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We Are ... Marshall, January 11, 2008

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JANUARY 11, 2008

Martin Luther King Observance Set for Jan. 21



The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be remembered in the annual observance Jan. 21.

The Fifteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium celebrating the life of the famed civil right leader takes place in Huntington Monday, January 21. The symposium was established by Marshall's Multicultural Affairs.

With this year's theme, "Rising From the Dark...To the Sunlit Path of Racial Justice," the event will feature a series of programs, speakers, the tradi-

tional march in Huntington, and the presentation of winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Competition at various locations throughout Huntington.

The event opens with a Focus on the Youth Program, from 2-4 p.m at the First Baptist Church, 801 Sixth Avenue, coordinated by Ronald Jones, a Marshall University senior and a member of the Student Government

Denman to Retire at End of Semester

Dr. Sarah N. Denman, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Marshall University since 1999, will retire at the end of the current academic year. The academic year ends on May 10 with Marshall's 171st commencement. The announcement was made by President Stephen J. Kopp on Jan. 8.



Dr. Sarah N. Denman

Denman is approaching 39 years in education, including 33 at Marshall. She has been with the university since 1975, when she was hired by the Marshall Community and Technical College as part of the team to establish the community and technical college and as coordinator of the communications program.

"I thank Sarah for all of her efforts, not only during my time as president of Marshall University but for her 33 years with the community college and the university," Kopp said. "Her enthusiasm and commitment to our students, faculty and our community are truly remarkable and very much appreciated. As she begins this new chapter in her life, we wish her great happiness and satisfaction. I am pleased that Sarah has agreed to continue to assist Marshall University on a part-time basis. This approach

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Association. The lineup for the march begins at 4:30 p.m. at First Baptist. The march, with former West Virginia Secretary of State Ken Hechler as Grand Marshal, gets underway at 4:45 and will take participants to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church at 1647 Ninth Ave.

Once marchers reach Sixteenth Street Baptist, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Symposium Memorial Service begins at 6 p.m. Rev. Roy Terry, Pastor, will preside and the main speaker will be Dr. Patricia Kuslmo, Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Center for Professional Development which is located in Charleston. Dr.

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Virginia Campbell-Turner Named Employee of the Month

Virginia Campbell-Turner, Purchasing Agent in the Purchasing department, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for November, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since September, 1985, she was nominated by Karen Barker of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning.

Commenting on her experience with Campbell-Turner, Barker said she nominated her for the award because of Campbell-Turner's ever-present willingness to assist her when she had a purchasing question.

"As a new employee I had many questions with regard to purchasing policy as well as procedure. Virginia was

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Virginia Campbell-Turner (second from left) receives the Employee of the Month plaque from Bill Bissett, Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President for Communications (left). Second from right is Karen Barker, who nominated Campbell for the award, and at right is Dennis Meadows, Director of Purchasing.

WSAZ, Marshall Launch '50 Years Ago' Site

A new Web site titled *50 Years Ago Today: As Seen On WSAZ-TV News* has been initiated by Marshall University Libraries and WSAZ. The site is accessible at www.marshall.edu/50yearsago.

"With the click of a mouse, *50 Years Ago Today: As Seen on WSAZ-TV News* will allow viewers on the Internet to watch vintage film and video of local, state and national news that occurred 50 years ago on that exact date, as written and reported by the WSAZ-TV news staff of 50 years ago," said Barbara Winters, dean of University Libraries.

Winters said the project is a collaborative effort between WSAZ-TV and Marshall University, literally 32 years in the making.

Sharpe Appointed Pre-Law Advisor

Dr. Barry Sharpe, Executive Director of the Center for Academic Excellence and Director of the Society of Yeager Scholars, has been appointed the Pre-Law Advisor for Marshall. Sharpe, who is also an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, succeeds Dr. Robert Behrman, also an associate Professor of Political Science, who contributed several years of service to the position.

Sharpe brings unique qualifications to the position, according to Dr. Donna J. Spindel, Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He holds a Ph.D in Political Science from the University of South Carolina, as well as a J.D. degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Sharpe

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'Movin' Out' Comes to the Keith-Albee Jan. 18

The Tony Award-winning Broadway collaboration of legendary choreographer Twyla Tharp and five-time Grammy Award-winner Billy Joel will grace the stage of the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center in a performance of *Movin' Out* on Friday, January 18 at 8 p.m. The production is the first Marshall Artists Series offering of 2008.

