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## We Are ... Marshall, October 7, 2005

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OCTOBER 7, 2005

## Homecoming to R-O-C-K Conference USA

Marshall's entrance into the USA Conference will be celebrated in this year's homecoming festivities with the theme "R-O-C-K Conference USA" as the university gears up for Homecoming 2005 Oct. 14 and 15.

But there are plenty of festive events taking place in the week leading up to the big game with the University of Alabama at Birmingham which has a 5 p.m. kickoff.

Beginning, Monday, Oct. 10, offices are asked to decorate to promote the Homecoming theme and prizes will be awarded. On Wednesday, Oct. 12, the Tri-County Alumni Club of the MUAA will host the Fourth Annual Thunder into Mason County at the Mid-Ohio Valley Center at 4 p.m. in Point Pleasant. The Homecoming Court will be named at noon on Thursday, Oct. 13 in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center. Later at 1 p.m., office decoration judging begins.

Friday is Green & White Day with the first official event of Homecoming weekend, the Coaches' Breakfast, scheduled at the Erickson Alumni Center. The live radio broadcast lets those present as well as radio listeners get to know the coaches a little

better. The DAWG, 93.76 will start broadcasting at 6 a.m. and the coaches will join the broadcast from 8 to 10 a.m.

On Friday both the College of Health Professions, formerly the School of Nursing, and the Alumni Association will hold Open Houses. The CHP will be celebrating 45 years of nursing majors with its Open House from 2-4 p.m. in Prichard Hall 324. The Alumni Association will hold its event from 6-8 p.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center.

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## Jon Cutler Named Employee of the Month

Jon Cutler, Associate Director of Systems in Computing Services, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for September, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Selection Committee.

A Marshall employee for eight years, Cutler was nominated by Dr. Jan Fox.

In her nomination she wrote, "Jon has impacted every single person on campus. He plans and oversees the core university servers, Outlook, student e-mail, anti-virus, etc. Many times he has worked more than a 24-hour shift to complete a conversion."

She recalls that last spring, "He had worked more than 26 hours and had headed home for some much-needed

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## Comprehensive Cancer Center Prepares for January Opening



As part of an event heralding what U.S. District Court Judge Robert C. Chambers called "a new era achievement for Marshall University," Joan C. Edwards (center) cut a ribbon dedicating the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center. U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller (left), Gov. Joe Manchin (right), Rep. Nick Rahall and more than 500 guests were on hand for the event Sept. 30 in front of the MU Medical Center. Describing Mrs. Edwards as "a hero to this community," Marshall President Stephen Kopp called the cancer center "an expression of the commitment of the heart and soul of one person, a community, a university and a state saying 'no more' to cancer." The center, which will offer advanced linear accelerator technology and other state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment options, is expected to open to patients by mid-January.



Jon Cutler, left, received the Employee of the Month award from Dr. Jan Fox, who nominated him.

## **Yeager Honored at Morrow Library; Collection Visible During Special Collection Hours**

Retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager, the first pilot to break the sound barrier, and the man for whom the Marshall University Society of Yeager Scholars is named, was honored Oct. 1 at a ceremony on the Huntington campus.

Nearly 200 people attended the ceremony in the Special Collections Department on the second floor of the Morrow Library. The event marked the dedication of a plaque in honor of the Society of Yeager Scholars benefactors and the generosity of Yeager.

Yeager, a native of Hamlin, W.Va., helped unveil the plaque, which hangs on a wall in the hallway just outside the Chuck Yeager Room. He has been called the most accomplished man in the history of West Virginia, the greatest pilot in history, and a living legend. Yeager is a member of the Aviation Hall of Fame.

"The new plaque is in a perfect place – a section of the library that pays homage to one of the greatest feats in

aviation and to one of the world's greatest aviators," Dr. Edwina Pendarvis, interim director of Marshall's John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence, said.

In 1947, at the age of 24, Yeager captured the world's attention by becoming the first supersonic pilot by breaking the sound barrier in a Bell X-1 experimental aircraft. The Bell X-1 static tube, which was located at the very front of his aircraft, is among the display items in the Chuck Yeager Room.

"That room is really well laid out," Yeager said while addressing the crowd. "It was sort of emotional to go through the display. You see a lot of things that bring back a lot of memories."

Before today the Yeager Room, which features many of Yeager's personal papers and artifacts, along with donations such as the static tube, the Harmon International Trophy and many personal items, such as a small pocket knife that he carried on flights during World War II, was accessible only

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## **Author Ethel Smith to Appear Oct. 13**

Writer Ethel Morgan Smith will read from her fiction on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. in the Shawkey Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Her appearance is sponsored by the Marshall English Department and the College of Liberal Arts. The event is free and open to the public.

