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We Are ... Marshall, May 1, 2009

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MAY 1, 2009

Marshall to Graduate Nearly 2,600 May 9

Nearly 2,600 students will graduate from Marshall University on Saturday, May 9 when the university celebrates its 172nd commencement at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena. The ceremony begins at 9 a.m.

Among the 2,592 students receiving degrees are 1,457 undergraduates, 970 graduates, 52 from the School of Medicine and 113 who will receive associate degrees.

Registrar Roberta Ferguson said 535 students will graduate with honors. Eighty-three will graduate summa cum laude (3.85 to 4.0 GPA), 169 magna cum laude (3.6 to 3.84 GPA), and 270 cum laude (3.3 to 3.59 GPA). One

student receiving an associate degree will graduate with high honors, and 12 associate degree recipients will graduate with honors.

Marshall will continue a practice that began in 2006 of recognizing individually each graduate who attends commencement. Each graduate will walk to the area in front of the stage, where his or her name will be announced and he or she will receive congratulations and a scroll from the Marshall Alumni Association. Anyone who has earned a degree since July 2008 may participate in commencement.

Marshall also will recognize its graduating honor students during commencement. Based on tentative grade point averages calculated through seven semesters, nine students have completed or will complete their baccalaureate degrees with perfect 4.0 GPAs. One already is assured of a 4.0, while the other eight – all May graduates – will learn their final GPAs after commencement.

The one student already assured of a 4.0 is Lauren Elizabeth Myers of Glen Dale, W.Va., who graduated in December 2008.

The eight with tentative 4.0s are Lindsay Nicole Abshire of Scott Depot; Adam David Cavalier of Montgomery; Brian Evan Dalek of McMechen; Daniel Brian
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Rahall Announces Funding for Advanced Engineering Complex

U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall II has announced that \$245,000 has been awarded to Marshall University by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



Rep. Nick J. Rahall II

“Marshall University stands out as a pillar for higher education in southern West Virginia,” said Rahall. “These funds will help to educate a future generation of West Virginians as we strive to give our children a step up in our increasingly competitive global marketplace.”

These funds will allow for the design, planning and construction of the Advanced Engineering and Applied Technology Complex at Marshall University.

“Once again Congressman Rahall has stepped to the forefront to help Marshall University expand its role in these vital areas,” President Stephen J. Kopp said. “He understands and appreciates the critical role that education, research and infrastructure development play in the continued economic growth of our state and region.”

“We appreciate Congressman Rahall’s efforts on behalf of the University. This funding is critical for planning the next phase of the Advanced Engineering and Applied Technology Complex, which will bring together engineering, biotechnology and technology transfer capabilities in the same place,” said Dr. John Maher, Vice President for Research at Marshall.

Congressman Rahall requested this grant in an earlier appropriations bill, to invest in future generations of scientists, engineers and leaders.

Harless Hall of Fame Inducts 3

Three individuals, including Gov. Joe Manchin III, were inducted into Marshall University’s June Harless Center for Educational Research and Development’s Hall of Fame on April 29.

The governor received the Agency Award while Dr. Rosalyn Templeton, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, received the Teacher Award. Jack McClanahan, Deputy Superintendent for the West Virginia Department of Education, was given the Education Award.

The awards are given annually to those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to education in West Virginia.

The mission of the June Harless Center is to provide leadership in education initiatives for West Virginia educators and students, providing educators and families of rural West Virginians with a support system that addresses educational problems, while sustaining school improvement and providing positive growth for educational endeavors.

Opened in 2001, the center is named for the late wife of James “Buck” Harless, June Montgomery Harless, who was one of southern West Virginia’s most avid supporters of education and medical research.

Med School Researcher Honored as Pharmacologist

Dr. Piyali Dasgupta, a medical researcher at Marshall University, is one of just three scientists nationwide to be honored recently for cancer research the American Society for



Dr. Piyali Dasgupta

Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics believes "may offer significant advances in clinical medicine in the future." Dasgupta will receive the ASPET-Astellas Award in Translational Pharmacology at the society's annual meeting, which is part of the Experimental Biology 2009 meeting in New Orleans. The award provides \$30,000 to continue research that could help both smokers and people exposed to nicotine through secondhand smoke or products such as nicotine patches and gums.