Told through the choreography of Tharp and with more than two dozen of Billy Joe's hit songs, *Movin' Out* is the story of lifelong friends through two turbulent decades.

To order tickets or for more information, contact the box office located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center at ext. 66656 or at www.marshall.edu/muartserv/. The box office is open from noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"WSAZ-TV gifted Marshall with its film, video and paper archival materials beginning in 1976, and we gladly continue to be the repository and custodians of these priceless film and video images to this very day," Winters said.

Winters said Andrew D. Earles, Technical and Content Supervisor for Special Collections, originated the concept for the *50 Years Ago Today*



project. Winters said Earles, who is in charge of digitizing the WSAZ news footage from fragile film and video to sturdy DVD, came up with the Web site idea the day before the 50th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik.

"Andy mentioned to Special Collections Curator Lisle Brown that he and

Media Technical Assistant Lori Thompson had WSAZ news stories from the year 1958 already digitized and 'in the can,'" Winters said. "Andy's idea of putting it on the Internet for the entire community to 'tune in' and enjoy was a winner, and when Lisle passed along Andy's concept for the Web site to me, I heartily concurred."

Winters said Libraries Web Services Librarian Floyd Csir worked with Earles, Information Technology Video Services Producer/Director Eric Himes, Information Technology's Daniel Saez and Brian Williams of Marshall's Center for Information Technology to arrive at ideas for a Special Collections "destination Web site" that would make the community history fun and accessible to Internet users.

Saez served as the Web site's Conceptual Designer and Project Coordinator, with Williams providing the technical know-how and creative input as the site's Programmer and Art Director.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Howard R. D. Gordon, professor of Adult and Technical Education, had the third edition of his textbook, *The History and Growth of Career and Technical Education in America*, published by Waveland Press, Inc. (www.waveland.com)

He also has published an article, "Selected Career and Technical Education Teachers' Perceptions of the No Child Left Behind Act (Public Law 107-110): An Exploratory Study," in *The Journal of Career and Technical Education*.

Dr. Thomas E. Wilson, professor of Physics, presented an invited talk to Yale University's Department of Applied Physics on Dec. 14, titled, "Fabrication of fast superconducting granular aluminum/palladium microbolometers for use in the acoustic piezo-phonon spectroscopy." The invitation was extended by Daniel Prober, chair of the Applied Physics and the Director of Graduate Admissions for Engineering, and Charles Schmuttenmaer, professor of Chemistry and Director of the Chemistry Graduate Program. Prober is a co-principal investigator on Wilson's pending DEPSCoR proposal entitled, "Antenna-coupled granular aluminum/palladium bolometers as fast direct detectors for terahertz spectroscopy."

WE ARE... MARSHALL™



**MARSHALL
UNIVERSITY**

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Jan. 25,

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Profile: Pam Ford

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Pam Ford

Fresh-faced young girls smile out from the photo, which shows them clustered casually around a basketball clearly marked "07," athletic-looking and seemingly eager to take to the court. At second glance, there's something a little odd about their attire. Instead of sleek satiny pants and airy tops, these players sport heavy-looking black uniforms with voluminous sleeves and billowing bloomers. That they're Marshall women basketball players isn't in

doubt, but they are circa 1907 rather than 2007.

Pam Ford, a catalog librarian and the owner of a print of that photo, has reason to be proud. "That's my grandmother, and that's her sister, and that's my grandfather's sister," Ford says pointing out the trio of attractive young women who were members of Marshall University's first women's basketball team. "We didn't know what we were doing but we had fun!" her grandmother, Mae Holswade Spruce, told her. And Ford's athletic ancestors also include grandfather George Spruce, who was on Marshall's men's basketball team during that same era.

Marshall roots run deep in the Ford family. As a teenager she came to Huntington when her father, William A. Woods, a Methodist minister, was assigned as the Huntington District Superintendent. After graduating from Huntington High School, Ford spent two and a half years at Marshall before transferring to West Virginia Wesleyan, where she was able to complete an undergraduate degree in Library Science.

