

11-22-2002

We Are ... Marshall, November 22, 2002

Office of Marshall University Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter

Recommended Citation

Office of Marshall University Communications, "We Are... Marshall, November 22, 2002" (2002). *We Are ... Marshall: the Newsletter for Marshall University*. Paper 185.
http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter/185

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Marshall Publications at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in We Are ... Marshall: the Newsletter for Marshall University by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • Nov. 22, 2002

Marshall Receives Funding for Biotechnology Center

Marshall University is a step closer in the development of a biotechnology development center, thanks to the approval of a \$6 million grant by the West Virginia Economic Development Grant Committee.

The biotechnology center project was one of 29 economic development projects, totaling \$118 million, that were approved last week in Charleston.

The announcement "...marks another important green letter day for Marshall University," President Dan Angel said. "This project will certainly have implications for economic development not only in Huntington, but throughout south and south central West Virginia. This is something that is forward looking and recognizes the new knowledge-based economy."

Howard Aulick, Vice President for Research, said the biotechnology development center will support the work of the university's researchers as they develop projects for the future.

"This facility will complement and enhance the marketability of KineticPark and other sites throughout the state that are targeting technology-based development," he said. He added the decision provides Marshall with a significant tool to support the future economic development of the state and the region.

The biotechnology development center is expected to create a regional economic impact of more than \$14.8 million in its first year, according to a study by the MU Center for Business and Economic Research.

Huntington Campus Wears Lights for Holiday Season

Marshall's Huntington campus was lighted for the holidays Tuesday at the 3rd annual Winter Festival. Lights were turned on, holiday carols were sung, children had their pictures taken with Santa and Miss Claus, and beverages and cookies were served.

Those who had pictures made with Santa are reminded that the photos are available for pickup at the University Communications office, 213 Old Main, during regular business hours.



Holiday Reception is Dec. 5

The annual faculty/staff holiday reception is set for Thursday, Dec. 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center. Hors d'oeuvres and entertainment will be provided. Faculty and staff may bring a spouse or an adult guest to the festivities.

'Saturday Night Fever' Heads for Keith-Albee Monday Night

If you want to relive the days of disco balls and white polyester suits, then **Saturday Night Fever – the Musical** is the place to be when it comes to the Keith-Albee Theatre on Monday, Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. as part of the Marshall Artists Series.

Set in New York City, the show follows the exploits of an ambitious, talented Brooklyn kid with a burning desire to make it big in Manhattan. The original movie featured an unprecedented 12 top ten hit songs that helped launch the 1970s disco-dancing craze. Such songs as "Stayin' Alive," "Night Fever," "How Deep Is Your Love?," "You Should Be Dancing," "If I Can't Have You," and "Jive Talkin'," were instant hits and defined the disco era.

The live version of **Saturday Night Fever** was first presented at the Palladium in London in 1998. It was followed by a Broadway engagement in New York City where it ran from Sept. 1999 to Dec. 30, 2000.

Tickets can be obtained through the Marshall Artists Series Box Office in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Hours are Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. Credit card reservations can be made with a Visa or MasterCard by calling ext. 6656.

Theatre to Present 'Godspell'

"Godspell," the musical retelling of the Gospel According to St. Matthew, will be presented by the MU Theatre Department Dec. 5, 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

The production is being mounted by students in the improvisational theatre class and is the culmination of a semester's work, according to Eugene Anthony, the instructor, who also is the director and choreographer for the show.

It is being staged for the Marshall community only, with free tickets available for students, staff and faculty, on a first-come, first served, festival seating basis. Tickets can be picked up at each performance.

A fully mounted production using minimum sets, props and costumes, the musical recounts through song and dance such parables and familiar Bible stories as the prodigal son, the good Samaritan and Noah's ark. With a score by Stephen Swartz, "Godspell" opened off-Broadway in 1971, where it ran for 2,127 performances before moving to Broadway in 1976, where it played for 527 performances. A film version appeared in 1973.

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 Dec. 13, 2002. Deadline is Dec. 6. 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.



Cardiovascular Unit Receives Continuing Accreditation

The cardiovascular disease fellowship program at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has received continued full accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

The ACGME's Residency Review Committee reported no citations and "commended the program for its demonstrated substantial compliance." The program, which currently trains nine fellows in advanced cardiovascular medicine, will be reviewed again in 2004.

"It is extremely rare for a review committee to impose no citations, so we are quite pleased," said Dr. Charles H. McKown Jr., Dean of the School of Medicine. "We are exceptionally proud of this program, which played a pivotal role in allowing St. Mary's Medical Center to achieve its ranking last year as one of the nation's top 100 cardiovascular hospitals."

