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## We Are ... Marshall, January 10, 2003

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# *We Are...Marshall!*

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JAN. 10, 2003

## *Marshall Observes 10th Annual King Symposium*

The Martin Luther King Jr., Tenth Anniversary Symposium, scheduled to run Jan 18-21, will be celebrated through an array of panels, forums, memorial programs storytelling sessions and other activities in honor of the late civil rights leader.

Sponsored by Marshall University's Multicultural Affairs and International Programs and partially funded by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, this year's theme will be "Continuing the Legacy and the Struggle for Justice and Equality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." All events take place in the Huntington area.

Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley, Marshall Vice President for Multicultural Affairs and International Programs, says that as in the past nine years, this year's symposium honors Dr. King's values for peace, social justice and equality.

"I believe these programs will achieve that goal," Cleckley said.

The symposium gets underway Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon with a roundtable panel discussion at the First Baptist Church at 801 Sixth Ave., coordinated by the church's pastor, the Rev. Paul Willis Sr.

An open discussion between youth and community leaders will be part of the Investment in Youth Leadership Forum, which is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. Conducted by the Rev. Samuel Moore, the forum will take place at 1690 Eleventh Ave. Concurrently, a Mentor Literacy Program will be going on at the Y.M.C.A. Daycare Center at 917 Ninth St., coordinated by Jackie Hersman.

In the afternoon, Prof. Philip W. Carter will lead the Youth Leadership and Development Program from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at 1690 Eleventh Ave..

As in past years, the traditional march, led this

year by Grand Marshal Ken Hechler, former U.S. Congressman and West Virginia Secretary of State, will be a highlight. Marchers will gather at 5 p.m. at the Ebenezer Community Outreach Center at 1660 Eighth Ave. and will walk to the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church at 1135 Fifth Ave, where the Memorial Service will take place beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Allen Reasons, senior pastor of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, will preside.

Presentation of the winners of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Competition will be made by Dr. Christina Murphy, dean of the MU College of Liberal Arts and chairperson of the Awards Competition. Music will be provided by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Male Chorus of Charleston and Angela Moore, Marshall sophomore. James A. Muhammad, Director of Radio Programming for West Virginia Public Broadcasting, will be the featured speaker. A reception will follow at 8 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

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## *Author to Discuss Russian Political Affairs*

Dr. Ludmilla Selezneva, author and noted authority on Russian political affairs, will discuss recent developments in her home country during a visit to the Huntington campus Tuesday, January 14.



*Ludmilla  
Selezneva*

The visit is part of a five-day tour of West Virginia, during which she will lecture at college and university campuses and also to civic organizations in Charleston, Huntington, Morgantown and Parkersburg.

Selezneva is a well-recognized authority on 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian history, the history of Russian political movements and parties,

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## *Library Open House Set for Jan. 15*

The Marshall University Graduate College Library, on the South Charleston campus, will hold a Fifth Anniversary Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

# Marshall Web Site Gets Facelift

Marshall's Web site has a new look.

A streamlined version was unveiled last week but the Web site address remains the same: [www.marshall.edu](http://www.marshall.edu).

The new design was developed using input from student, faculty and staff responses to a survey taken last spring. The site features improved navigational and search functions with a focus on providing quick and easy access to key MU resources.

An accompanying template for official MU departmental sites also will be making its debut. The template will be showcased on several academic and administrative sites, including: Career Services,

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The legendary Harriet Tubman will be portrayed by Ilene Evans, Artistic Director/Storyteller of Voices from the Earth, Inc., who will present "General Moses: The Escape—Stories From the Life of Harriet Tubman" Tuesday, Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. The performance will take place in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

## 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 Jan. 24, 2003. Deadline is Jan. 17. 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).



College of Education and Human Services, College of Fine Arts, College of Science, Enrollment Management, Human Resource Services, MUOnline, Office of Admissions, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, University Computing Services.

