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we Are...Marshall, January 16, 2013

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

January 16, 2013

Profile: Samuel Boateng



Kicking a ball around a sunny playground in his native Ghana came as natural to Samuel “Sammy” Boateng as getting up in the morning and heading off to school. Soccer was more than just a sport, it was a passion for him and his schoolmates who played the game for endless hours during school down times, after school, even on weekends.

“In Ghana, soccer is what virtually all kids do,” the office assistant in the Office of Medical Education at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine explains. “You start to play early and play until you ‘age out’ and start work or prepare for a career.”

And now that soccer prowess, so finely honed as a youngster on the fields of Accra, the capital city of Ghana where he lived until coming to the U.S. several years ago, has led to his being named the Next Generation Coach for 2012 by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Winning the award was a big thrill for Boateng, who played four years of collegiate soccer at Marshall. He currently is a coach for the West Virginia Soccer Club Rowdies and also coaches the Huntington High School team.

Soccer has had a huge impact on Boateng’s life, both on and off the field, as he noted in the essay he submitted to NSCAA. He learned a great deal about life through his playing, he wrote. “I learned about how it is not just about winning and losing, but about the journey and how I have grown from it....Soccer made a difference in my life by helping me grow from middle to high school, to helping pay for my education in college, and coaching is a perfect way for me to help other kids. That drives me to stay involved in coaching soccer.”

Boateng, along with his mother and sister, settled in the Columbus, Ohio, area when he was 10, and it was quickly evident that all those hours spent on the soccer fields in Ghana had elevated his skills well past those of his teammates. He became a member of the Blast F.C., a club team that allowed him to stretch his skills and showcase his natural athleticism and speed even more. The Blast, he says, “showed me a whole new light. The club had great coaches from all over the world and from different levels that taught me many things about the game of soccer, but most importantly, a great deal about life.”

After graduating from Gahanna Lincoln High School in Gahanna, Ohio, Boateng was recruited by several colleges, including Marshall, for their soccer teams. He chose Marshall because of the educational opportunities the university offered and went on to play four years before graduating in 2011 with a degree in biology. He stayed on at Marshall, first accepting a position in the Faculty Affairs office before moving on to the Office of Medical Education. He's at a crossroads career-wise right now, he says, but eventually he would like to explore the possibility of entering a physician assistant program.

Actually it was an easy decision to remain in Huntington because he likes the city and its relaxed urban feel. "Coming to the U.S. from Ghana was a big change for me because things are so much faster here," he says. "Although I grew up in the capital city and there was a lot of hustle and bustle, still in comparison the pace is much quicker in this country. Huntington is a nice mixture of the two; it's a much more relaxing atmosphere and I really like the people I've met here."

He's able to juggle his multiple coaching duties because the high school seasons take place in the fall while the club teams play in the spring. He's very proud that the teams did well last year. The Rowdies, coached by Marshall women's soccer coach Kevin Long, won the state championship and the high school boys team made it to the quarter finals. And Boateng tries to instill in his teams the tenets for success that have been an integral part of his life both on and off the field.

"I tell the boys' team that they're not just coming to practice to play, they're learning a life lesson. They need to not only show up on time but be early, be prepared to play, be willing to learn from their mistakes. I tell them that college coaches look for what you do after you make a mistake, how you handle failure, how you go about fixing what went wrong, and can you make something good come out of a mistake. To play soccer you need skill and vision and you need to be comfortable with the ball. You also need to be able to concentrate even when you're tired."

Fitness is also a key element to any sport, he knows, so Boateng works hard to stay in shape by running and working out regularly at the Rec Center, many times with his girlfriend Dominika Zaprazna, a member of Marshall's women's tennis team. She's recently introduced him to yoga, which he really enjoys. It's extremely relaxing, he says. Yoga also helps him stay flexible, which is important because "when I play with the kids, I'm not this old guy running off the field feeling hurt!" The couple sometimes play tennis together, so who wins when they play? "Oh she wins, definitely, there's no comparison," he says, laughing. "And the equally athletic Zaprazna is a real threat on the soccer field as well, he adds.

Later this month, Boateng will be traveling to Indianapolis, Ind., where he will accept his award as Next Generation Coach. It will be a proud moment for him, but he is quick to thank the people who helped him get it. "I owe Bob Gray, the head coach for the Marshall men's team a lot. He was ... instrumental in helping me get into coaching. And I've really enjoyed being an assistant to Kevin Long. Working with both boys and girls—it's been a huge joy in my life."

Nominations sought for student leadership and service awards

Both student and faculty/staff nominations are being sought for this year's Student Leadership and Service Awards ceremony, which will take place May 3.

The Division of Student Affairs annually presents awards to outstanding members of the MU student community, recognizing the students' contributions to the university in leadership roles and in service to the university and the community. In addition, there are two awards that recognize the outstanding contributions of faculty or staff members who serve as advisors to student organizations.