Dr. Paulette Wehner is the director of the fellowship program.

Fifth Third Endows Women's Studies Lectureship with Gift



Marshall's Women's Studies program received a \$100,000 gift from Fifth Third Bank, which was presented at a ceremony in the Drinko Library last week.

The gift comes from the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund, of which Fifth Third Bank is trustee, and will be used to endow a distinguished lectureship in women's studies. The lectureship will bring to the campus nationally renowned scholars on a wide array of issues relating to women's studies.

Extra Holiday Approved for Nov. 27

Wednesday, Nov. 27 has been approved as an extra holiday by President Dan Angel. University offices will be closed Nov. 27-29. The extra holiday was made possible when Gov. Bob Wise declared the day after Thanksgiving a state holiday.

Profile: Gary Anderson

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Gary Anderson

It sure looks like magic—liquids change colors, brilliant flames shoot out unexpectedly, nylon thread appears to be spun out of nowhere and things go pop and sometimes even bump.

And the man at the front of the class wearing safety goggles and giving mile-a minute patter is in fact a magician of sorts—he's Dr. Gary Anderson, Professor of Chemistry, aka Mr. Magic.

It's true he's up to a lot of tricks, he freely admits, gleefully pulling off flashy stunts for audiences of enthralled students of all ages from kindergarten on up.

But it's not magic, he warns, it's "gee-whizz" chemistry, with enough pizzazz to get the attention of even the most laconic science slacker. That's really the whole point of the magic presentations he does regularly for schools and other groups throughout the year.

With boundless enthusiasm, laced generously with humor, he's been on a crusade for years to prove that even a daunting subject like chemistry can be fun. "To be honest, you can do some pretty exciting chemistry and bore kids to death or you can do some simple chemistry and get them real excited. If you have their attention, you can start teaching them something," he says.

And although there are Mr. Magic shows for all ages, it's the younger audience he's most eager to reach. "If I can convince them that science is fun before somebody else tells them it's hard, I've won the battle," he says with his rollicking laugh.

The shows he takes on the road are a combination of good science and good showmanship. No matter what the age of the audience, the chemistry he does is pretty much the same. Only the glib showbiz patter changes.

"With younger kids, I'm basically showing them things, but with older students, I feel obligated to teach as well as to make it fun," Anderson says. "In all cases, the idea is to show that science, and in particular chemistry, can be fun."

The experiments may look impromptu, but in reality they are carefully planned and prepared in advance. Aply aided by a cadre of Alpha Chi Sigma (the chemistry fraternity) members, he takes his show on the road to just about any place at any time, performing for audiences as small as 10 and as large as 200. And they never cease to wow appreciative audiences.

There are two main tests he applies to any "trick" he does. First, it has to be absolutely safe, both for him and the audience. And it must be showy, the showier the better.

As students hang on his fast-paced patter, he energetically works the room as a skilled conjuror who banters back and forth with his assistants and

(continued on page 4)

Marshall Celebrates New Housing/Dining Project



Marshall Board of Governors chairman Gary White affixes his name to the piece of drywall, which will be a part of the new dining hall.

With the signing of a piece of drywall last week, Marshall signified that construction of new residence and dining hall facilities has passed the halfway mark. The drywall will hang in the new dining hall.

President Dan Angel was joined by the university's Board of Governors and other officials for a progress report on the construction project. Charles R. Neighborgall, president and CEO of Neighborgall Construction Company, general contractor for the project, said the work is on or ahead of schedule for the residence halls and dining facility.

The residence halls are slated to be finished by July 15 and the dining facility is targeted for completion by Dec. 15, Neighborgall said.

"To look at what we have accomplished on campus is truly amazing," Angel said. "When I came here two years ago, students wanted two major issues addressed: parking and housing. With the dedication in September of our new parking facility and the forthcoming residence facilities, we have dealt with those two issues."

The new complex will include four new residence halls and a new cafeteria. The residence halls will be set up in a suite arrangement. Each residence hall will have 44 single rooms with four single bedrooms per suite. There will be 11 double suites with two double bedrooms per suite. There also will be four quadruple bedroom suites, with four double bedrooms per suite. The new cafeteria will feature a small workout facility.

Note of Thanks

The family of Julia Barnhill extends thanks to the Marshall community for your support following the loss of our mother on November 3, 2002. The various expressions of sympathy we have received during this time of sorrow are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Larry Barnhill

Gary Anderson *from Page 2*

makes magic happen all over the place. There are, for instance, the three seemingly empty beakers that turn red, white, and blue, respectively, when a liquid is poured into them from a single beaker. Then there are the four “empty” beakers that produce what variously look like water, red wine, ink or lemonade when liquid is poured into them. Add to that the dazzle of flash powder, the seemingly endless rope of nylon thread pulled from a container and bottles that mysteriously change colors—everything demonstrates a scientific principle. It may not look like serious science but it is, just glitzed up as a nifty magical show.

