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We Are ... Marshall, May 3, 2002

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MAY 3, 2002

Marshall to Honor Four with Doctorates

Four people well known for their success in the business world will receive honorary doctoral degrees from Marshall during commencement ceremonies May 11 at the Huntington Civic Arena. Graduation is set for 9 a.m.

The honorees, Verna K. Gibson, Gale Y. Given, Edward T. Howard III, and Edward H. Maier, will receive Doctor of Humane Letters degrees. To date, Marshall has granted a total of 144 honorary degrees.

"It is an honor for our institution to have the opportunity to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of these individuals," President Dan Angel said. "It is an even greater privilege to say thank you to these individuals for their constant efforts to enhance the educational opportunities for students at Marshall University."

Verna Gibson is nationally known for her outstanding career and leadership in the retail fashion clothing industry. She joined The Limited Stores as a merchandising trainee in 1971 and worked her way up the corporate ladder to become president and CEO of The Limited Stores. She was the first woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company. Gibson led the company through an impressive expansion from eight stores to more than 770 nationally. She has received several awards, including the AMA Marketer of the Year Award in 1990. In 1996, Gibson received the Marshall University Distinguished Alumnus Award. She is a member of the John Marshall Society and a former member of the Society of Yeager Scholars. She has provided significant financial support by establishing the Verna K. and James E. Gibson endowment for Yeager Scholars.

Gale Y. Given was elected the first woman state president of Verizon West Virginia in June 2000. Reared in Point Pleasant, she graduated from Point Pleasant High School in 1976 and earned her bachelor's degree in math from Marshall in 1979. She later earned a master's degree in business administration through MU's Saturday Executive MBA Program. She is a member of the Governor's Technology Enterprise Investment Council and the West Virginia Roundtable. At Verizon, Given oversees Verizon West Virginia's operations, external affairs, regulatory and financial matters for West Virginia and Kentucky.

Edward Howard III is president of JCPenney's west region, a position he has held since 1996. He oversees 325 JCPenney stores in 21 states and more than 39,000 associates. A native of Beckley and a 1960 graduate of Stratton High School, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Marshall in 1965. He sits on numerous boards of directors, including the Marshall Society of Yeager Scholars Executive Leadership Council and the John Freeman Hightower Foundation. Howard started with JCPenney in



Verna Gibson



Gale Given



Edward Howard



Edward Maier

1965 as a management trainee with the downtown Huntington store. He held a variety of management positions in various stores before being promoted to store manager in Dayton, Ohio.

Edward H. Maier is president of the Sarah and Pauline Maier Foundation, one of the Kanawha Valley's largest philanthropic organizations. A Charleston resident, he has a long history of civic leadership and philanthropy in the Advantage Valley Region. A 1969 Marshall graduate, Maier has served as president of General Corporation and three additional Kanawha Valley-based companies, Big Two Mile Gas Company, Dunbar Storage Company, and the W.J. Maier Storage Company for the past 29 years. He serves on the boards of several private corporations, community and nonprofit foundations and groups. He formerly served as a board member of the Society of Yeager Scholars.

U.S. Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, who was granted an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1977, will be the keynote speaker at this year's commencement.

Grad Students Receive Hoods May 9-10

Hooding ceremonies to honor master's, education specialist, and doctoral degree recipients will be held in Charleston and Huntington on separate days prior to Commencement. Approximately 160 graduates are expected to attend each event.

The Charleston ceremony takes place at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9, in the Charleston Civic Center Coliseum. In Huntington, the hooding ceremony is set for 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 10, in the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium at Huntington City Hall. The two ceremonies are held for the convenience of students, allowing them a choice of locations.

Each graduate will be recognized individually when a faculty member presents a hood in a color indicative of the field of study.

(continued on page 4)

Marshall Community Invited to Comment on Web Site Proposals

Members of the Marshall University community and Internet users in general are being asked for feedback on proposed new designs for the Marshall University World Wide Web site.

“With the adoption of a new logo last year, concerns over accessibility for disabled users, and the astronomic growth of web publishing at Marshall University, the web site is ready for a ‘facelift,’ “ said Matthew Christian, Director of the Center for Instructional Technology. “The process is underway and your feedback is desired.”