Smith has published essays, reviews and short stories in *Callaloo*, *The African American Review*, and in anthologies in the U.S. and Germany. Her book, *From Whence Cometh My Help: The African-American Community at Hollins College*, examines the dynamics of an institution built on the foundations of slavery. The book also explores the subtle and complex relationship between the affluent white world of Hollins College, which is located in Virginia, and the proud African-American community that has served it since 1842.

Smith is an Associate Professor of English at West Virginia University where teaches African-American literature and creative writing, both fiction and non-fiction. She has been the recipient of numerous grants and has been a DuPont scholar at Randolph-Macon College, a Fulbright scholar at the University of Tübingen in Germany and a resident fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation's Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy.

## **Digital Camera Workshop Slated for October 27**

A digital camera workshop, sponsored by the Marshall Technology Outreach Center, is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 27 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Drinko Library Room 349. The registration fee is \$99, which will include all workshop materials. Those attending may bring their digital cameras.

The workshop is an introduction to digital photography and is geared towards those who are considering buying a digital camera, or for camera owners, becoming more proficient in using one. It will cover such facets of digital cameras as purchasing and using them, displaying and sharing digital photos, understanding pixels and image size and basic digital image editing using Adobe Photoshop Elements.

Those interested in obtaining more information or registering for the workshop can contact Kelli R. Mayes, Director of the Marshall Technology Outreach Center at ext. 63325 or via e-mail at [mayes@marshall.edu](mailto:mayes@marshall.edu).

## **Marshall Artists Series to Present 3 Shows This Month**

October is shaping up as a banner month for the Marshall Artists' Series with three diverse events on tap as the Series celebrates its return to the historic Keith-Albee Theatre.

First up is a tribute to John Lennon told through the Broadway musical, "A Day in His Life," which celebrates Lennon's life and music. It's scheduled for Monday, Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. and combines an evening of fictional interviews and stories told with music which give a revealing look at both the life of Lennon and also the Beatles. Tom Piper portrays Lennon.

*Whoopi* says it all. The irrepressible and outspoken performer Whoopi Goldberg brings her own unique style

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## **We Are...Marshall!**

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (312 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Oct. 21, 2005. Deadline is Oct. 14. 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).



## **Note of Thanks**

My family and I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and e-mails expressing sympathy on the death of my mother on September 17. She was a remarkable woman and will be greatly missed. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

*Caroline A. Perkins*

## Profile: Ashish Chandra

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Ashish Chandra

The New Orleans-area house he lived in, as seen from a satellite photograph, is still standing, apparently unscathed by Hurricane Katrina or its watery aftermath.

That came as no surprise for Dr. Ashish Chandra, associate professor of Health Care Administration, who lived in New Orleans for more than four years before joining the Lewis College of

Business as a faculty member located on the South Charleston campus.

"All the time I lived in New Orleans there was always talk of the 'big one,'" he remembers. "Everyone there always knew a big hurricane would hit sometime, but this one, as bad as it is, really isn't really the big one." The dire predictions were one of the reasons he chose to live in the suburb of Kenner, where the airport is located. Its elevation and distance from the lower-lying areas of New Orleans spared it from the worst of the hurricane's destructiveness.

Although a native of Varanasi, India, Chandra is very familiar with Louisiana. Once out of undergraduate and graduate school at Banaras Hindu University, one of the premier institutions in India, his first stop in the U.S. was at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM)—then known as Northeast Louisiana University—where he went on to receive a M.B.A. and a Ph.D. After completing his degrees, he got his first full-time faculty position at Xavier University in New Orleans. He taught at that institution for four years prior to joining Marshall University in the fall of 2000.

Actually he never anticipated becoming a Ph.D. and a professor. "My goal was to get an M.B.A. and make big bucks," he says with his infectious laugh. But his dreams of becoming a titan in the business world took a decisive detour when he stepped into the classroom as a teacher within three days of his arrival in the U.S. "I had a background in computer science and as part of my assistantship I taught computer science ... Hindi is my first language and English is my second. I had everything opposite of what one would consider as being in an 'ideal' teaching environment. There I was teaching in a foreign country to foreign students in a foreign language. But I give credit to my professors and students who made me feel at ease and welcome. I also had so much fun in teaching that it made me realize that teaching is a good profession. After the first semester I knew there was nothing else I wanted to do but teach."

