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## We Are...Marshall, February 5, 2010

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • FEBRUARY 5, 2010

## Diversity Breakfast Slated for Feb. 19

Dr. Howard G. Adams, a highly sought after motivational speaker, consultant and author, will serve as the keynote speaker for Marshall University's annual Diversity Breakfast Friday, Feb. 19. The event will take place at 7:30 a.m. in the Memorial Student Center on the university's Huntington campus.



Dr. Howard G. Adams

"This annual affair, spearheaded in concert with the Black United Students organization; International Programs; the Multicultural, Student and Academic Affairs departments and Student Government Association, is among a range of

experiences and programs within the university that promotes the spirit of inclusiveness and advantages

### Artists Series Brings 'Lucy' to Huntington

Although she played numerous roles throughout her long career she was always Lucy, the endearing bumbling redhead who captivated the American public in the early days of television.

Now Lucille Ball is on stage again, brought to vivid life by actress and impressionist Suzanne LaRusch in a play written by her, Ball's daughter, Lucie Arnaz, and Arnaz's husband, Laurence Luckinbill. Their collaboration, "An



Famed comedienne Lucille Ball will be portrayed Feb. 23 in a Marshall Artists Series presentation of "An Evening with Lucille Ball: Thank You for Asking."

Evening With Lucille Ball: Thank You For Asking," will be presented at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

Lucille Ball was one of the most popular and influential stars in her lifetime with one of the longest careers, especially in television. "I Love Lucy" was one

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associated with living in harmony together," said Maurice Cooley, Director of Marshall's Center for African American Students' Programs.

Well known for his work on mentoring, Adams served on the U.S. Congressional Task Force on Women, Minorities and the Handicapped in Science & Technology, and, in 1996, was named one of the first recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Mentoring. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Norfolk State University, a master's degree in biology from Virginia State University and a Ph.D. in higher education from Syracuse University.

For information on remaining tables available, persons may contact Cooley at 304-696-5430.

## Rita Spears Named Employee of the Month

Rita Spears, Academic Advisor in the Regents BA Degree Program, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for November, according to Amber Bentley, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

She was nominated by Elaine Baker, Jerri Clagg, Donovan Combs, Richard McCray and Dan Holbrook.

In their nomination they wrote: "Rita Spears has worked tirelessly in the RBA office since she started as a part-time employee over 10 years ago. She became full-

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Rita Spears (right) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

# Marshall Researchers Publish Research on Molecule Movement

A group of Marshall University researchers and their colleagues in Japan are conducting research that may lead to new ways to move or position single molecules—a necessary step if man someday hopes to build molecular machines or other devices capable of working at very small scales.



Dr. Eric Blough

Dr. Eric Blough, a member of the research team and an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, said his group has shown how bionanomoters can be used some day to move and manipulate molecules at the nanoscale.

Their research was published in the Feb. 5 issue of the research journal *Small*. “Being able to manipulate a single molecule under

controlled conditions is actually a pretty big challenge,” said Blough. “It’s not quite the same, but imagine trying to pick up a single sewing needle off the ground with a huge steam shovel, and doing it so that you pick up the needle and nothing else. Or, to put it another way—how do you manipulate something that is very tiny with something that is very big? We decided to try and get around this problem by seeing if it was possible to use single molecules to move other single molecules.”

“What we are trying to replicate in the lab is something that nature has been doing for millions of years—cells use bionanomoters all the time to move things around,” he said.

Blough describes bionanomoters as naturally occurring tiny “machines” that convert chemical energy directly into mechanical work. A nanometer is about 1/100,000 the width of a human hair. A nanomotor is similarly sized and operates at the smallest of small scales.

“Our muscles are living proof of how bionanomoters can be harnessed to do useful work,” he added.

Using a technique to make a pattern of active myosin molecules on a surface, they showed how cargo—they used small beads—could be attached to actin filaments and moved from one part of the surface to another. To improve the system, they also used actin filaments they had bundled together.

According to Blough, the long-range goal of the team’s work is to develop a platform for the development of a wide range of nanoscale transport and sensing applications in the biomedical field.

“The promise of nanotechnology is immense,” he said. “Someday it might be possible to perform diagnostic tests using incredibly small amounts of sample that can be run in a very short period of time and with a high degree of accuracy. The implications for improving human health are incredible.”

Blough added that although their recent work is a step forward, there is still a long way to go.

“A number of further advancements are necessary before bionanomoters can be used for ‘lab-on-a-chip’ applications,” he said. “It’s a challenging problem, but that is one of the great things about science—every day is new and interesting.”

## Visiting Writers Series Announces Spring Schedule

The Marshall University Visiting Writers Series, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, has announced its spring schedule of author appearances. Noted poets and prose-writers from around the nation will be reading from exciting new work.

Series coordinator Art Stringer, professor of English, calls this spring’s calendar “one of our most ambitious.” He said a unique collaboration with the Huntington Museum of Art, as well as funding from the West Virginia Humanities Council, has helped bring the series to audiences beyond academia.