Anderson knows firsthand the value of a well-taught subject. His passion for science, and particularly chemistry, started early and in the classroom. “I had a good high school chemistry teacher. He got my interest, and I need to get the interest of others...you can take some of the simplest little things and have fun with them and get people’s attention.

“I had good scholarships and I want to give something back. So if I can encourage young people to get interested in getting an education, first of all, and an education in science and particularly in chemistry, that’s even better.”

Anderson earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Oklahoma and a Ph.D. from Florida State, which he followed up with two years of postdoctoral work at Stanford University. After a six-year teaching stint at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, he joined the Marshall faculty in 1981.

His Mr. Magic persona began quite by accident as a last-minute command performance by a dean at Missouri. “He called and said he needed something for an open house, that’s all that was said. A colleague and I remembered having seen some science shows from the past, so we pulled some things together and performed. It was well received, so I continued to do the shows, adding experiments and new things after I came to Marshall. Word of mouth has done all the rest.”

From the beginning, Marshall was a good fit for him, Anderson says. “I found what I was looking for when I came here. I wanted to teach at the undergraduate level and have an opportunity to do some research, and that’s been a nice combination.”

In addition to his Mr. Magic performances, he’s generous with his time in other ways, doing workshops for teachers, showing them experiments that can be easily done using common household materials, such as red cabbage, lemon juice, vinegar, baking soda and 7-Up.

Right now, his life revolves around the field of chemistry and his teaching. He’s long had an interest in the history of chemistry and alchemy. He spent time last year while on a sabbatical leave reading and researching those topics, gathering knowledge he plans to integrate into his classes. One of his chief interests is the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. He also puts in time as the chairman of National Chemistry Week for the local chapter of the American Chemical Association.

His enthusiasm for chemistry and science is boundless. And it’s not just youngsters he wants to reach. Along with his other teaching duties, he teaches integrated science courses for non-science majors and an online introductory class. Chemistry, with its math component, can be very

scary to people, many of whom have had a scanty science background, have been out of school for several years or were never very good at science and math to begin with, he says. But armed with his quick wit, an infectious laugh and his enthusiastic can-do attitude, he works hard at disarming fears.

And with that sense of whimsy, he’s a soothing influence for the people who would rather have a root canal than take a chemistry class.

“For my online course I have a lot of 40- and 50-plus-year-old people who say ‘I’m scared to death of math,’ but they are better than they give themselves credit. Too many people want to figuratively run down the halls screaming ‘I can’t do that! I can’t do that!’ A big part of my job is convincing them they can do it. I don’t succeed in all cases but I do get through to a lot of them.”

The chemistry majors are a continuing source of pride to Anderson. “We’ve have extremely good chemistry students. One of our students recently won a Goldwater Scholarship and there are only 300 given nationally in science and technology. Alpha Chi Sigma fraternity has a national scholarship and two of the last four recipients have been Marshall students. Consider they were competing against students from MIT, Cal Berkeley and the Big Ten schools!”

He’s delighted at the number of women who are entering and excelling in the fields of science and chemistry, a far cry from bygone days when women were not encouraged to enter these fields. In fact, he tries to make sure at least one of his Mr. Magic assistants is a woman. “They’re great role models for the young girls who get to see an intelligent, accomplished female excelling in science,” he says.

“Our whole purpose is to go out and get the kids in the schools to start thinking about chemistry in a positive light, because all some of them see in the newspaper or on TV is about a chemical spill. So we’re trying to get their attention and make it seem like fun and instill in them that chemistry can be fun, but it is definitely worth the effort,” he says.

And, ever the optimist, he practices what he preaches. “If you ever get to the point in your life that you say to yourself, ‘I’ve got to go to work today,’ that’s one kind of attitude. But on the other hand, if you say, ‘Well what can I do to have fun today,’ that’s the best attitude of all. And if you can’t honestly say that, you’re probably in the wrong job!”

Harless Center Initiates Hall of Fame for Rural Education

The university’s June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development honored its first three Hall of Fame inductees last week in a ceremony in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

The inductees were chosen for their significant contributions to enhancing education in West Virginia, particularly in rural areas. Each of the inductees made an impact in one of three categories: administration, teaching and business partnerships.

The three inductees are Dr. Bernard Queen, representing administration; Dr. Jane McKee, representing teaching; and James “Buck” Harless, representing business.