If he was surprised, his father back in India wasn't. Ashish comes from a family of noted academics with prestigious credentials. His father, for example, is a renowned physicist who taught physics at Banaras Hindu University and is now a respected professor emeritus. His sister has a Ph.D. in physics; his younger brother has a Ph.D. in material sciences. His older brother is a retired mathematics professor and another brother is a professor of accounting at Indiana University-South Bend. Yet another brother is a cardiologist, another sister is a surgeon and several brothers-in-law are physicians as well. Various uncles and other relatives have had distinguished careers in education.

He's cheerful when explaining the intricate intertwining of his seemingly large family. "Actually I have only one real brother and sister. But I have several cousins and when I was being brought up in India, the tradition in our family was that

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## Jon Cutler

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sleep. We had a major power failure and the emergency power did not kick in. I had to call him back in to help make sure the systems were protected. He came back and worked an additional five hours without the slightest complaint."

The nomination concludes, "He is always looking out for the best interests of the institution."

Cutler was presented a plaque, balloon bouquet and a check for \$100.

## Homecoming

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That evening the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2005 Induction Banquet will take place in the Don Morris Room, Memorial Student Center at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from the MU Ticket Office at ext. 64373.

A full slate of activities is on tap for Homecoming Day, Sat. Oct. 15. The crowd pleasing Homecoming Parade starts at noon on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. in downtown before heading east on Fifth Ave. Fans can join the Alumni Association for Lunch Under the Tent at Herd Village at 2:30 p.m. for a pre-game tailgate part. The cost is \$15.

Alumni band members will have the opportunity to march with the Marching Thunder in the Homecoming parade, have lunch with the band and perform at the pre-game show at the stadium. Marching band alumni can get more information by logging on the Marching Thunder web site at [www.marshall.edu/cofa/music/band](http://www.marshall.edu/cofa/music/band) and following the alumni link.

The Post-Game Party and Dinner Dance, featuring food and a live band begins 30 minutes after the game ends and will be held at eagle Distributing Co. at 140 Third Ave. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and the price includes food, beverages and live music by HYDROGYN.

Other events scheduled during the weekend include the Second Annual J-Walk a fundraiser for the School of Journalism, which begins at noon on the main plaza; events for members of the Black Alumni Inc. which begin at 7 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel on Friday and continues with several Saturday events; the Tenth Annual 5K Alumni run, sponsored by the recreational Sports Office which begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday; the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the One Room School House Museum which will be open from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday; the College of Information Technology and Engineering (CITE) is inviting alumni, students and friends to visit its tent for a barbecue lunch from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on Saturday at Herd Village. In addition, several groups as well as sororities and fraternities will hosting events around campus. The Safety Technology Program is sponsoring its first alumni meeting at Herd Village from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

## *Toys"R"Us to Offer Marshall Appreciation Night*

Marshall University employees and their guests are invited to an after-hours appreciation event at Toys"R"Us at the Huntington Mall in Barboursville Sunday evening, Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Described as "an evening of fun, raffles, and light refreshments," the event is open by reservation to Marshall employees with IDs and their guests only. To make arrangements to attend, persons may contact Angela Bradshaw at ext. 62385.

# Ashish Chandra

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you do not distinguish among cousins, brothers and sisters. They are all your brothers and sisters and they all care for me and treat me well.”

His family’s achievements could be daunting to live up to for some but he keeps a sense of humor about their impressive accomplishments. “My father was a full professor at age 32. I didn’t even have a job at 32,” he jokes. But even as he was bent on becoming the next Donald Trump, his father predicted he would become a teacher. “I told him, no way, I wasn’t interested. He said, ‘Just don’t pursue psychics, you won’t pass!’” recalls the son who says humbly that even achieving one percent of the name and prestige his father attained would be a very difficult goal to achieve.

However, since completing his Ph.D. program in 1996, Chandra’s steadily been building his own impressive record of achievements. He’s has close to 200 publications including 50 journal articles and approximately 125 proceedings articles. His decision to become a teacher was a wise one. Only nine years after entering the classroom and five years after joining the Marshall faculty, he’s racked up a number of prestigious awards, At Marshall alone, he’s received the 2004-2005 Outstanding Researcher Award at LCOB, the 2003-04 Distinguished Arts and Scholars Award, Senior Division, the 2001-02 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award at LCOB, the \$1,000 Marshall University Merit Award for 2000-01 and again in 2001-02, the Ashland Inc., 2001 Outstanding Graduate Advisor Award for the South Charleston campus, and the Faculty Mentor Award for Rural Healthcare Access project sponsored by the LCOB and SOBM. Also, he was one of five finalists for the 2001-02 Pickens-Queen Teaching Award.

