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We Are ... Marshall, May 4, 2001

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MAY 4, 2001

Faculty, Retirees Receive Year-End Awards

Twelve faculty members received awards and retiring faculty member were honored at the General Faculty Meeting held April 12 in the Joan C. Edwards Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Receiving awards were, Joan Tyler Mead, COLA, Charles W. Cox, History, and Donald C. Tarter, Biological Sciences, Distinguished Service Awards; John McKernan, English, CASE 2000 West Virginia Professor of the Year; Donna Donathan, Community and Technical College, Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award; Eric Migernier, Modern Languages, Kateryna Schray, English, and Dan Hollis, Journalism and Mass Communications, Pickens-Queen Teaching Awards; Dallas Brozik, Finance/Economics, Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award; Victor Fet, Biological Sciences, Gary Saunders, Accounting/Legal Studies, and Elizabeth Bryda, Microbiology, Distinguished Artist & Scientist (DASA).

Retirees recognized included Dr. Margaret A. Bird, Biological Science, 32 years of service; Dr. Arun Desai,

Finance/Economics, 12 years of service; Dr. Dwight Jensen, Journalism, Mass Communications, 12 years of service; Dr. W. Richard Lemke, Music, 25 years of service; Dr. Anna Law Meador, Accountancy/Legal Environment, 12 years of service; Dr. Don B. Springman, Elementary/Secondary Education, 23 years of service; Dr. Charles W. Cox, History, 32 years of service; Dr. Suzanne Barile Desai, Management/Marketing, 12 years of service; Dr. F. William Kroesser, Environmental Science, 27 years of service; Dr. Joan Tyler Mead, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, 18 years of service; Dr. Robert Saunders, Exercise Science, Sport & Recognition, 33 years of service; Dr. Donald C. Tarter, Biological Science, 32 years of service.

Renna Moore is Employee of the Month

Renna Moore, secretary for the Higher Education for Learning Problems program, (H.E.L.P.) has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for February, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month selection.



Renna Moore

Moore, a Huntington resident, has been with the university for six years. She was nominated by Dr. Barbara P. Guyer, director of H.E.L.P. In her nomination, Guyer wrote, "Renna is the kindest, most thoughtful person I have ever known. In all the frustrating and exasperating experiences that she has had with students, parents and employees I have yet to see her lose her 'cool.' She is always the epitome of good manners."

Guyer cites Moore's patience and her willingness to work tirelessly with students and their parents as special attributes. "... students in the H.E.L.P. program...know that when they need to talk to a friend who will honor their request for confidentiality, Renna Moore is that person. She has become the substitute mother of many unhappy Marshall students."

"When young people from the community need a place to stay for a variety of reasons, Renna and her husband, Rev. Sam Moore, will always take them in. Rarely have I seen a

New Fee Structure Approved for Parking

With a new parking garage and an additional 700 parking spaces on the horizon, Marshall University has adopted a new parking fee structure to pay for the bonds issued to build the new spaces. The new fee structure will begin July 1, 2001.

University officials say that since MU is the fastest growing higher education institution in West Virginia, parking has been an issue for quite some time. These new capital improvements are expected to help alleviate the problem and to that end a new fee structure has been adopted that will pay for the project, and according to officials, still be reasonable for those who will get the most use from spaces.

Marshall faculty, staff and students currently pay \$5.42 a month for parking. The price increase will be as follows for the 2001-02 academic year: Surface parking, \$7.50 a month or \$90 annually; garage parking, \$9.17 a month or \$110 annually.

Faculty and staff can have their fee deducted from their monthly payroll, which will make them eligible for a tax shelter which could save as much as 28 percent of the fee.

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Faculty Elect Senate Leadership

James Sottile, Jr., COEHS, has been elected president of the Faculty Senate, according to results of the recent election. Donna Donathan, MCTC, will serve as vice president and Cheryl Brown, COLA, was named secretary.

Other posts filled include the Executive Committee: College of Information Technology & Engineering, Herb Tesser; College of Nursing & Health Professions, Bruce Brown; College of Education & Human Services, James Sottile, Jr.; College of Fine Arts, Larry Stickler; College of Liberal Arts, Cheryl Brown; College of Science, Ashok Vaseashta; Community and Technical College, Donna Donathan; Lewis College of Business, Joe Abramson; Library, Wendy Moorhead; School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Chuck Bailey; School of Medicine, John Szarek.

