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## We Are ... Marshall, October 31, 2008

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OCTOBER 31, 2008

## Homecoming "Goes Green" in More Ways Than One

GO GREEN...GO HERD is the theme of this year's Homecoming week which runs Nov. 10-15 and aims to celebrate an awareness of the environment while paying tribute to the university. Organizers have planned a wide array of activities, everything from office decorating contests where staff members can display their creativity, to a fun-filled concert Friday evening, to the gala Homecoming parade preceding the game against the Florida Central Knights.

Monday, Nov. 10 is the kickoff date for the office decorating contest with winners to be announced at a Coaches Breakfast on Friday. The breakfast takes place at the Erickson Alumni Center with a live broadcast from The DAWG, 93.7 FM.

At noon on Friday, the Memorial Fountain will be turned off in remembrance of the victims of the 1970 plane crash, a disaster which took the lives of 75 people including players, coaches and supporters. CNN correspondent and Marshall graduate Joe Johns, who is the Grand Marshal of the Homecoming Parade, will speak at the ceremony.

The Steve Miller Band Live! will wrap up Friday's events with a concert at the Big Sandy Superstore arena.

A highlight on Saturday is the festive Homecoming parade, which begins at noon downtown and wends its way to the Joan C. Edwards Stadium. The parade will be led by Johns, a 1980 graduate who currently is based in CNN's Washington, D.C. bureau. A seasoned political correspondent, he reports on government accountability, waste and fraud for Anderson Cooper 360 and other programs throughout the network.

Prior to the kickoff at 4:30 p.m., the MU Alumni Association is sponsoring a Lunch Under the Tent begin-

## Cell Symposium Debuts Nov. 14

The Marshall University Cell Differentiation and Development Center (MU CDDC) will host its first symposium on Friday, Nov. 14.

The event, titled "Advances in Cell Differentiation and Development," will take place in the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus and is open to the public. The day-long symposium will showcase cutting-edge research across many disciplines including cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurological disorders and stem cells.

The Cell Differentiation and Development Center was created through support from the West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and Marshall's College of Science. The research focus of the MU CDDC is to understand the epigenetic links between cell development and health, and how abnormalities in these processes lead to life-threatening disease.

In a series of short talks, researchers from Marshall Univer-

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ning at 1 p.m. at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Street. The cost is \$10 per person and reservations can be made by calling ext. 62901.

A spirit-building Memorial Walk by members of the Thundering Herd football team will begin two hours before kickoff from the Cam Henderson Center to the Stadium.

After the game, the Step Show, sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council, will be held at the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium in Huntington City Hall beginning at 8 p.m. Call ext. 6-2283 for tickets, which are \$15.

## Terri Tomblin-Byrd Named Employee of the Month

Terri-Tomblin-Byrd, director of databases and enterprise applications, was named Employee of the Month for September, according to Amber Bentley, Chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee for 23 years, she was nominated collectively by the offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, Recruitment, Assessment and Program Review and Registrar, represented by Dr. Tammy Johnson, Nadine Hamrick, Dr. Mary Beth Reynolds and Roberta Ferguson.

The nomination read, "Students are the primary benefactors of Terri's hard work and expertise. As a result of this behind-the-scenes work, navigating the campus administrative process is more seamless for our students. Most students do not know Terri, but those of us who

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*Terri Tomblin-Byrd (left) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Stephen J. Kopp.*

# Record Participation Expected for Marshall University Marathon

Registration was expected to reach record levels for the 5th annual Marshall University Marathon, which will be run at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 2 in Huntington. Race director Tom Dannals said he is confident last year's totals will be surpassed.

"Last year 800 people were on the starting line for the various events," Dannals said. "We're hoping to hit 1,000 people this year. We're still looking for runners, walkers and volunteers. This event is all about exercise, and we hope everyone will participate."

No major changes from last year have been made to the 26.2-mile flat, USA Track and Field (USATF) certified course. The marathon begins on 3rd Avenue near the Cam Henderson Center and runs through downtown Huntington past Pullman Square, next to the Ohio River and through Ritter Park, among other places.

Participants will finish the race by running through the Huntington campus on their way to a goal-line finish on the turf at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

Former Marshall and NFL star Mike Bartrum will be a special guest at the marathon. Bartrum, a native of Pomeroy, Ohio, will toss footballs to the runners as they

## University Chorus to Perform, Start Tradition Nov. 4

The Marshall University Chorus will perform a concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4 in Smith Recital Hall. The 56-voice choir, under the direction of Robert Wray, assistant professor of choral music education, will perform selections ranging from baroque music of Antonio Vivaldi to contemporary works by Gawthrop, Estévez, and Olatunji.

The featured work, Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria," will be performed in its entirety using both a chamber ensemble comprised of Marshall University faculty and students and student soloists. Two other pieces, Estévez's "Mata Del Anima Sola" and Olatunji's "Betelehemu," bring focus to the music of Venezuela and Nigeria, respectively.

This concert will also include a re-introduction of the Marshall University Alma Mater to the campus and community as the University Choir begins its Alma Mater initiative.

"Last year, students in University Chorus remarked on how very few people seem to know the tune or words of the Alma Mater," Wray explained. "I discovered that there was not one choral arrangement that lined up with what the

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near the finish line, which Dannals said is always a highlight of the marathon.

Bartrum played football at Marshall from 1988 through 1992. In the NFL, Bartrum was widely regarded as the league's best long snapper. He played for the Philadelphia Eagles from 2000 to 2007 before retiring. He also played for the Kansas City Chiefs, Green Bay Packers and New England Patriots.

Race events this year include the marathon, half-marathon (which may be run or walked), half-marathon relay run and 5-mile walk.

