her capacity as Administrative Secretary Senior she's seen the department grow and flourish over the three decades she's spent at Marshall. And the equipment has certainly evolved, too. "My first computer was a Radio Shack Tandy and I was scared to death of it!" she says candidly. "Its size alone was intimidating. I was sure I was going to push a wrong button and erase everything!"

Although the Communication Disorders department has evolved and grown, the work they do and the services they offer have remained constant, she explains. "Our services include assessment and treatment of speech, language, fluency, swallowing, hearing, dialect and voice problems. We also have adults who have had strokes or brain injuries, and have aphasia, who come for therapy to rehabilitate their speech and language. We provide services for people from the Marshall University as well as the surrounding communities."

Marshall offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Communication Disorders that prepare students for careers as Speech-Language Pathologists. As part of their training, graduate students, with faculty supervision, work with clients, she says. In her job, Ronk works with 12 faculty members and the director of the Luke Lee Listening, Language, Learning Lab, a preschool for deaf children who talk. The department also hosts the Grow With Music program.

Ronk grew up in South Point, Ohio, and worked in Columbus for 15 years before moving back to the Huntington area where both she and her husband had family. The job at Marshall soon followed.

Later widowed, she married Joseph Ronk in 2001. Together they have three children: Paul Malone of Willow Wood, Ohio, a phlebotomist and welder (he won the state welding competition last year in Ohio); Stacie Ronk Patel, who lives in North Carolina and is the mother of five-year-old triplets; and Benjamin Ronk, who is an Instructor/Pilot for helicopters at Ft. Rucker, Ala. The Ronks are history buffs who enjoy visiting historical sites and taking in museums. They're active in their church, Thirteenth Street Baptist in Ashland, Ky., where Joseph is the music director. He has the musical talent in the family, she admits cheerfully, and in fact once had his own dance band, the Stardusters.

She's a great football fan and of course follows Marshall faithfully. But she's never happier than in the

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Crystal Stewart

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classes for the schedule, pays the faculty and budgets for the rooms, but she also has done the marketing plan to attract more people to our beautiful campus. By putting up billboards, advertising on buses, and overseeing the development of the MU Online desktop backgrounds for the computers on campus, she attracts prospective students."

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

Summer Thesis/Dissertation Awards Announced

Thirteen graduate students have been awarded summer 2009 thesis/dissertation research awards, according to Dr. Leonard J. Deutsch, Dean of the Graduate College. These scholarships are designed to provide financial support to help students complete their theses, Deutsch said. In the \$500 category are the following recipients and their advisors:

- *Lamina Faye Maynard Queen Memorial Graduate Research Scholarship:* Rebecca Denning for "Parental Characteristics and Conceptualizations of their Child's Behavior and Treatment." Advisor: Dr. Marianna Footo Linz, Psychology.
- *A second Lamina Faye Maynard Queen Memorial Graduate Research Scholarship:* Scott P. Jones for "Amphibian and Reptile Assemblages in Natural and Anthropogenic Habitat within West Virginia." Advisor: Dr. Tom Pauley, Biology.
- *A third Lamina Faye Maynard Queen Memorial Graduate Research Scholarship:* Olusegun (Michael) Otunuga for "Finding positive solutions for Boundary Value differential equation on time scale." Advisor: Dr. Basant Karna, Mathematics.
- *The Jaci and Michael Maszta Thesis Research Award:* Sabrina Thomas for "'Marriage Bars' in Cabell County Schools and Marshall College." Advisor: Dr. Kat Williams, History.
- *Elizabeth and Scott Sheets Thesis Award:* Lisa J. Ryan for "Prevalence of and Attitudes Toward Mental Health Concerns in a Rural West Virginia Community Health Center." Advisor: Dr. Paige Muellerleile, Psychology.
- *Mark and Monica Hatfield Thesis Award:* Grace Eibunoluwa Amusan for "The Beta-Maxwell Distribution." Advisor: Dr. Alfred Akinsete, Mathematics.
- *John and Janett Casto Thesis Award:* Aaron Gooley for "Testing the behavioral responses of West Virginia turtles to roads and vehicles." Advisor: Dr. Jayme Waldron, Biology.
- *Dave and Carolyn Haden Thesis Award:* Adam E. Fannin for "A Comparison between Three Methods of Acoustic Bat Detection." Advisor: Dr. Tom Jones, Biology.
- *Dr. Omayma Touma Thesis Award:* Xun Sun for "Twin solutions of Boundary Value Problem for ODE on Time Scale." Advisor: Dr. Bonita Lawrence, Mathematics.

Receiving \$250 grants:

- *Bill Sawren Thesis Award:* Doug Horchler for "Natural History and Long-term monitoring of the Eastern Hellbender Salamander (*Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis*). Advisor: Dr. Tom Pauley, Biology.
- *Dr. Brad Richardson Thesis Award:* Sarah E. Miloski for "Movement patterns and artificial arboreal cover use of Green Salamanders (*Aneides aeneus*) in West Virginia. Advisor: Dr. Tom Pauley, Biology.