Nassau

The current home page contains a link to an introductory page and three template designs. Users can click on the thumbnails to view the images at full size within a browser window. There is also a PDF document (857k) available that points out features of the designs. The document points out desired features within the new designs like streamlined access to content areas, improved news and announcements

areas, etc. When they have finished looking at the designs, users can submit a survey form with comments.

According to Christian, the survey will remain active through the end of the semester, but there will be more opportunities to provide input. Over the summer break, focus groups and usability tests will be conducted to insure that the web site will be user-friendly and Section 508 compliant for disabled users. Implementation of a new design will take place beginning this fall.



Shiloh



Panama

With the fanciful names of Nassau, Shiloh, and Panama, these three potential designs for the Marshall University home page are available for comment at www.marshall.edu/www/newsite.

Former Marshall Sociology Chair Dies

Dr. Ozzie Norman Simpkins, 84, of Chesapeake, Ohio, died April 16 at Cabell Huntington Hospital. Dr. Simpkins was a Marshall faculty member for 37 years and served 19 years as chairman of the Sociology and Anthropology department.

He received a B.S. in Psychology and a M.S. in Sociology from Marshall and completed a Ph.D in Sociology and Anthropology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Upon his retirement, he was named Professor Emeritus.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine; a daughter, Karen Li Simpkins; a son, Sean Ozzie Simpkins; one granddaughter, Dariya; and a sister, Beatrice Matthews. Donations may be made to a scholarship fund in Dr. Simpkins' name through the Marshall University Foundation.

Service Awards Luncheon

The eighteenth annual Service Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, from noon to 2 p.m. in the W. Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Howard R. D. Gordon, Professor of Adult and Technical Education, had an article, “American Vocational Education Research Association Members’ Perceptions of Statistical Significance Tests and Other Statistical Controversies,” published in the *Journal of Vocational Education Research* (Vol. 26, No. 2). The journal can be accessed at <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JVER/>.

Dr. Roxane Dufrene and **Dr. Robert Bickel** of the College of Education and Human Services are coauthors of a paper titled “Community, Opportunity, and Crime on School Property,” which Dr. Dufrene presented at the annual meeting of the Appalachian Studies Association. At the same meeting, Ms. Cynthia Smith, a candidate for the Master of Arts in Teaching, presented a paper titled “Poor Rural Neighborhoods and Elementary School Achievement.” Along with Ms. Smith, the paper was coauthored by Dr. Bickel and **Dr. Teresa Eagle** of the College of Education and Human Services.

Dr. Barbara P. Guyer, Professor of Special Education and director of Marshall’s H.E.L.P. program, which she began in 1981, recently was elected vice president of the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA). The organization is a parent/professional organization of 50,000 members devoted to improving the lives of children and adults with

(continued on page 4)

We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (110 Administration Building).

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of May 17, 2002. Deadline is May 10. 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.



'Ragtime' Arrives Tuesday

Ragtime, a timeless tale of innocence lost and freedom won, will be presented Tuesday, May 7, at 8 p.m. in the Keith Albee Theatre.

Based on E. L. Doctorow's best-selling novel, the musical tells the epic story of three American families at the turn of the

20th century who discover an era where everything was new and anything was possible.

Ragtime paints a panoramic portrait of three remarkable families, one upper-middle class white, one socialist immigrant Jewish and one Harlem African American. As their personal voyages of self-discovery unfold, their lives become intertwined with one another, as well as with real-life historical characters including Henry Ford, Harry Houdini, J.P. Morgan and Booker T. Washington. At the same time,



Ragtime is interwoven with pivotal historic events such as Admiral Peary's expedition to the North Pole, the sinking of the Lusitania, and the development of assembly-line technology.

The show swept the 1998 Tony Awards for Best Original Musical Score, Best Book of a Musical, Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical and Best Orchestrations.

Tickets, which are \$36, \$38, and \$40 plus tax, are currently on sale through the Marshall Artists Series Box office. Hours are noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets can also be ordered by phone at 696-6656.