Those serving as Standing Committee Liaisons include: Academic Planning, Blaker Bolling; Athletic, Glenda Lowry; Budget & Academic Policy, Wendy Moorhead; Curriculum, Kristine Greenwood; Faculty Development, Beverly Delidow; Faculty Personnel, Elaine Baker; Graduate, James Sottile, Jr.; Legislative Affairs, Rudy Wang; Library, Nick Freidin; Physical Facilities & Planning, Mildred Battle; Research, Pam Mulder; Student Conduct & Welfare, Clara Reese; University Functions, Bart Cagle.

Faculty Senate Meets Thursday

The last meeting for this academic year of the Faculty Senate will be held Thursday, May 10, beginning at 10 a.m. in the MSC Alumni Lounge. The agenda, April 19th Minutes and Recommendations have been sent to members by e-mail. If anyone has been unable to print the documents, or wish to receive a hard copy, contact Bernice Bullock in the Faculty Senate Office at ext. 4376.

Excused Absences

Absences have been excused for these students on the dates noted:

April 20, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. - Rebekah Gant, Kristin Glass, Derek Gwinn, Emily Morse, Jason Skanes, Elizabeth York.

April 30 - Elizabeth Hatcher, Kristin Comer, Blaine Kelley, Matthew Pittman, Greg Wheeler.

We Are...Marshall!

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

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of May 18, 2001. Deadline is May 11. 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.



Faculty/Staff Achievements

Professor Jean M. Chappell, assistant professor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, had a guest editorial, "Exciting Future, Opportunities Await New Grads" published in *Advance for Medical Laboratory Professionals Special Student Edition* on March 26.

Dr. Steve Shuklian, associate professor of economics, presented three papers at the Western Social Sciences Association meetings in Reno, Nevada, April 19-21. They were titled, "Can a Red be a Green?: Marxism and Ecology;" "Seven Methodological Biases of Neoclassical Economics;" and "In Defense of the History of Economic Thought."

Dr. Alina Zapalska, professor of economics, is the first author of several recent referred journal publications. They include "Entrepreneurial Start-up and Growth: A Case Study of Thailand," *Journal of Private Enterprise*; "The Life-cycle Growth Approach to Analyzing Entrepreneurship in China," *Journal of Private Enterprise*; "Learning Market Skills Through Simulation" (with **Dr. Dallas Brozik**), *Journal of Private Enterprise*; "Chinese Entrepreneurship in a Cultural and Economic Perspective" (with **Dr. Will Edwards**), *Journal of Small Business Management*; "Thailand and the Asian Crisis: Case Study of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Hostile Business Environment," *Southwest Business and Economics Journal*; "Teaching Maori Students Business Issues with Simulations and Experimental Methods" (with **Dr. Dallas Brozik**), *Education and Training Journal*. In addition, Dr. Zapalska's list of publications also includes book chapters/conference proceedings in *Teaching Economics: Instruction and Classroom Based Research*, for McGraw Hill & Robert Morris College, which include: "The Use of Games in Financial Economics;" "Active Learning Instruments for Teaching Undergraduate Economics Concepts," with Dr. Dallas Brozik; "How to Teach Contemporary Issues in International Business;" and "Innovations in Teaching and Assessing Intermediate."

Dr. Victor Fet, associate professor of biology, co-authored a chapter in the new book: Yamashita, T. and V. Fet, 2001 *Molecular Approaches to Biogeography*, in P.H. Brownell & G.A. Polis (eds.), *Scorpion Biology and Research*, Oxford University Press, pp. 347-369.

Dr. Marjorie Keatley and **Wylma Skean** of the Business Technologies Division, MU Community and Technology College, recently attended the National Business Education Association 2001 conference in Atlanta, GA. Skean completed her term as the 2001 coordinator for the business education association MAC schools. During the past year, Keatley and Skean each successfully completed the testing required to be approved administrators in all areas of the Microsoft Office User Specialist exams.

Classified Staff Election Results Announced

Three classified staff representatives have been re-elected and will represent Marshall on two advisory boards, in elections held last week.

Tanya Bobo was elected to the Institutional Board of Governors. Stephanie Neal will represent the Huntington campus, and Joe Taylor, the South Charleston campus, on the Advisory Council of Classified Employees. All three will serve two-year terms.

Profile: Dan Evans

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Dan Evans

There's a pharmacy in the jungle and it's chock full of intriguing plants with exotic names, and uses. For example, there are plants that can ease arthritis and joint pain, cure a headache, help a digestive problem, and work as an insect repellent. Then, for the really laid back fisherman, there are even plants that bring pools

of fish right to the angler, ready to be scooped up without ever putting a line or hook in the water.