## Russian Author from Page 1

and the modern political history of Russia. She has written and co-authored 10 books, including *Russian Liberalism of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* and *Problems in Adapting Foreign Political Systems*. She has authored more than 40 articles on past and current Russian issues.

The agenda for Selezneva's visit includes an 11 a.m. discussion with members of the Women's Studies Student Association on the status of women in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia; a noon luncheon with campus and civic leaders; a 3:15 discussion with the Honors Student Association on post-Soviet Russia; and a 4:30 p.m. classroom discussion with the Russian Politics class.

She currently serves as a professor of writing and politics at the University of Humanitarian Education in Moscow. She taught Russian history at Rostov State University in Rostov-on-Don, Russia from 1981 through 1997.

Selezneva holds a Ph.D. in History from Rostov State University and a second Ph.D. in Politics from the Russian State University for Humanities in Moscow.

## Vickers Retires

Jane Vickers who has been employed in the library since coming to work for the university 32 years ago, is retiring effective January 10. She has been active in classified staff affairs and served for several years as Marshall's representative on the Advisory Council of Classified Employees.

"It's been a terrific ride," Vickers said. "I'll miss all the wonderful friends I've made. Go Herd!"

## Profile: Ken O'Neal

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Ken O'Neal

The photos on the office walls tell a fond family saga, of lively pets and photogenic people. The photos are large and small, framed for the most part. In one large photo, a multi-colored cat creeps shyly out of a tangle of flowers. In another, a good looking, reddish dog stares pensively at the camera. In yet another feline portrait the subject looks imperiously at the photographer, just a whisker shy of a smirk. And everywhere, sharing space on walls with decorative college seals, and tucked into shelves are photos of children, of all ages, in pairs, in groups, by themselves, having a good time, laughing, cutting up, with pets, or sometimes just waxing reflective for the photographer, who is their grandfather, Ken O'Neal.

With a life-long passion for photography and as an avid collector of vintage cameras, O'Neal, who is Director of the Graduate Admissions Office, finds a never-ending source of photo opportunities with his own family and their menagerie of pets. With three adult sons and six grandchildren ranging from age 4 to 17, somebody's always doing something worthy of a candid snap.

After spending nearly 28 years in various locations in the Kanawha Valley at what is now the Marshall University Graduate College, O'Neal is looking down the road to retiring eventually and really pursuing his favorite hobby, with dreams of a fully-equipped darkroom beckoning as an enticing retirement goal.

But for right now he's busy running the offices that provide services to graduate students, overseeing their paperwork, maintaining records and enrolling graduate students in the Kanawha Valley and throughout the state, among other duties.

It's a busy office and very student oriented, he says, thanks to his staff. "I have a wonderful staff, they're experienced and professional. We're here to take care of the students, that's our primary concern. With a staff of five, which includes Shelvy Campbell, Linda Javins, Leslie Lucas, Linda Rhodes and Mary Wolfe, they have nearly 70 years of student services experience among them."

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## 'Fosse' Comes to Keith-Albee Feb. 4

His stylized choreography revolutionized musical theatre. Now highlights of the work of legendary dancer, choreographer and director, Bob Fosse will unfold on stage as *Fosse*, the Tony Award winning musical, comes to the Keith-Albee Theatre February 4 at 8 p.m. as part of the Marshall Artists Series.

Acclaimed for his Broadway hits *Sweet Charity*, *Chicago*, *Dancin'*, *The Pajama Game*, *Damn Yankees*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really*

*Trying*, among others, and such films as *Cabaret* and *All That Jazz*, in 1973 Fosse became the first director in history to win Oscar, Tony and Emmy awards in a single year. He accomplished that feat with the film



version of *Cabaret*, the Broadway musical *Pippin*, and the television special, "Liza With a Z," which starred Liza Minnelli.

*Fosse* includes rarely seen dance and musical numbers from the choreographer's earliest works, as well as many numbers from films and television shows that have never been seen on stage before. The production also showcases classic Fosse dance numbers like "Steam Heat," "Big Spender," "Bye Bye Blackbird," "Rich Man's Frug," and "Sing, Sing, Sing."