Faculty, Staff Can 'Test-Drive' Windows XP

Windows XP and Office XP, the latest Microsoft Windows and Office upgrades, are now available to faculty and staff, according to Gary Weis, Computing Services.

Explanatory web sites can be visited at www.marshall.edu/ucs/windows and www.marshall.edu/ucs/office. These sites have a link to a short video presentation as well as other links of interest regarding Windows XP and Office XP.

In addition, Windows XP/Office XP machines have been set up in the Center for Instructional Technology lab in room 436 of the Drinko Library for users who wish to view and "test drive" the new features. The computers are configured to resemble typical Dell computers purchased in the last several years.

Beginning this fall, users accessing the Marshall web portal, www.marshall.edu/myMU, will have access to weekly articles on the "Best Practices and Tips" for using software applications such as Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and others.

"If you have not visited the myMU web portal, this may be a good time to get acquainted with all the features available to you," said Weis. "These features will be announced soon within the myMU web portal."

For additional information or for questions, e-mail him at weis@marshall.edu.

Med School Professor Addresses Hypertension May 14

"Hypertension" will be the topic of the May 14 segment of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine's Mini Medical School program. Jayson Yap, M.D., will be the speaker for the program, which gives the public an opportunity to hear from medical experts in a monthly forum.

The sessions are held the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the MU Medical Center Atrium. Presentations are approximately 30 minutes long, followed by a 15-minute question-and-answer session.

Organizers say the topic is of special importance in West Virginia, where the Bureau of Public Health reports state residents are significantly more likely than Americans in general to have hypertension.

Yap's lecture will begin with basics about hypertension and the precautions that should be taken before a diagnosis of hypertension is made. He will also discuss evidence supporting the treatment of high blood pressure, factors that affect it, and special aspects of treating hypertension in elderly patients. In addition, he will cover lifestyle changes and non-drug approaches to managing high blood pressure.

Yap, who joined the Marshall faculty in 1995, is board-certified in both internal medicine and nephrology.

Upcoming topics include, June 11, Polypharmacy, Lynne Goebel, M.D.; July 9, Asthma, Imran Khawaja, M.D.; August 13, Travel Medicine, Thomas Rushton, M.D.; September 10, Depression, Steven Cody, Ph.D.

The series is sponsored by Pfizer Pharmaceutical.

Marshall's 3rd Doctorate Approved

President Dan Angel has been notified by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) that the Institutional Actions Council has voted to extend Marshall's accreditation to include the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. The program will begin this fall.

This action, later validated by the Commission Board of Trustees, increases the number of doctoral programs the university can offer to three. The HLC is part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

It is the second time in two years that Marshall has been granted a request to offer an additional doctoral degree. In its 164-year history the university had only offered one doctoral degree program. Last year Marshall received NCA approval to offer a doctorate in psychology, which will begin this fall. The university also offers a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences.

"Getting NCA approval twice in just two years to offer new doctoral programs at Marshall is a verifiable result of our commitment to achieving national prominence in academics and research," Angel said. "This is great news for the Marshall community."

Justice Appointed to South Charleston Post

Frank Justice, former Vice President for Development at Marshall, has returned to the university as Director of Major Gifts for the Elizabeth McDowell Lewis College of Business and the Graduate College programs in South Charleston.

After retiring from Marshall, Justice was Associate Dean for Development and Executive Director of the Foundation at

(continued on page 4)

Hooding from Page 1

In addition, four people will be honored for their contributions to Marshall University. In Huntington, Dr. Katharine Rodier will receive the Ashland Inc. Outstanding Advisor Award and T. William Signorelli will be honored as the Distinguished Graduate Student Alumnus. In Charleston, Dr. Teresa Eagle will receive the Ashland Outstanding Advisor Award, and Dr. F. Duke Haddad will be awarded the Distinguished Graduate Student Alumnus Award.

Eagle has been a Marshall faculty member for the past four years and has won accolades from both students and faculty in the doctoral program in Leadership Studies. Her faculty nominator, Dr. Michael Cunningham, said she “serves as an exemplary model of graduate advising and is so recognized within the program and the school.”