Nominations are due before noon March 25 and applications are due before noon April 12. Specific awards and nomination forms are available at www.marshall.edu/student-affairs/awards. If there is difficulty in submitting a nomination online, e-mail caul3@marshall.edu

Gift for MIIR from Allied Realty takes Marshall to \$15 million 'Bucks for Brains' goal

Marshall University officials announced last week that a gift from Allied Realty Company is the final private donation needed to reach the university's \$15 million West Virginia Research Trust Fund fundraising goal.

Allied recently made a \$150,000 donation to support the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (MIIR) and the College of Fine Arts. The \$100,000 portion of the gift designated for research at MIIR, in addition to other year-end gifts and pledges, is expected to be matched by the state's trust fund and will allow Marshall to draw down the last of the money allocated to it in the fund.

The West Virginia Legislature created the trust fund, which is also referred to as the "Bucks for Brains" program, in 2008 with an initial appropriation of \$15 million for Marshall and \$35 million for West Virginia University. Over the past five years, the universities have been able to tap into the fund to double private gifts that support research initiatives linked to economic development, health care and job growth. With this latest Allied contribution, Marshall has raised its maximum of \$15 million in private donations, which, with the match from the trust fund, will result in a \$30 million benefit to the university. The program has led to the creation of 16 new research endowments at Marshall and will increase the university's overall endowment by more than 15 percent.

“It is entirely fitting that Allied Realty Company made the donation that brings us to our goal,” said President Stephen J. Kopp. “Allied was the first private donor to step forward when the trust fund program was established, and they have been supporting research at Marshall with generous donations ever since. The Polan family and their company are community leaders in every sense. We are fortunate to have their commitment to advancing local and regional economic development through research.”

He continued, “On behalf of the entire Marshall community, I extend a hearty thank you to all the donors who have made it possible for us to reach this milestone. Their contributions will help ensure funding for research that will advance new discoveries and promote economic development far into the future.

“I also want to express deep gratitude to our state’s leaders, including members of the state legislature and officials at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, who had the foresight to support the ‘Bucks for Brains’ concept. We hope the success we have had will encourage continued support and reinvestment in this program.”

Allied Realty Company President Rebecca Polan said MIIR’s role of conducting commercially viable bioscience research at the university and facilitating partnerships with outside companies is vital to the future of Huntington and the entire region.

She added, “We are pleased to support organizations that serve Huntington, the state and region. Marshall University makes the Huntington community an excellent place to live, learn and work.”

Lake Polan, Allied’s chairman of the board and CEO, said, “By helping Marshall University expand its presence as a leading research institute, we are helping our community leverage itself into the knowledge economy.”

Since 2008, Allied has donated a total of \$450,000 for research at Marshall. With the match from the state’s trust fund, the total benefit to the university from Allied’s gifts is \$900,000.

Dr. Ron Area, Foundation CEO, said Allied and other donors like the research trust fund program because they can essentially double their gifts, while making a lasting impact through endowments.

He said, “Hats off to Allied Realty for this most recent generous gift and for serving as pioneers in the trust fund program. They have helped us show others what a wonderful incentive the trust fund is. Donors like being able to maximize their contributions and, because their gifts are doubled and endowed through this program, they know they will be helping students, faculty and the community for generations. We have gained a good deal of momentum over the past year, and have additional qualifying donations and pledges ready to match if the state allocates more money for the trust fund.”

Dr. John Maher, vice president for research, added, “The proceeds from these endowments are already impacting research programs across the university—from science to engineering to

medicine. Thank you to the donors and the state leaders who helped establish the research trust fund. We look forward to watching these research and economic development initiatives grow and prosper over the coming years.”

The \$50,000 portion of Allied’s recent gift designated for the College of Fine Arts will support the college’s capital campaign, including renovation of the former Stone and Thomas building in downtown Huntington. The renovated facility will house Marshall’s visual arts and graphic design programs.

MIIR was founded in 2008 to promote economic development and entrepreneurial activity by funding commercially viable bioscience research at Marshall and facilitating partnerships with outside companies.

Stephanie Hurley named Employee of the Month



Stephanie Hurley, Residence Life Specialist in the Department of Housing and Residence Life, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for October, according to Michelle Brown-Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed at Marshall for more than two years, she was nominated by John F. Yaun, director of Housing and Residence Life.

In his nomination, he wrote, “She is an extremely valuable part and team member of our department. First, she is responsible for all of the academic initiatives in HRL such as LLCs, FIGs assessment, programming, faculty collaboration, student learning outcomes, supervision, and numerous other activities. She understands the importance of best practices, faculty involvement in students’ lives, and benchmarking against MU peer institutions in order to make our services better for the students we serve.”

Yaun says Hurley exhibits the qualities of a role model for her staff through her commitment to her work, the students and Marshall. “Her work has had numerous positive impacts on the university—increased enrollments, increased staff morale and support, a sense of pride among her staff, and getting more faculty involvement in our FIGs and LLCs. She has a wonderful attitude, always wearing a wonderful smile, and [I] have never heard a negative comment come from her ever!”