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Faye Malone Ronk

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fall when she can turn on TV and take in a smorgasbord of college games. "I just love football no matter who's playing!"

For the past three years the couple has been enmeshed in a gargantuan remodeling project, renovating Joseph's family home in Kenova. It was a labor of love, she says, but make no mistake, it was a labor. "We spent weeknights and weekends, every free minute we had, working on the house. We did everything ... we gutted one bathroom, re-carpeted the upstairs, painted, refinished the cabinets ... you name it, we did it. When we took up the carpet downstairs we discovered beautiful red oak floors, which we had refinished. My husband is a carpenter (who also has a bachelor's degree in speech pathology), and I tried to help him with everything, but sometimes he just ran me out," she says laughing. A skilled seamstress who once sewed all her own clothes, she made use of her expertise to make curtains for one of the rooms. The Ronks moved into their newly refurbished home in February and with just one bathroom remodel to go, the end is definitely in sight. As an added bonus, their collection of antique furniture blends in perfectly with the restored home. As an enthusiastic gardener, she's already been busy planting flowers and there are plans for a vegetable garden in the coming seasons.

Now having passed her 30-year milestone at Marshall, all spent in the same department, she has fond recollections. She's happy that Kathryn Chezik, who was the director of the department at the time she started, and is now the chair of the department, is still here. "To be here for 30 years, I had to like my job, and the people I work with are wonderful, that's one of the best parts of the job. This is a very busy department, but it is so fulfilling to see people improve."

Ceramics Exhibition Continues Through June

Keramos and Friends, a group of present and former members of Keramos Student Pottery Guild at Marshall University, is presenting an art exhibition consisting of ceramic vessels, wall tiles and paintings that will run through June 28 at the Renaissance Gallery, 900 8th Street, Suite 20 in Huntington.

"This exhibition provides an opportunity to showcase the work of a dozen ceramics students," Earline Allen, ceramics professor, said. "It also allows the community to come out and view the work of these very talented artists. Exhibiting work is an important part of earning a degree in art."

"Showing our work with former Keramos members is a way for us to form a lasting art network," Allen added. "As an extended group we have many more opportunities than we would otherwise. It is also a way in which alumni can continue to be a part of the Marshall art community."

Pieces of art from Keramos will also be available for sale.

Thesis/Dissertation Awards

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- *Dr. Nicola LoCascio Thesis Award:* Christina Newsome for "Isolation and Identification of Insulin C-Peptide Binding Proteins." Advisor: Dr. Leslie Frost, Chemistry.
- *Dr. Bill Ratcliff Thesis Award:* Joshua S. Titlow for "Temporal Patterns in the Modulatory Effects of Serotonin and Dopamine." Advisor: Dr. Brian Antonsen, Biology.

Deans

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"Dr. Mary Todd is an experienced faculty member and university administrator who has significant background in honors programming," Ormiston said. "I am very excited about the possibilities the creation of the Honors College presents to the University and I am very pleased that Dr. Todd will join Marshall to help us navigate the process of building the Honors College as its Founding Dean. She will be a great addition to the University community."

Marshall's Center for Academic Excellence will be changed to the Honors College, which will house all honors programs, including the Society of Yeager Scholars. Ormiston said changing the status of the Center for Academic Excellence to an Honors College will bring more visibility of Marshall University to a segment of prospective students whose high school records and test scores place them within the category of honors students.

Todd will collaborate with the provost office, the college deans, department chairs and faculty to design the Honors College. This design effort should result in a strategic plan for the Honors College that will guide its development for at least three years. The plan is to have the Honors College in place for opening in fall 2010.

"I was attracted to Marshall by the commitment of President Stephen Kopp and Provost Ormiston to establish an Honors College to build on the already strong reputation of the Center for Academic Excellence and the Yeager Scholars Program," Todd said. "Honors education serves the entire university as a laboratory for teaching and learning through its model of excellence and innovation."

Todd received her bachelor of arts in history in 1969 from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind., and her Master of General Studies degree in 1990 from Roosevelt University in Chicago. She earned her Ph.D. in American history in 1996 from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Engineering Academy

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a common goal. Another of the major themes of the 2009 academy is "Engineers Make a Difference." To help emphasize this theme, Rodney Holbert of Burgess & Niple (an engineering and architectural firm headquartered in Columbus, Ohio) will give a presentation on opening day about his experiences with Engineers Without Borders.

Beth Wolfe, MU's director of recruitment, said not only is the academy a great way for students to explore the field of engineering, it is a wonderful opportunity for them to explore Marshall University and all it has to offer.

The academy is funded through donations from individuals and corporations. This year's premier sponsors, Chesapeake Energy and the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute (RTI), contributed a combined \$50,000 allowing the academy to expand activities.

Rural Clinician Awards

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Cremeans hosted 18 Marshall medical students for rotations of four to six weeks.

The doctors practice in Kenova at the Cabell Huntington Hospital Family Medical Center. Both graduated from Marshall's medical school, completed residencies there, and now serve on its faculty.