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We Are ... Marshall, June 6, 2008

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JUNE 6, 2008

Jazz-MU-Tazz Festival Starts June 18

Jazz-MU-Tazz, Marshall University's summer jazz festival, will present guest artist Craig Treinen, the faculty combo Bluetrane, and the Jazz-MU-Tazz Festival Big Band in concert at the Jomie Jazz Center and at Pullman Square beginning Wednesday, June 18. All events are free and open to the public.



Craig Treinen

Treinen is the director of jazz studies/applied saxophone at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan. He performed in Kansas City as the lead alto saxophonist for the Kansas City Boulevard Big Band, with which he recorded three albums. He was a member of the United States Air

Force as a saxophone specialist in the Heartland of America Band in Omaha, Neb. He was the principal alto saxophonist in the symphonic band and

served as the musical director, staff arranger and lead alto saxophonist with the Heartland of America "Noteables" Jazz Ensemble. For his work with the "Noteables," Treinen received the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Airman of the Year, the Outstanding Airman Bandsman of the

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Panda Powell Named Employee of the Month

Panda Powell, Grants Compliance Administrator, MURC, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for April, according to Jim Stephens, Chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

She was nominated by Kim Baker, Teresa Buckland, Kendra Hannahs, Jennifer Plymale and Heidi Williams.

In her nomination, Baker wrote, "If Panda doesn't have the answer, she will find it for you. She is easy to get along with, prompt and has always gone the extra mile to explain the rules or processes for the end user." Baker praises her for "her helpful and caring attitude, as well as for her quick and timely processing of all routine paperwork...Panda will make a phone call to resolve a problem rather

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Construction to Begin on Alumni Center and Foundation Building

Site preparation began Tuesday, May 27 for construction of a new Alumni Center and Foundation Building.

Construction of the 33,220 square-foot building, to be located at the intersection of 5th Avenue and John Marshall Drive, is expected to take about 16 months, according to Rebecca McPhail Samples from the Office of Development.

The facility, which also will house the Office of Development operations, is the last of three projects funded through Marshall's Bridge Campaign to begin construction. The first two were the MU softball complex (Dot Hicks Field), which opened in March, and the Engineering Laboratory, which is scheduled to open in August.

Samples said the university is still raising funds for the Bridge Campaign, and that naming opportunities are still available for all three projects.

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President Kopp (left) presents co-Employee of the Month award to Panda Powell.

Honorary Fraternity Updates Band Room

Members of Marshall's chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, the national band honorary fraternity, are renovating the band room in Smith Music Hall with the support of their national organization.

Ashley Gilbert, a music student who is president of the local chapter, said that the group is



Members of Marshall University's chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, the national band honorary fraternity, apply Marshall Green to the band room in Smith Music Hall. Pictured are Amy Holliday (above) and Shawna Hatten.



painting the walls and floor, as well as the cabinets that house percussion instruments. In addition, a ramp for percussion instruments will be built with the assistance of parents of some of the members.

"This is a project that is long overdue," said Marshall Director of Bands Steve Barnett. "I am so proud of these students. Their efforts will be much appreciated by all of the faculty and students."

At the North Central District Convention of Kappa Kappa Psi this spring, the chapter applied for and won a grant of \$400 given by the district called Special Project Assistance Monies (S.P.A.M.). In order to receive this grant, they presented a project description, projected budget and timeline.

"We also had to present a skit for the officers of the district to help them decide on the winners of the grant," Gilbert said.

In conjunction with the project, the group created an inventory database of the percussion instruments that were removed and purchased wipe-off "white boards" to be installed on the closets in the front of the band room.

As funds permit, the group hopes eventually to commission a musically themed mural for the room and make other improvements.

Jazz-MU-Tazz

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United States Air Force and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Treinen has performed with legendary performers such as Lee Greenwood, Shirley Jones, Crystal Gayle, Bob Denver, Frank Mantooth, Karin Allison, Kevin Mahogany, Todd Strait, George Duke, Bobby Watson, Eric Marienthal, and many others worldwide. He continues to be an active performer and clinician throughout the Midwest, working with high school and college jazz ensembles.

Bluetrane, Marshall's faculty jazz combo, will perform with Treinen Friday, June 20. The group was created to provide a professional model for the students at Marshall and to establish a musical ensemble devoted to the performance of what has been termed "America's National Treasure," jazz. Bluetrane's personnel include Dr. Ed Bingham, saxophone, professor of music and director of jazz studies; Martin Saunders, professor of trumpet; Dr. Mike Stroehrer, professor of trombone and music education; Dr. Sean Parsons, assistant professor of

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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 June 27, 2008. Deadline is June 20. 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.