"Dr. Dasgupta's work reflects our school's cutting-edge contributions to the accelerated pace of biomedical discovery," said Dr. Charles H. McKown Jr., dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. "She is very deserving of the recognition that she has brought to herself and Marshall by virtue of her scientific efforts."

Dasgupta's team studies how components of tobacco facilitate the growth of small cell lung cancer cells. She said that although nicotine doesn't cause cancer, her studies show it can promote the ability of lung cancer cells to grow, arrange blood supply for themselves, and spread to other parts of the body. Nicotine also can protect the cancer cells from chemotherapy drugs.

Nicotine binds to specific receptors on the lung cancer cells, and Dasgupta's research tries to decipher the signaling pathways that allow nicotine to promote the growth and survival of the tumors. She also is trying to identify and test novel small molecules that could disrupt those pathways.

Dasgupta is an assistant professor of pharmacology. Originally from India, she came to Marshall after completing postdoctoral fellowships at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University and the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla.

The ASPET-Astellas Awards in Translational Pharmacology are intended to recognize pharmacological research accomplishments that seek to extend fundamental research closer to applications directed toward improving human health. The awards are given to recognize those individuals whose research has the potential to lead to the introduction of novel pharmacologic approaches or technologies that may offer significant advances in clinical medicine in the future, and to facilitate that translational process.

Griffis Receives CASE Award

Melanie Griffis, Director of Development for Marshall University's College of Fine Arts, recently received the Quarter Century Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) at the District II Achievement Awards ceremony in Baltimore.



Melanie Griffis

As Director of Development, Griffis leads efforts to increase private donations to the College of Fine Arts (COFA) and the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., through endowments, scholarships and the University Fund. She works with the departments of Music, Theatre, and Art and Design to meet their extraordinary funding needs now and in the future.

"It is quite a tribute to Melanie Griffis to be the recipient of CASE's 2009 Quarter Century Award," said Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts. "This award speaks highly of her leadership in advancement, and the College of Fine Arts is indeed fortunate to have someone with her experience working on behalf of our students, staff, faculty and programs. I look forward to a long and productive relationship between Melanie and the college."

A native of Huntington, W.Va., and an alumna of Marshall, Griffis returned to the university in 2007 as the first Director of Development for the College of Fine Arts. She is the third of four generations of her family to attend the university. Her younger daughter is a graphic design major at Marshall.

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of May 15, 2009. Deadline is May 8. 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.

Champion Industries Honored for Remodeling of Jenkins 233

Champion Industries, Inc., of Huntington recently made an in-kind donation of the resources needed for a total remodeling of Jenkins Hall Room 233, a heavily used classroom.

The renovations included new flooring, painting, ceiling tiles, classroom desks, chairs, audiovisual equipment, computer storage stations and instruction podiums. The classroom was transformed to an eco-friendly, more functional and aesthetically pleasing environment for 21st century learning to take place. Capitol Business Interiors, a division of Champion Industries, provided the design work and equipment for the makeover.

The College of Education and Human Services held a reception earlier this month to honor Champion for its support.

Profile: Stan Maynard

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Stan Maynard

By the time one group of Kellogg Elementary kindergarten kids gets to Vinson Middle School, they can speak fluent Spanish and are eagerly exchanging ideas with a group of Hispanic students in California. They can provide a detailed tapestry of information about the geographical, sociological and economic aspects of the seven continents and they have traveled around the world on virtual visits where they've explored zoos, museums

and aquariums, along with other famous sites.

That's because they're participating in the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development, a project directed by Dr. Stan Maynard at the schools, which are just outside Huntington in Wayne County.

Maynard, an associate dean of the College of Education and Human Services, is the principal architect for the center, which is a component of COEHS.

"Our goal was to set up a center that would be a support service, particularly for rural counties and schools, that would assist them in implementing innovative curricular ideas and initiatives," he says. The center arose out of a concentrated effort by West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steve Paine, Buck Harless and Senator Bob Plymale to bring West Virginia schools into the 21st Century through learning skills and technology.