Dr. Dan Evans, professor of biological sciences and curator of Marshall's herbarium—a large plant collection of some 50,000 plant specimens—can tell you all about these plants and the many, many more species of medicinal plants he has been studying during his 27-year tenure at Marshall.

And for the past 20 years, to expand his knowledge of these specimens, he's traveled regularly to one of his favorite research sites, a remote area in southeast Ecuador, near the Peru border. Here he's found a treasure trove of plants used for medicinal purposes by the indigenous people of that region.

"Their culture is probably several thousands years old and they are isolated people. They have been contacted by Europeans but they are still very geographically isolated," he says. He's been studying and researching the medicinal plants used by these groups, many of them having been in use for centuries.

"The use of plants has to do with the fact that modern medicine is in very short supply in that region. There may be a physician or a nurse who will come in for a short period of time and drop off antibiotics or other medicine. But these are quickly used up so they use plants to deal with a number of diseases and conditions such as parasites, viruses, and bacteria."

In the past 20 years there has been a resurgence of interest in using plants as a source of medicine, Evans says. In fact, he taught a popular course last summer on that topic as part of the integrated science program and will be teaching it regularly in the future summers, he hopes.

He has visited Ecuador 10 times over the past several years and his enthusiasm for the people he lives with there and his studies of the plant life of the region haven't dimmed. He and his colleagues are well accepted by the local people who welcome them back each visit.

"One of the very nicest things about going to Ecuador is that you are not shunned, you are not put off," he says. "I've dealt with some 11 villages and the people treat me very well. They provide me with a place to sleep, they take me through their rainforest where we look for plants and they tell me about them."

But don't expect to go there as a tourist, he warns. Living conditions can be rugged and there are none of the modern conveniences so highly

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Renna Moore

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time when just the Moores and their three children are living in their home. She cooks for quite a few hungry mouths without every complaining once. She is truly amazing!"

Her work habits are exemplary as well, Guyer notes. "Renna is seldom absent from work. When she is sick, she will always tell me, 'If you need me, just let me know, and I will try to be there.' She has many sick days that she does not use and many comp hours that she does not redeem."



Renna Moore received her Employee of the Month plaque and check in person from President Dan Angel.

Guyer goes on to say, "Renna Moore is dearly loved by the employees of H.E.L.P. The love which she has for people can be seen in her face, and her colleagues respond to that accordingly. Whenever a colleague is upset by something on the job or at home, a conference with Renna is just what the doctor ordered."

In addition to her duties with the H.E.L.P. program, Moore sings in the choir of her church, teaches Sunday School, directs an after school program, the Kids of the Kingdom, that meets once a week, teaches a Wednesday night Bible class, and goes with her husband on visitations to church members. And, Guyer says, she tries to take MU classes as often as she can and still finds time to attend most of the Marshall football and basketball games.

She concludes by saying, "Renna Moore is an outstanding example of the characteristics that a Marshall employee should possess. It is indeed a privilege for me to work with her."

WebCT Training Offered

Three two-hour classes on creating WebCT classes will be offered May 21-22 on the South Charleston campus in room 210 of the Robert C. Byrd Building.

In addition to learning about the distance software program, the classes will help Sherri Ritter, Lisa Heaton, and Bradley Morgan complete their requirements to become certified WebCT trainers. Currently only one person in the state, Brian Morgan, former director of the Center for Instructional Technology, and now a MU faculty member, holds that certification.

The classes will be taped for two hours with no break. The classes scheduled include one on May 21, 2-4 p.m., taught by Bradley Morgan; one on May 22, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., taught by Sherri Ritter; and one on May 22, 2-4 p.m., taught by Lisa Heaton. For additional information, contact Sherri Ritter at ext. 1948, or by fax at 2063.

Dan Evans

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prized by tourists. "There are no bathrooms and you sleep on something of your own making, but it is invigorating to go and be with these people, and of course do your work," he notes.

He learned to take a portion of his own food and have the cooks mix his food with their own so he can enjoy both types. "They have a lot of root crops which are high in starch, but not particularly high in protein. So they supplement their diet with game, principally birds, including parrots and smaller birds, and monkeys, as well as fish, a lot of fish"

And why not, since they are so easy to catch. It's done with a fish catching plant—or at least a fish harvesting plant—which would certainly be the envy of every erstwhile angler who ever came home with an empty hamper.

The villagers use a plant, which when crushed and placed in a stream, stuns the fish allowing tribesmen to simply scoop up their catch of the day. And, Evans says, while the poison in the plant affects the fish, it has no effect at all on the humans who eat it. One of his students did an anatomical study on the location of the poison in the plant and some of his chemistry colleagues are interested in its chemical composition.