Writer Judy Light Ayyildiz, a Marshall graduate, kicked off the series with her appearance on Feb. 4.

Graphic novelist and artist Jessica Abel will appear at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25 at the Huntington Museum of Art. She is the author of four books. *La Perdida*, a graphic novel thriller set in Mexico City, was featured in the first Best American Comics anthology from Houghton-Mifflin and later published by Pantheon in 2006. Abel, with Matt Madden, will conduct weekend workshops and a gallery walk in conjunction with the Museum’s Gropius Masters Series and the LitGraphic Exhibition.

Distinguished poet David Bottoms will read at the Huntington Museum at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11. He is the author of eight books of poetry, most recently *Waltzing Through the Endtime*. He is Poet Laureate of Georgia and holds the Amos Distinguished Chair in English Letters at Georgia State University. A reception will follow both his and Jessica Abel’s Museum appearances.

Writers Mark Brazaitis and Mary Ann Samyn will read from their new work at Marshall’s Memorial Student Center at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 21. Brazaitis is an award-winning fiction writer with four

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## WE ARE... MARSHALL.



**MARSHALL  
UNIVERSITY**

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Feb. 19, 2010. Deadline is Feb. 12. 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).

# Marshall Inaugurates 'Second Life' Island

Imagine a world where a person can fly, teleport, and interact with people around the world from the comfort of his or her living room sofa. Well, now it's possible in a virtual world.

Marshall University has a new Second Life island – MUOnline. Second Life is the Internet's largest, 3-D virtual world community, created by Linden Lab, a San Francisco-based company.

In Second Life, participants (called residents) can socialize and build homes, businesses, and entire islands for fun and recreation, as well as for business and educational purposes.

"Several higher education institutions are already utilizing Second Life to offer classes, provide information, host conferences, and allow prospective students to tour campus facilities virtually," said Kelli R. Mayes, director of the Marshall Technology Outreach Center.

Marshall University has recently developed an island – MUOnline – in Second Life that will allow students, alumni, and anyone interested in the university to visit the Huntington campus virtually and to experience some of the attractions Marshall has to offer. In addition, visitors may also find information about the university and online courses via interactive kiosks, video walls, in-world chat, and e-mail.

Some of the fun things available on the MUOnline island include climbing the rock wall and swimming in the pool at the new Marshall Recreation Center. Persons also may check out the new residence halls and visit the MU Bookstore, where they can get a few virtual freebies as well as search for and buy textbooks online.

To explore Marshall University's island, participants need to set up a Second Life account and create an avatar, a 3-D representation of oneself, which can be altered as desired.

"To get started, just go online to [www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com), create your avatar and download Second Life," Mayes said. "You will then be ready to begin exploring this virtual world. You may visit the Marshall University MUOnline Island by searching for MUOnline in Second Life."

For more information on Marshall University's Technology Outreach Center, go online to [www.marshall.edu/mtoc](http://www.marshall.edu/mtoc), e-mail [mtoc@marshall.edu](mailto:mtoc@marshall.edu), or call 304-696-7084.

## Marshall Tennis Tournament Begins Feb. 26

A Marshall University alumni and friends tennis tournament is scheduled for February 26-28 at the Charleston YMCA.

Events will include men's singles and doubles; women's singles and doubles; mixed doubles; junior boys and girls singles 14 and under and 18 and under. Singles events will cost \$28 per event; doubles, \$26 per person or \$54 per team and juniors, \$15 per person.

Participants must enter online at [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com) using the tournament I.D. #856337910. USTA numbers and credit card numbers are needed to enter. The deadline to sign up is 11:59 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22. Juniors must send entries to the YMCA. Play will begin Friday, Feb. 26 at 5 p.m.

For additional information contact Martha Hill at (304) 744-5149 or the YMCA at (304) 340-3533.

## Music Department to Sponsor Variety of Events this Month

Dr. Stephen Lawson, professor of horn, will present a recital at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 in Smith Recital Hall on the Huntington campus. The recital is free and open to the public.

Performing with Lawson are Steven Hall, marimba and percussion; Kay Lawson, bassoon; and Peggy Johnston, piano.

"Learning and performing music with one's colleagues is always an opportunity to share a music and bonding experience," Lawson said.

The recital will feature a variety of 20th century works by American composers, according to Lawson. *The Call of Boromir*, by Daniel McCarthy, explores a fantasy character from *The Lord of the Rings* by Tolkien in a piece of high adventure for horn and marimba. *Solo Suite for horn and improvised percussion* by Alec Wilder provides an opportunity for a fusion of jazz/popular percussion elements against the horn melodies. *Trio for Horn, Bassoon and Piano* by Eric Ewazen challenges performers in a style that is very democratic in spreading around interesting and difficult passages. The recital will end with a performance of *Three American Folk Songs* arranged by Randy Faust.

The Department of Music and the MU Opera Theatre will present a program of "Gilbert & Sullivan Gems" Sunday, Feb. 14. It will take place at 3 p.m. in the Smith Recital Hall on the Huntington campus.