That was a challenge eagerly taken up by Marshall University and the College of Education and Human Services, Maynard says. "The idea was to have a K-8 system where teachers could come and observe how technology and teaching strategies could be integrated and how such increased rigor would impact children. We've been working toward that goal for the past three years using Kellogg Elementary and Vinson Middle School...it's a work in progress as we listen to teachers and visit other schools that are doing innovative practices and adapting them to our children's needs."

Part of the objective, according to Maynard, was to take older schools with existing faculties and provide training while doing research as the children move from kindergarten through eighth grade. Currently the Harless Center occupies one wing at Kellogg Elementary in Wayne County, but it soon will be expanding to other classrooms at the school. "This coming academic year we're taking what we've learned in our wing and we will take it to the other classes in Kellogg Elementary so that by the end of the year we will be replicating what we've been doing in the Harless wing of Kellogg Elementary." An ultimate goal, he says, is to complete the creation of a STEM Academy—9-12—(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) so students could start kindergarten and go through high school with new ways of scheduling and new calendars while developing critical thinking skills. "Through creative means we want to challenge students to achieve higher academic and personal levels than they thought they could. "We lovingly say we want to be the 'Cleveland Clinic of educational reform,' a place where you can do

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First Goodman Scholarship Awarded

Marshall University student Molly Elizabeth Grove of Bunker Hill, W.Va., was the first recipient of the Dorothy Goodman Memorial Scholarship, a fund made possible by a \$10,000 gift from the Pilot Club of Huntington.

The Pilot Club is a service organization that focuses on brain-related disorders. Its major focus is Project Lifesaver, a program aiding the victims and families suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders.

Grove, an advertising major and a member of the Marshall track and field team, was able to use her award of \$1,000 during the current academic year. The scholarship was established last year by the Marshall University Foundation Inc., according to Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the foundation.

"Receiving this scholarship has been a great benefit to my education," Grove said. "It has made me more driven to receive more awards like this one."

The Pilot Club had received a bequest of \$10,000 from Mrs. Dorothy Goodman, who received her Bachelor of Arts

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Marshall University student Molly Elizabeth Grove, left, and Josephine Fidler, president-elect of the Pilot Club of Huntington, look over the guidelines for the Dorothy Goodman Memorial Scholarship. Grove was the first recipient of the scholarship.

LCOB Receives Dixon Hughes Gift

In appreciation of and support for the Accounting Department of Marshall University, Dixon Hughes Managing Member Rick Slater presented a check for \$12,500 April 24 at a ceremony in the Alumni Lounge in the Marshall Memorial Student Center.

The presentation was part of a reception to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Marshall's Lewis College of Business.

"It is our pleasure that even in these challenging economic times, we can continue to provide support for programs, accreditation and development at Marshall University," said Slater. "We are committed to helping Marshall achieve success on many fronts, and the presentation is a small token of how highly we think of their program."

Slater, a Marshall graduate, and Dixon Hughes partners and staff regularly donate time and resources to mentoring and the professional development of the university's accounting students. In 2008, this support helped Marshall's Accounting Department become one of only 169 programs in the world to be accredited by the

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Stan Maynard

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research and ultimately where people can come for educational 'second opinions' of what they can do to provide opportunities for children and families," he says laughing.

And teachers do come from all over, he's happy to say, to observe the innovative and creative learning experiences taking place in the classrooms. "We encourage school personnel to come and visit with us and then they can go back and develop their own models," he says. In addition, all the Kellogg classrooms contain interactive videoconferencing equipment allowing teachers in rural classrooms who have the same type of equipment to observe a teacher in a Harless Center classroom. "This means teachers don't have to travel, there is no need for substitutes to fill in while they're gone, they can see and talk to each other in real time. We want to take rural children out into the world and through technology we can take them on virtual tours to zoos, museums and recently an aquarium in Australia."