And that was important to Ford because libraries are her passion. In fact, she completed 33 years of service in the Marshall libraries last September. She's always been a librarian at heart, starting when she was in the eighth grade and had a perceptive teacher. "The teacher had windowsills filled with books. She let me check them out, take care of them, keep them in order," she remembers fondly. "That teacher put a 'spark' in me to be a librarian. I've never changed my mind, there was nothing else I ever wanted to do ... I am very passionate about libraries and I'll continue to stay connected to library work when I retire."

Her commitment to her field has earned her a number of accolades over the years. She's a past president of the West Virginia Library Association, secretary of the MU Library Associates, and a board member of the Friends of the Cabell County Library. And she's particularly proud that five Marshall librarians have served as WVLA presidents.

As a student, she worked in the MU library and when she and her husband, who had just left the military, relocated to Huntington, her first thought was to look for work at Marshall. It was a bit of serendipity that a job was available in the library and she found herself working with people who had been her supervisors when she was a student worker. And it was there that she met Jane Vickers, now retired from the library, who was to become her lifelong friend. After a divorce, Ford and her three-year-old son, Jeffrey, were "adopted" by the whole caring Vickers family. Ford says, "Jane was the first person I met when I came to work and the Vickers family became my support system."

After 10 years as a staff member, she was urged by library educator Eleanor Terry to pursue the master's degree in library science being offered by the University

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Members of Pam Ford's family, including her grandmother, Mae Holswade (second row, right); her grandmother's sister, Grace Holswade (third row, left); and her grandfather's sister, Ada Spruce (first row, left) played on the 1907 Marshall women's basketball team. (Story at left.)

'FDR' Named Among Top Nonfiction Books of 2007

The *Washington Post* has selected *FDR*, a comprehensive biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt by Marshall professor Jean Edward Smith, as one of the top five nonfiction books of 2007.

In reviewing *FDR*, Jonathan Yardley, book critic for the *Post*, said *FDR* is "a model presidential biography. Now, at last, we have the book that is right for the man."

Virginia Campbell-Turner from Page 1

always available to answer these questions. When I called with procedural questions about Banner, she came to my office to walk me through the process and stayed until I was confident that I could handle it on my own. When I went to her office with questions, she saw me right away and resolved my issues/questions on the spot when possible. Virginia's willingness to offer such assistance made my initiation into the world of Marshall Purchasing Policy as smooth as possible and by going above and beyond what is required, made me feel like a valued part of Marshall."

She was presented with a plaque, balloon bouquet and a check for \$100 by Bill Bissett, Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President for Communications.

Faculty Awards Highlighted on Web Site

The Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning has developed a Web site to recognize faculty members who have won teaching awards. Located at www.marshall.edu/catl/awards, the site includes lists of the winners of each award, as well as individual pages for all the winners.

The four awards included are the Pickens-Queen Teaching Award, the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award, the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award and the Marshall University Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award.

Ford from Page 3

of Kentucky. "I didn't think I could do it, but I got admitted and made an A in my first class." It took three years and commuting to classes at Ashland Community College and the South Charleston Library, and one semester traveling to Lexington, and a lot of studying after her son went to bed. "It was a rough three years," she recalls, but she finally managed to get the coveted degree.

The lives of her family have always been intricately entwined with Marshall University. Her grandparents met and courted at Marshall, mostly in Old Main, which comprised the entire campus at the turn of the 20th century. Ford brought her grandmother back to campus one Mother's Day years ago. It was a delightful trip down memory lane for the former coed and basketball player, who was then in her 80s. They revisited the old haunts and she was astounded by all the changes, Ford says. They wandered the halls and Ford got a firsthand history lesson.

"During my grandparents' time, everything was in Old Main. The dorm rooms were here, the dining hall, and the library, where the boys had to sit on one side and the girls on the other side. They weren't allowed to speak. That was in the 'shhh' days," Ford says, fondly recounting her grandmother's revelations. "My grandparents would go into the stacks and move books back and forth so they could whisper to each other. They courted in that library, so that's how far my library roots go back." As the pair toured the building, her grandmother gave her a priceless look into the past. "She found her dorm room which was now an English professor's office and she found the art room, where she spent a good deal of time." Ford's grandmother, father, and son are all talented artists but "it just skipped right over me," she says with a smile. In fact her grandmother once won an art contest with a prize of \$50 for a charcoal drawing of Old Main, now displayed in Ford's office.