How he got to the U.S. and Louisiana is a tale all its own, one that he delights in telling. Intent on pursuing the M.B.A., while still in India he had enrolled at ULM without knowing anything about its location. After a long, arduous journey he arrived at the Dallas airport with \$262.50 in his pocket. “I started living the American dream prior to arriving in the U.S.—I was already in debt! I borrowed money from my father and other relatives, enough to just take care of initial expenses. When I landed, I didn’t have money to spend on hotels, so I sat with my luggage at the Dallas airport all night long waiting to catch the flight to Monroe. Once in Monroe I didn’t know how to get to the campus, where I was going to stay or anything. Then I saw a sign that said ‘Baptist Association Welcomes International Students’ with a number to call, so I spent one of my quarters and made the call. The man who answered said that was an old sign which should have been taken down, but he agreed to come pick me up anyway. I told him I didn’t have a place to stay, so he took me to a dorm on campus which served as temporary housing for people who didn’t have any other place to stay. I thought, “This really is my lucky day.”

On the ride to campus, Chandra asked the driver if there would be other Indian students on campus and was told yes, there were other students from India attending the university. He was delighted by the news but his biggest surprise was yet to come. With self-deprecating humor he recounts his experience.

“When I got to my dorm room and looked out the window, I saw this huge banner that said ‘WELCOME INDIANS’. I was thrilled to death! They knew I was coming! What a wonderful welcome! I thought, ‘Look at the size of that banner, I’m not the only Indian here, there are lots more to come.’ Then I found out that ‘Indians’ is the name of the football team,” he says with his rollicking laugh. But additional students from India did eventually show up and he settled comfortably into his new life.

He’s known for his concern for students and his rapport with them, although he’s a tough taskmaster in the classroom. “I don’t give grades, students earn them,” he says firmly. He encourages students to engage in research projects and to write papers. He feels it’s particularly important for students to attend conferences. “They

learn from presentations and they meet potential employers and faculty members who may become mentors when they enter doctoral programs ... In addition, they are acting as ambassadors for Marshall; they are carrying Marshall’s name to other places.”

He’s played a major role from the beginning with the International Conferences on Healthcare and when he brought the Third International Conference on Healthcare Systems to Charleston last year, the hugely successful conference involved the work of both faculty and students, many of whom had spent months on planning the event. He gives much credit to Debbie Templeton, the departmental secretary at MUGC, for her dedicated work on behalf of the conference, as well as other faculty members who pitched in. Student help was welcomed but there was a proviso: students working on the conference in any capacity had to present a paper. Chandra is pleased that the quality of work presented by the students made Marshall proud before representatives of nine countries, and over 20 states in the U.S., representing more than 50 institutions And he has high praise for Dr. Leonard Deutsch, Dean of the Graduate College, for his help in finding financial support for students who attend conferences.

“I try to give back to my students what my teachers gave to me,” Chandra says. He still has a network of mentors across the country with whom he keeps in contact. And he strongly encourages students to do research. “I’ve always been very involved in research and I like to see my students take an interest in it as well. Research is a learning experience; it is very time consuming but it keeps you current and keeps your mind fresh. And it definitely makes you more marketable.”

And most important to him, he tries to find time to spend with his wife, Lea and their five-year-old son, Amitabh. Both he and his son are fond of trains and planes and he’s promised Amitabh he will take him on a plane trip sometime this year.

Right now, as usual, he’s juggling teaching, research, writing and serving as an officer or on the boards of numerous groups, all done with his usual aplomb and with seeming ease. He says his philosophy is to enjoy life a bit as well, which he admits he often forgets to practice himself!

## Marshall Artists Series

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and wit to Huntington on Oct. 20 at 8 p.m. giving audiences her outspoken opinion on everything from politics to the love of life.

“Blast!” has been characterized as being the perfect blend of a concert, a musical and a marching band which brings all the spectacle, all the sounds, and all the magic of a drum and bugle corps to the indoor stage.

Ticket information and other details can be obtained by calling the Marshall Artists Series at ext. 63326 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Yeager Room

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by appointment. It now is open to the public during regular Special Collections hours.

“General Yeager is such a rich treasure for this state,” Lisle Brown, curator of Special Collections, said. “Having his collection here is a gem for the university. We now have a room where we can display the material, a place where people can come and enjoy it and get a feel for his career.”

Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp called Yeager “a living legend,” and said his accomplishments are both inspiring and uplifting. “General Yeager is an example of what a single human being can do to change the world,” Kopp said.