Profile: Arlene Ferguson

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Arlene Ferguson

Talk to Arlene Ferguson and she'll assure you she leads a very quiet life. Oh, there are the cruises she likes to go on, or the trips on the back of her husband's motorcycle to a ballgame in Cincinnati or to take in the sights of Gatlinburg, Tenn. Press her a little and she might even tell you about the time boxing great Muhammed Ali came to dinner at her home for a down-home meal of fried chicken and mashed potatoes.

For Ferguson, an accounting assistant II in the bursar's office, life can be the proverbial bowl of cherries with an occasional surprise tucked in just for good measure, and she likes it that way. She's been on the Marshall staff for nearly 31 years and has two Marshall degrees. Using those degrees, both in criminal justice, she once patrolled the campus as an officer and served several years as the parking enforcement officer.

And she has stories to tell about the adventures on the parking patrol. She has a good sense of humor and she needed it for that stint. "It was rather interesting," she says with wry understatement. "Parking is tough; people get very touchy. Back then vehicles with multiple tickets were towed from the lots. Now students get a 'hold' put on their registration. If you don't pay your parking tickets, you can't register."

People regularly protested getting ticketed. There was the time an athlete refused to get out of his car as it was set to be towed. "They just went ahead and hooked it up...it was going to be towed with or without him in it, so he finally did get out," she says.

She spent several years working in Public Safety before going to Parking, which had been separated from Public Safety. It was a welcome change from her years as a campus police officer, where she worked all shifts as well as weekends and holidays. When Parking and Public Safety recombined several years later, she moved to the Bursar's office, where she was responsible for the receipting of parking fees. Currently she works in the accounting area reconciling and distributing revenue received by the university.

Ferguson grew up in New Jersey, only a 30-minute commute from New York City. She moved to Huntington just prior to entering the fourth grade and, for a child used to the excitement of a large city, it seemed like "the end of the earth," she says candidly. Her father had been transferred to the area by his company, International Nickel, and because he had commuted everywhere by train he had a lapsed driver's license. "He had to take lessons to get his license so he could drive us here. We bought our first car ever for the drive to Huntington," she recalls.

Once settled in, the family quickly became part of the community and Marshall played a major role in her life. In 1977 she started her first job at Marshall, working as a dispatcher for Public Safety. She later became a campus police officer.

Now married 20 years to a retired Huntington Police officer, the close-knit family has an unorthodox arrangement which works for them but often seems to bewilder others. Her husband's "ex" shares family togetherness and that's good for the children involved, Ferguson maintains.

"My husband's ex-wife and her husband live across the street from us and we go on vacations together, share experiences and have a meal together once a week with all

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Jazz-MU-Tazz

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jazz piano; Dr. Mark Zanter, guitar, associate professor of music and head of theory and composition; and Steve Hall, associate professor of percussion. Joining them will be Jimmy Lykens, bass, who is a music performance major at Marshall.

In the Jazz-MU-Tazz Festival Big Band, college and high school students develop their skills in improvisation and learn about the history and theory of jazz, Bingham said. The collegiate members of the festival are primarily current students at Marshall, while the high school participants represent many schools throughout the area including Spring Valley, Cabell Midland, Bridgeport, Winfield, Sherman and Calhoun High Schools.

Here is a complete schedule of events for the 2008 festival:

- Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 p.m., Jomie Jazz Center: Bluetrane, MU Jazz Faculty.
- Thursday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., Jomie Jazz Center: Student Combo Jam Session.
- Friday, June 20, 7:30 p.m., Jomie Jazz Center: saxophonist Craig Treinen with Bluetrane.
- Saturday, June 21, 5 p.m., Pullman Square: Jazz-MU-Tazz Festival Big Band with Craig Treinen.

Jazz-MU-Tazz was founded in 2000 to celebrate the opening of the Jomie Jazz Center at Marshall and to foster jazz in Huntington, according to Bingham. "Professional musicians, Marshall University faculty, collegiate and high school musicians combine their talents to preserve America's true musical art form," he said.

For further information on the 9th annual Jazz-MU-Tazz, persons may contact Bingham at ext. 6-3147 or by e-mail at bingham@marshall.edu.



Bluetrane, the faculty jazz ensemble includes, from left, Sean Parsons, Mike Strocher, Martin Saunders, Mark Zanter, Ed Bingham, and Steve Hall.

Arlene Ferguson

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the kids and whatever assortment of their friends show up. It may not work for everyone but it works for us. It's good for the kids; they get a feeling of family security." Besides, she adds impishly, "It's fun to watch people's reactions!"

Among the Fergusons many interests is their passion for cruises. So far they've been on seven and there are more to come. The first one they took was actually the start of their unusual family circle. "We were a part of a group of family and friends that attended the wedding of my husband's ex-wife aboard a cruise ship, so we actually ended up going on their honeymoon," she quips. One cruise to the Bahamas was a bachelorette party for her stepdaughter. There were approximately thirty female family members and friends ranging in age from 17 to 75 on board.