In reviewing the show, the New York Times



characterized it as "Pure exhilaration...the cast dances and sings with an energy that threatens to raise the roof!"

Ticket information can be obtained by calling ext. 6656.

## Ken O'Neal

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Today's technology makes things a whole lot easier than the way things were done in past years, O'Neal says. He remembers pre-computer days when the admissions and finance offices along with faculty members and many of the deans, packed vans and cars full of files and materials and made the trek to southern West Virginia where staff put in a marathon weekend registering students at various locations in Beckley, Bluefield, Athens, Summerville and Lewisburg.

"We literally brought the college to the students, right where they lived," he says. "It was one of the services we provided and we did this willingly for several years."

But he's not sorry those days are past because today with just a flick of a computer key that same full range of student services can be accessed in seconds.

"Technology has made such a difference, for all of us," O'Neal observes. A self-taught computer whiz, he's had a fascination with them since his earliest encounter, a room-sized state-of-the-art behemoth at Indiana University which had for then an astounding 16 kilobytes of memory.

"Now" he laughs, "even the smallest desktop computer has 250 or 512 kilobytes of memory. But back then, 16 kilobytes was really impressive." Working at a small institution like the graduate college was an incentive to for him to hone his technology skills. "There are so many things you have to be able to do at a small institution and since we had no computer support group, I just learned to do them. There are things that you need to know to get the job done so you just learn them. And technology has made all the difference in the world in our office. It lets us do our jobs much more efficiently and in a much more timely way."

Born in Chicago, O'Neal moved with his family to Indiana when he was in junior high. And it was about this time he developed twin interests in photography and music. An avid shutter-bug even then, he worked on high school publications and contributed photos to a local community newspaper. He went on to get two degrees from Indiana University at Bloomington, an undergraduate degree in business education and a master's degree in counseling.

In addition to his other talents, he's musically talented as well, although he's overly modest about his accomplishments. He was, in fact, a good enough trumpet player to be selected as a member of the elite Indiana University Marching One Hundred. The band was so popular, he remembers, that a majority of IU football fans stayed glued to their seats at halftime in order to watch the band perform, the highest kind of compliment.

Following his graduation from Indiana, and

with a growing family of three sons, he spent several years as registrar for Indiana University Northwest in Gary. His move to the graduate college came in 1975. The O'Neals quickly settled into their home in Hurricane and the next years were a whirlwind of school activities, bands, athletics and all the myriad activities of an active family. O'Neal's wife, Judy, has been a successful and enthusiastic science teacher at Hurricane Middle School for more than 20 years. With the press of family activities, his keen interest in photography took a back seat for a while although he continued to be the family chronicler as evidenced by the numerous photos that dot his office. He's delighted that a daughter-in-law has developed an interest in photography as well.

And he never lost his interest in cameras. Not just any cameras, but vintage beauties, including a rare 4 X 5 Speed Graphic. Some date back to the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

"I probably have 40 cameras," he says, "and the newest one is probably 20 years old. The largest one is the Speed Graphic and the smallest in a spy-type camera. I can't get film for some of the cameras and for others I have to buy film and re-spool it."

And the cameras aren't just for show, either. He uses most of them and says they still work perfectly. His favorite one, in fact, is more than 30 years old and still takes great pictures and functions without a hitch.

His collection has come from several sources. He's found e-bay to be a treasure trove for the avid collector. He's picked up cameras from place to place and some have been given to him as gifts.

When he gets that dream darkroom, he wants to work exclusively, at least for a while, in black and white photography, which he feels is more challenging and more artistically creative.

West Virginians by choice, the O'Neals plan to spend many more years in the house they built mostly with their own hands in a rural area near Hurricane.

So, for now he's busy making plans for the future and what promises to be a very energetic retirement. "Our pets, my hobby and the constant need for remodeling and repairs to the house will keep me busy during those retirement years that will begin not too long from now!"