Among the innovative idea students are exposed to is regular interaction with a "sister" school with a familiar name in Los Angeles, California. Marshall Elementary, which is 99 percent Hispanic, allows the Kellogg Elementary students to stretch their Spanish skills. Beginning with kindergarten, students study in depth all aspects of continents throughout the year so that by the fifth grade, they've studied their way through all seven continents.

A key component of the center's research is tracking the students as they enter Vinson Middle School. "Vinson will provide us with a very good longitudinal research opportunity because we'll be able to see what impact the elementary school has on it," he says.

Maynard has a rich background in education and has been a dedicated advocate for providing educational opportunities and encouragement for students at all levels. A native of Holden in Logan County, he did his undergraduate work at Virginia Tech and later got a M.A. from the University of North Carolina in science and public health. Later he earned a second master's degree, this time from Marshall, and went on to receive a doctorate from Ohio University in 1978. After teaching and coaching basketball at Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia and a two-year stint of teaching in the public schools in West Virginia, he joined the Marshall faculty in 1980.

As a former basketball player and coach, he began the Buck Harless Student Athlete Program, which he developed and directed for more than six years and which has continued to flourish and expand. "Marshall athletes are in the upper echelon of Conference-USA in GPA and other indicators and that is one of the things that I am most pleased about," he says.

He and his wife, Dr. Barbara Maynard, who is the Program Development Director for the Harless Center, are the parents of two sons, Travis a professor in the School of Business at Colorado State University, and Stan, a radiologist physician who lives in Hawaii. They have five grandchildren, "We miss them terribly and we're trying to work out times to visit them more often," he says.

The Maynards' lives are centered around the church. Stan has been a pastor for the past 25 years, the last fifteen spent as pastor of the Church in the Valley in Milton. from which he retired in April. They both love to fish, particularly for trout and bass, and Barbara is "excellent at it," he says admiringly. Their goal, when retirement eventually beckons, is to travel the country and fish at places that strike their fancy, be they rivers, lakes, or streams, and he wants to give Barbara a special gift. "With all the time she's devoted to me, I want to provide the opportunity for her to fish at all the places we've read about. We want to see if all the lakes we've visited really do have fish."

Commencement

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Hager of Hurricane; Blake Tyler Isenberg of Madison; Jacob T. Kilgore of Kenova; Kathryn Lane Nicely of Ona; and Nicklaus Aaron Presley of Princeton, W.Va.

Former Marshall football and academic All-American Chad Pennington will deliver the commencement address and receive a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree. Pennington, well known for his charity work, leadership, community service and philanthropy, currently is the starting quarterback for the NFL's Miami Dolphins.

Griffis

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"I am very fortunate to be assigned to the College of Fine Arts at Marshall University," Griffis said. "I enjoy the interaction with our faculty and students and have enjoyed building relationships with our alumni to reconnect them to Marshall and their special experiences here. Our alumni love Marshall and they love this college. It is my privilege to help them become involved as donors and investors in the future students in COFA."

"I am very pleased to see that CASE has honored Melanie with the Quarter Century Award," Dr. Ron Area, Senior Vice President for Development, said. "Her career in the advancement area for more than 25 years has contributed to the success of many academic institutions and other nonprofit organizations. We are honored to have a professional like Melanie in our development organization with the kind of experience and expertise that can help advance Marshall to the next level of fundraising."

Goodman Scholarship

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degree in journalism from Marshall College in 1940. She was a reporter for the Huntington Advertiser from 1942 to 1961 and then director of information for the Cabell County Board of Education from 1961 to 1978. She also was very active in the community, including service to the Pilot Club of Huntington.

According to the guidelines, two awards of \$1,000 are to be given annually for a period of five years beginning with the current (2008-2009) academic year.

The recipients are West Virginia residents who are full-time sophomores majoring in journalism, who are in good academic standing and have demonstrated financial need, as determined by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Dixon Hughes Gift

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Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

"The generosity of Dixon Hughes and Rick Slater helped us reach our accreditation milestone and helped provide our students with the research databases and software they need to be prepared to enter the profession of public accounting," said Loren Wenzel, Division Head for the Department of Accountancy. "Without the support of Dixon Hughes, we never would have made it this far."