Ferguson and her husband Dan have a great love of water and they owned a boat several years ago until they traded it in for a backyard swimming pool. They love entertaining lucky friends and family with pool parties. "It's just like being at the beach but with none of the fuss or bother and no sand in your bathing suit," she says, laughing. The pool is a popular place for friends of her daughter, Megan, stepdaughter Tootie and stepson Danny.

Ferguson loves to entertain and 19 years ago she hosted dinner for the legendary boxing champ Muhammed Ali, who had stopped by Huntington for an event. It was actually his second stop at their home. Her husband knew his promoter and dinner at a private home suited Ali just fine. "We asked him what he wanted for dinner and he said fried chicken and mashed potatoes, so that's what we fixed. My mother in law made the chicken and he loved it. He was so nice and accommodating and very patient. Everyone wanted pictures with him and he posed with every single person there. I have a wonderful photo of him holding Megan, who was only about a year old then."

Marshall athletics are a big part of their lives, which is natural because there are so many Marshall ties. Megan just finished her first year, Tootie received an R.B.A. and Dan, a former student, is hoping to complete his degree in the future. One game Ferguson vividly remembers is the last game of the 1988 football season, the Oct. 29 football contest with Appalachian State. A staunch fan, she cheered through the whole game and a scant three days later gave birth to Megan. The timing was perfect. Megan was a month old and attended her first Marshall basketball game that December. They're fixtures at all the home games and she tries to go to two or three away games, sometimes with family members and sometimes with coworkers. It's no surprise that she's an avid New York Yankee fan, and it's a highlight of her summer to attend a Yankee game somewhere in the vicinity with her brother, who lives in Virginia. The Yankee trip has become a cherished family tradition, a fun family outing. This year they're planning to go to Pittsburgh to root their team on.

And Arlene and Dan will probably hop on Dan's newly acquired bigger and better Harley for a trip to Cincinnati to take in a game. Arlene's been riding as a passenger for the past 20 years and these road trips are old hat for her. They both love the feel of the open road. It's an exhilarating way to travel, she believes. They attended a bike rally in Myrtle Beach just last month and although they trailered it down and back they spent four heady days exploring highways and byways with fellow bikers. They've been known to hop on the Harley and go to Gatlinburg or any other place that strikes their fancy. It's a great way to travel,—the new Harley is very comfortable—and see the sights and she doesn't have to do any of the driving, she points out.

Her zest for life and her sense of adventure keeps her busy with plans for upcoming outings. High on her list is a dream cruise to the Mediterranean, as she's explored the Caribbean ports pretty thoroughly. "I would love to go on a cruise or two every year," she says with fervor.

Not that she's planning to retire, but a cruise would make a wonderful retirement gift, she says. "I'm not going to retire until they make a cruise a retirement gift. Coming up with a cruise is the only way they're going to get me out of here!"

Panda Powell

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than simply mail the documents back to the end user, saving sometimes as much as a week on the processing. Panda is one of MURC's greatest assets."

Buckland wrote, "Panda is assigned to CEGAS as the Grants Compliance Administrator for all our projects. Panda never fails to give the most efficient, timely, and courteous assistance to all of our needs. In the area of grants compliance where confusion is not uncommon, Panda conducts herself with the utmost ease and professionalism. Her work makes my job easier."

Hannahs said she had worked with Powell for several years and "...she has always gone above the call of duty in anything that we have needed to make our grants successful."

Plymale praises Powell for being "...knowledgeable and responsive. She is professional in her approach to her work."

Williams says that when working with grants on a daily basis, it can be difficult to memorize every rule and regulation. And, she says, when she has questions concerning a grant she's working for, she knows she can call Powell for help. "Many times I know she is not the person to help me, but I know she will forward my call to the right person or she, herself, will try to figure it out for me...Panda goes above and beyond her job duty to ensure that Marshall stays compliant with the grants we have. I appreciate Panda very much!"

President Stephen J. Kopp presented Powell with a plaque, balloon bouquet and a check for \$100.

Alumni Center

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Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation Inc., said the new Alumni Center and Foundation Building will be many things to many people.

"Most of all it will be a reflection of Marshall's past, a symbol of its present, and a doorway to the future of this great institution," Area said.

Samples said the design of the complex addresses needs critical to Marshall's continued growth. The new facility, she said, will provide a place for alumni to interact with current students, teaching them the responsibility associated with being a top-notch alumnus, while shaping the future and membership of the Marshall University Alumni Association.

Expanded conference and meeting facilities will provide the backdrop for community activities, events and special occasions, Samples said.

"It also will provide a great location for potential employers to meet, recruit and interview our future graduates," she said.