Gilbert and Sullivan's beloved light operas have been among the most frequently performed stage works the world over since their introduction in 19th century England, according to Linda Dobbs, professor of voice at Marshall and director of the opera theatre.

"It has been some time since our last production, *The Mikado*, and I wanted to give our singers an opportunity to enjoy the clever satire of opera and Victorian-era morals that Gilbert and Sullivan have given us," Dobbs said. "The audience will enjoy both the antics of their comic situations in these scenes and their lovely melodies."

Admission is free and open to the public.

Flutist and Marshall professor of music Dr. Wendell Dobbs will commemorate the season of St. Valentine's Day with a recital of Romantic-era flute music Wednesday evening, Feb. 17. The recital will take place at 8 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall on Marshall's Huntington campus.

Accompanying Dobbs on piano will be Branita Holbrook-Bratka.

"Some of the flute's most expressive music comes from the Romantic Era," said Dobbs. "The late 19th and early 20th century is the era when the flute grew into its modern form, thanks mostly to French players like Taffanel and Gaubert."

The program begins with a fantasy on Meyerbeer's opera "Robert the Devil" and also

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## H1N1 Clinic Set for Feb. 9 on Huntington Campus

The Cabell-Huntington Health Department will conduct an H1N1 clinic Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center.

The vaccine is free and open to everyone, according to Amy Saunders from Marshall's Student Health Education programs. Both mist and injectable forms of the vaccine are available.

For those taking an antibiotic, the health department asks that they wait until they have completed the antibiotic before getting the H1N1 vaccine. They should not get an H1N1 vaccine if they have been on Tamiflu or other anti-viral in the 48 hours leading up to the clinic.

Children who are brought to these clinics by someone other than their parent or legal guardian must have a signed permission statement from the parent or legal guardian allowing the children to be vaccinated.

No appointment is necessary for this free clinic. There is NO fee for the H1N1 flu vaccine.

For further information about the clinic, check the Flu Information Hotline at 304-526-3397 or visit the health department online at [www.cabellhealth.org](http://www.cabellhealth.org).

## 'Lucy'

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of the most successful television shows of all time and it is still being shown in syndication today. It was followed by several other sitcoms starring Ball as similar Lucy characters. An actress who worked in movies beginning in the 1930s, she followed her television success with major film and Broadway roles.

The play is crafted in the spirit of the amusing lectures the comedienne enjoyed giving and the question-and-answer segments she particularly enjoyed. Directed by Lucie Arnaz, the show takes the audience through a lifetime of personal memories, many of which inspired her timeless sketches on "I Love Lucy."

For more information, contact the Artists Series Box Office at ext. 6-6656.

## Visiting Writers Series

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books and is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Mary Ann Samyn is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *Beauty Breaks In*. Both teach creative writing in the West Virginia University MFA Program.

All readings are free and open to the public. The Visiting Writers Series is supported by the Marshall English Department, the College of Liberal Arts, and the West Virginia Humanities Council.

For more information, contact Stringer at ext. 6-2403.

## Theatre to Present 'Born Yesterday' Beginning Feb. 24

"Born Yesterday," which gives an American twist to the classic Pygmalion story, will be presented by the Marshall Theatre Alliance Feb. 24 through 27 at 8 p.m. in the Playhouse of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Award-winning playwright Garson Kanin's version centers on Harry Brock, a junkyard baron with the vocabulary of a gangster and the moral fiber of a fascist, who decides that if he's going to hobnob with corrupt politicians and bigwigs in post WW11 Washington, D. C. he needs to get his live-in show business girlfriend, Billie, some refinement. But things go awry when Billie's newfound literacy brings out unexpected qualities in her not-so-dumb character.

For additional information call ext. 6-2787.

## Rita Spears

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time about two years ago but her dedication to the students and their success has been present from the beginning of her employment. Rita does the work of an academic advisor, counselor and 'go-to person' for the 400-plus students enrolled in the RBA program. She spends all the time necessary with each student who contacts her, dealing with students and their concerns with empathy, encouragement and good-natured humanity. She will tackle any problem that a student faces, helping every one of them solve their problems and keep progressing toward graduation."

In addition, the nomination continues, "She is a wonderfully cooperative colleague, always willing to help the rest of the RBA staff when they get overwhelmed, and taking her fair share of the work. Rita receives thank you cards and gifts from students regularly as signs of appreciation for her beyond-the-call-of-duty assistance to them. Students often express their gratitude for the personalized service and genuine respect they receive from the RBA staff. Rita Spears is a major part of that commitment to helping students and making sure they achieve their goals."

And, they conclude, "...RBA students often present complicated academic histories, but Rita's attention to detail is remarkable, and she will work on a student's file until every question of credits, transfers, requirements, and confusion has been settled. Without question she deserves the appreciation of her colleagues, her directors, her students, and the university for a job well done!"

Spears was presented with a plaque and a check for \$100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

## Music

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includes several movements by Gaubert and the great French organist Charles-Marie Widor.

The program is free and open to the public.

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For further information on these or other events, contact the Marshall Department of Music at ext. 6-3117.