A student commented, “She strongly encourages and provides opportunities for students to access and explore a broad base of research regarding best practices in education....Dr. Eagle is an outstanding educator who inspires her students to establish goals and pursue both personal and professional development that will foster a lifelong love for learning as well as the skills and desire to share that love with teachers, students and parents.”

A well-published scholar and dedicated advisor and mentor, Rodier has just completed her seventh year at Marshall. Dr. David Hatfield, chair of the English department, said, “Every weekday during the school year, Dr. Rodier is available in an outreach capacity to meet or communicate by telephone or e-mail with current, past, or prospective students (and parents). During the summer, a particularly busy season for new admissions, she also maintains these functions despite the fact that she is uncompensated at the time for this work.”

A student remarked, “She is an inspiration and role model for anyone pursuing a graduate degree in English at Marshall University.” Another noted, “She is always professional, knowledgeable, kind, considerate and always available.”

Haddad, a native of Charleston, earned a Master of Public Administration degree in 1976 from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, and completed his doctorate in Education Administration from West Virginia University in 1986. He has served as director of alumni affairs and/or development at a number of universities. Currently he serves at Indianapolis’ St. Vincent Hospitals and Health Services and St. Vincent Hospital Foundation as vice president of development and executive director. A prolific author, he has been published in numerous national publications. In 1994, he received the Outstanding West Virginian Award.

Signorelli earned a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from West Virginia State College in 1975 and received an M.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Marshall in 1978. He oversaw the first Corrections Officer Training Academy at the West Virginia State Police Academy. In 1982, he founded Security America Inc., which today employs approximately 350 people. He continues to serve as the company’s president and CEO. Signorelli been active in the U.S. and West Virginia Chambers of Commerce and has been recognized by several groups for his civic and business accomplishments.

Whear to Receive Honorary Doctorate

Dr. Paul W. Whear, Emeritus Professor of Music and Resident Composer Emeritus at Marshall University and Conductor Emeritus of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra (formerly the Huntington Chamber Orchestra), will receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree at Marquette University’s commencement May 19.

Whear, an alumnus of Marquette, has had his compositions performed worldwide and has guest conducted extensively. His music career also included college-level teaching, music camps and workshops spanning four decades.

Justice from Page 3

Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, N.C., a position he held from 1999 through 2000.

“I failed retirement three times,” Justice said. “I just needed to do something and I wanted to go somewhere where I know I can help.”

Faculty/Staff Achievements from Page 2

learning disabilities. LDA has 50 state affiliates and more than 600 local chapters. Guyer began the H.E.L.P. program to assist students with learning disabilities and related disorders. The program also provides college students, medical students and the community at large with assessment services for those experiencing learning differences and/or attention difficulties.

Dr. Heather Hagerman, Associate Professor of Counseling, and **Dr. Lisa A. Heaton**, Assistant Professor of Elementary and Secondary Education, made presentations at the WebCT Asia Pacific 2002 Conference in Melbourne, Australia, March 25-27. Hagerman’s presentation was “Strategies for Facilitating Student Success.” Heaton’s topic was “Quality Counts—Using WebCT to Deliver Professional Development to PK-12 Educators.”

Dr. Jose L. Morillo, Associate Professor of Spanish, delivered the essay, “Counterculture and the Spanish Youth Movement of the Eighties,” at the 55th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference at Lexington, April 18-20.

Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs and International Programs, presented a paper, “The Marshall University Carter G. Woodson Faculty Initiative: Reaping the Benefits of a Culturally Diverse Faculty” at the 2002 national conference on **Keeping Our Faculties: Addressing the Recruitment and Retention of Faculty**, on April 22, at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia, and **Dr. Ancella Bickley**, Scholar Affiliate with the center, were honored by the West Virginia Legislature during the 2002 session. They were recognized for their book, *Memphis Tennessee Garrison: The Remarkable Story of a Black Appalachian Woman*, and their role in the preservation of black history.

Garrison was an African-American woman from McDowell County who achieved local, state and national prominence for her work as a teacher and activist. In recognition of her work, Marshall awarded her an honorary doctorate degree.