Yaun goes on to say that he is very proud of the work and leadership Hurley provides in HRL. “She is a dedicated member of my staff who cares deeply about the work she does and the students she serves.” In closing, he writes, he has “...the highest regard for her work and utmost

confidence and belief in her abilities in working with students, leadership, determination, and commitment to student learning, development and academic success.”

Hurley was presented with a plaque and a check for \$100 by Matt Turner, Chief of Staff.

Photo: Matt Turner (right) presents the Employee of the Month Award to Stephanie Hurley.

FYS students’ projects featured on National Day of Listening website

Selected stories from students in Professor Jennifer Sias’ First-Year Seminar (FYS) classes last fall are featured on the StoryCorps’ National Day of Listening website.

The stories resulted from the class’s final project in which students were assigned to interview a person who has made an impact on their lives and produce an audio or video digital story. All of their stories are on the class website: <http://muweb.marshall.edu/wpmu/fys100-sias/>.

“We used StoryCorps’ [Question Generator](#) as a starting point for developing interview questions, and then students had the freedom and responsibility to develop questions tailored to their interview subjects,” Sias said. “[StoryCorps, This I Believe](#) and [This American Life](#) all influenced our approach to conducting interviews and storytelling.”

Throughout the FYS class, Sias and her students considered, discussed and reflected on various aspects of critical thinking, including the beliefs of others as well as their own.

“I am so proud of the work of these FYS students,” Sias said. “Think about it, the work of some of these first-year students has now been ‘published’ or featured on a website that has a national and even international audience.”

Sias said two of the Marshall students’ best stories on StoryCorps’ National Day of Listening Website are interviews conducted by students Joey Paugh and Danelle D. Wandling. They can be found at www.nationaldayoflistening.org.

Choral Union seeking new members

Members of Marshall University's Choral Union, an ensemble dedicated to outstanding performance of choral masterworks, are once again inviting members of the Tri-State area to join them for the spring season.

2013 marks the 100th anniversary of Benjamin Britten's birth and the 70th birthday of Morten Lauridsen, who is still very active composing and teaching in the United States. The pieces to be performed in the spring semester include Britten's *Festival Te Deum*, Lauridsen's "Sure on this Shining Night," and Edward Elgar's *Scenes from the Bavarian Highlands*.

Directing the chorus this semester is recent MU master's degree graduate William Murphy. He has been the director of Choral Union since January 2012, with previous performances including John Rutter's *Gloria*, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, opera choruses with the MU Opera Workshop and a collaboration with the West Virginia Symphony Chorus singing Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit pour Noel* and Charles Pachelbel's *Magnificat*. He also is the accompanist for the West Virginia Symphony Chorus in Charleston and organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Huntington.

The Choral Union rehearses from 7 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday in the Smith Music Hall choir room (#150). Performances will take place later in the semester with dates to be announced.

Med school expert encourages flu vaccinations

The annual flu season is under way and infectious disease experts, including the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine's Dr. Thomas Rushton, say this year's virus is hitting early and often.

"The last 10 years or so influenza hasn't typically shown up before the new year," Rushton said. "This year there were a significant number of cases reported around Thanksgiving."

More than half of the states in the U.S. are experiencing high levels of flu-like illness, and flu activity continues to be on the rise, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest FluView report. While West Virginia is reporting only moderate levels of flu-like illness, Rushton said it's still a good idea to get a vaccination because the flu season can last well into spring.

“There is still time for the flu vaccine to be effective, therefore we are recommending that people get it,” Rushton said. “Normally, it takes about two weeks for the vaccine to actually kick in and the flu season has yet to reach its peak. Everyone 6 months of age or older should get one.”

Typical flu symptoms include fever, dry cough, sore throat, muscle aches and general malaise. Rushton says anyone experiencing these types of symptoms should call a health care provider.

On average, about 25,000 Americans die each flu season, according to the CDC.

Sutphin to speak on “Steamboats, Rivers and West Virginia” Jan. 22

Gerald W. Sutphin will kick off “The History and Culture of West Virginia: A Lecture Series” with his talk on “Steamboats, Rivers and West Virginia” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in Marshall University Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

A native of Mullens, W.Va., and a Marshall graduate with degrees in art and journalism, Sutphin served in the U.S. Army before returning to Huntington, where he worked for the U.S. Corps of Engineers for the next 18 years. During this time he developed a keen interest in the history of riverboats that navigated the river systems feeding the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Sutphin has written numerous articles and book chapters on the topic and has overseen the creation of various exhibits at the Smithsonian and The Huntington Museum of Art. A recent contribution is a chapter in the book, *Full Steam Ahead: Reflections on the Impact of the First Steamboat on the Ohio River, 1811-2011*, copies of which will be available at the presentation.

The lecture series is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and will feature monthly speakers through April.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Jan. 23, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by noon, Jan. 18.