There could be some practical applications in the future and ultimately some commercial use, he believes. But he cautions that in developing a product from a plant that is indigenous to a great portion of the Amazon basin, "We need to devise a way of making sure if money is made from the product then a portion of it should go back to the indigenous people who discovered or uncovered it."

The South American Indians he lives and works with are overall very healthy, he says. "They are trim people, muscular, relatively shorter than we are. I'm usually the tallest person around and I'm 6 feet tall. As they age they tend to get a little stockier but you seldom, or almost never, see an obese person. Both children and adults lead an active outdoor life.

Adding to their healthy lifestyle is a low incidence of hypertension and relatively no air pollution. Most of the illnesses that strike adults and children have to do with parasites and other things common to all tropical countries. "But generally," he says, "if a person survives childhood, he or she will probably live a healthy life because most of the things we consider bad for us, they don't have!"

In his years of studying the plant culture in Ecuador, he has uncovered some surprises.

"I've found species of plants that are known to science but that have never been recorded as medicinal. One of my most interesting finds was locating a plant that was a heretofore unknown source of curare."

Curare, he explains, is a potent form of muscle relaxant, commonly used on the tips of arrows or darts shot from blow guns. Years ago curare became well known after it was used as a favorite plot device in movie serials of the 1930's-40's and the lurid low budget adventure movies of that era as well as for the purple prose writers of popular pulp fiction. Most of the scenarios featured fierce warriors immobilizing their hapless victims through blow gun darts or arrows, all dipped in curare. Actually, Evans said, the writers got it right for the most part, at least about the properties of curare. It is commonly used in the hunting of animals because the powerful muscle relaxant causes the breathing muscles to shut down, killing the prey. It probably has been used on humans, but not recently he suspects.

He went to Ecuador last summer, fully expecting to continue his research in the jungle but unstable political conditions intervened. After some oil company employees were kidnapped and held hostage for ransom by local guerrillas, the American Embassy advised visitors to keep out of the area which he had planned to visit, a region several miles south of where the abductions took place. He did academic work while in Ecuador, however, at a Catholic university and later presented a paper to a congress, which he had intended to do anyway.

This summer he will be working on another research interest, the study of the flora found in wetlands. He has, in fact, a grant to do a study in Wayne County, in a wetland mitigation area, which he explains is an area protected by law. "Since wetlands are so important to the ecosystem, the law says if one is destroyed, another one must be built back so there is no net loss. This project is a study of proposed mitigated areas for the Department of Highways which destroyed wetlands while building roads."

Because of West Virginia's hilly terrain, the state contains relatively few wetlands, he explains, because the water runs off the hills and doesn't collect in wetland pools such as are found in flatter country. After decades of destruction, he says, laws are now stringently enforced to protect wetlands throughout the country, with the Corps of Engineers, for which he is a consultant, as the leading regulatory agency.

In addition to his role as a faculty member and researcher, Evans is also the curator of the MU herbarium, a large plant collection—about 50,000 specimens, which have been pressed, dried and mounted on a special acid free paper before being filed away. The herbarium, he says, dates back to 1930 but there are plants that go back to the 1800's. These collections are used in classroom work, in research, exchanged with other universities, and now they can be used as a source of DNA.

The herbarium is important, according to Evans, because it allows students to study actual plants from not only West Virginia, but other states and countries as well. An exchange program allows native plants from this area to be sent to other universities while receiving a like number from distant regions. And art students have discovered the delicate beauty of many of the specimens and are using them as subjects in their classes.

Evans, in fact, chaired a meeting of herbarium curators from throughout the southeastern U.S. when the group met recently in New Orleans.

In addition to the herbarium, which is located on the third floor of the science building, there is a greenhouse attached to the science building, where live plants are grown. An animal museum, also located near the herbarium, holds an extensive animal collection. Both the herbarium and the animal museum may be opened to the public. Visitors are asked to let a faculty or staff member know before coming to view the exhibits so someone can be there to assist.

And working in Wayne County this year, he'll undoubtedly become reacquainted with some former students.

"We have a large number of our graduates, some who have gone on to complete Ph.D.'s, who work for the Corps of Engineers and state agencies, as well as other planning and consulting agencies. Many of the people who participate in these environmental studies are biology graduates from Marshall."

So, although Evans won't be spending this summer with his friends in Ecuador, he knows he'll be going back. "I expect I'll return there for the rest of my life on an intermittent basis. People there are very nice and so very accommodating."