Mae Spruce did continue her art work, to the delight of family members who have some of her paintings. And as for that famous photo of the women's basketball team, it's been featured in virtually every historical document published about Marshall, most of the time without the players being identified. Ford has a framed copy in her office.

Her son Jeffrey likes to say he grew up in the Morrow Library. "He loved to come in and help with chores around the library. He learned the [Library of Congress] system on his own. Once, when he was two, he was playing in the book drop and a student was about to drop a book in when he piped up 'Please don't drop that book on me!' The student jumped back as if she thought she was on Candid Camera." Today he's the father of six, all home schooled by their mother, Leigh Ann, and they make regular use of the libraries in the Cleveland, Ohio area where they live.

Ford does harbor one other passion—she's hooked on taking cruises and to date has been on 13. She particularly likes to celebrate her birthday on the sea. "It's so peaceful and serene ... the destination isn't important to me; it's being on the ocean."

As she looks back on her career as a librarian and as an advocate for libraries, she can embrace technology in balancing the traditional role libraries play. "Technology is good, but we need both books and technology. We need to make as much access to information as possible by whatever means come in the future. The big thing now is digitalizing materials so that they will be preserved. We definitely need both."

Now as retirement nears, she's sure of one thing. She's going to stay connected to libraries as a volunteer both at Marshall and the Cabell County library system. She plans to spend more time with her mother, now 88, and her grandchildren, Nathan, Hannah, Libby, Rachel, Aaron, and Jacob. "For the first month I'm going to eat, read and sleep, not necessarily in that order and I don't plan to schedule anything before 10 a.m.," she says laughing. "I plan to visit my MU colleagues a lot. I will miss the people; you just can't walk away from people you've known and worked with for more than 33 years. I will always be a user of libraries and I will always support them."

King Observance from Page 1

Majed Khader, associate professor of Libraries at Marshall, will offer an Islamic prayer and Rabbi David Wucher will offer a Jewish prayer. Following music by the Voices Supreme Gospel Choir under the direction of Dale Capehart, President Stephen J. Kopp, Huntington Mayor David Felinton, and Rev. Paul Willis, President of the Huntington /Cabell County NAACP and Pastor of First Baptist Church, will address the assembled group.

Following the program, the presentation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Competition will be made by Sylvia Ridgeway, retired educator and civil rights advocate and a member of this year's symposium planning committee. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

The Booth Scholars Program is seeking individuals to serve on the 2008 Selection Committee. This is an online process involving evaluation of approximately 100 eighth grade students' applications. The time frame is February 1 through the end of March.

An instructional meeting will be held on campus in January to outline the process. Individuals interested should contact Brenda Napier, Director of the Booth Scholars Program, at napier19@marshall.edu or telephone ext. 65205.

Denman from Page 1

will give her the flexibility to enjoy the benefits of retirement, while permitting us to engage her experience and expertise on special projects important to Marshall University."

Denman, who has served with nine presidents while at Marshall, described her decision to retire as "bittersweet."

"I am very happy about my decision to retire, but I am sad to leave all the people I have worked with over the years," she said. "I have enjoyed every minute with this institution. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve."

After graduating from Ceredo-Kenova High School in 1966, Denman earned both her bachelor's (1969) and master's (1973) degrees from Marshall University and her doctorate in higher education administration from West Virginia University in 1986. She taught for six years at Ceredo-Kenova High School.

Through the years, Denman often has noted in public speeches the importance of the students and faculty not only at Marshall, but at all institutions of higher education. She reiterated that belief today.

"We need never to lose sight that the students and faculty are the two most important components of institutions of higher education," she said.

Sharpe from Page 2

clerked at a law firm and has served as a Law Fellow at the American Association of University Professors. He was the pre-law advisor at Tusculum College for three years.

"He is available to meet with students interested in law school, to help students select courses, and to help them identify law school programs that best meet their needs," Spindel said.

Sharpe can be contacted in Old Main 230, at ext. 62475 or by e-mail at sharper@marshall.edu.