The only in-person registration will take place at the race expo/packet pickup from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 at Huntington Physical Therapy, which is located at 2240 5th Ave.

For more information on the Marathon, visit [www.healthyhuntington.org](http://www.healthyhuntington.org).

## Marshall Programming Carried by Suddenlink

Suddenlink Communications and Marshall University are teaming to provide Suddenlink customers with Marshall University programming that began Oct. 9. The mostly student-produced programming will run throughout the school year and feature campus news, information, and a variety-type show. The programs featured will be "We Are Marshall Today," "Up Late" and "MU Report."

"This programming gives Marshall University journalism students a huge electronic platform to hone their skills

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## Graduate College Endowment Named for Deutsch

Marshall University's Graduate College Advisory Board has honored Dr. Leonard Deutsch, Dean of the Graduate College, by naming its endowment fund for him. Now known as the Dr. Leonard J. Deutsch Graduate College Professional Development Fund, the fund currently has a balance of approximately \$25,000.

Deutsch said he would like to see it grow to support more students as they represent Marshall at regional, national and international professional meetings.

Those who wish to contribute to the endowment may make donations by calling the Marshall University Foundation at ext. 6-6264, or donations can also be sent to the foundation by mail.



Dr. Leonard Deutsch (seated) at the most recent meeting of the Graduate College Advisory Board. Standing are, from left, board members Jim Steenbergen (President of First Fitness Equipment Co.), Larry Tweel (lawyer), Dr. Nicola LoCascio (College of Science), Monica Hatfield (chair of the Graduate College Advisory Board), Bill Sawran (retired from Ashland Oil), Elizabeth Sheets (MU Legal Aid), Dr. William Ratcliff (Tri-State Eyecare), Dr. Omayma Touma (School of Medicine), Dr. Brad Richardson (physician), and Dr. John Casto (optometrist).

# WE ARE... MARSHALL.



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Nov. 14, 2008. Deadline is Nov. 7. 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).

## Profile: Diane Williams



Diane Williams

The H.E.L.P program is truly well named, according to Diane Williams, and she certainly should know. Currently the H.E.L.P college coordinator, she's been with the program for more than 18 years.

H.E.L.P. stands for Higher Education for Learning Problems and Williams has been involved with it almost since its inception. She came well qualified with two degrees from Marshall—an under-

graduate degree in Elementary Education with a specialization in mental impairment, and M.A. in learning disabilities. In addition she spent 13 years at Cammack Junior High School in Huntington where she taught learning disabled students.

"H.E.L.P. offers tutoring support for college students who have learning disabilities and/or Attention Deficit Disorder," she explains. And over the years the program has continued to expand. "H.E.L.P. started with college students but now we have community help where tutoring is provided for students from elementary through high school. These students come in after school and we also have diagnostic help that does testing for disabilities and ADD. We also have Medical H.E.L.P. to work with medical students, residents and physicians."

"It's a very busy job but I love it," she says. "I'm passionate about helping those students and it's a wonderful environment in which to work. We have academic tutoring done primarily by graduate assistants and remedial tutoring by learning disabilities specialists who work with them in skill areas such as reading comprehension, reading rate, spelling and math. Once the students improve in those skills they will be more successful in college and later the work world."

Williams has spent most of her life in Huntington, having moved here when she was four. Her whole professional career has been spent helping students to use their abilities and to lead successful, productive lives.

As busy as she stays on the job, she has a full and rich life after hours. She's a versatile mainstay of her church, the Trinity Church of God, where she serves as treasurer for the Women of the Church of God and also as the church's sound technician. Her fiduciary prowess hasn't gone unnoticed—she's been the state Treasurer for the WCG for the past 10 years. It's detailed, meticulous work, but she's not daunted by it. It's a service she can perform and she's happy to do it.

She became a polished sound technician almost by accident. She loves music, but admits with amusement, "I can't sing a note, not a lick, but I know what music should sound like. About 20 years ago the person running the sound board asked me if I would like to learn and I said 'sure.' I've been at it ever since and as the channels, the number of microphones, have increased and the boards have gotten more complex, I've learned to handle them. We started off with eight channels and we're now up to 32. I handle anything that has to do with sound, tapes, CD, level, balancing. I

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## Terri Tomblin-Byrd

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work in university offices dealing with the Banner database know that she is the 'keeper of the systems' and the 'problem-solving wizard,' making all service delivery possible. Through her valuable work, our students benefit daily."

They explain that her position involves responsibility for various databases and Web applications. "She frequently works uncompensated hours to accomplish software updates, analyze problems and perform database maintenance. Terri works tirelessly to respond promptly to the numerous requests from system users."

Reynolds, director of assessment and program review, noted several contributions made by Tomblin-Byrd. She emailed randomly selected freshmen and seniors inviting them to take the Collegiate Learning Assessment. Lists were then generated in Banner when students signed up to take the test, allowing the department to keep track of the schedule and ensuring that test samples were representative. She also supervised the generation of the population database that was needed for the National Survey of Student Engagement, which included all freshmen and seniors. She also organized the Banner data for Assessment Day prizes, a task that included setting up approximately 150 different databases, one for each activity on Assessment Day.

"Terri Tomblin-Byrd rendered invaluable assistance to the Office of Assessment and Program Review during the 2007-2008 year," Reynolds said. That office "... could not have completed these tasks without her able and cheerful assistance."

The nomination concludes, "Although she possesses a brilliant mind and outstanding technical skills, she deals with each inquiry with calm, reassuring demeanor."

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

## Kool and the Gang to Perform Nov. 7

A musical staple since the 1970s, **Kool & The Gang**, which has sold over 70 million albums worldwide comes to the Big Sandy Superstore Arena, Friday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

With countless awards and over thirty gold and platinum records under their belt, **Kool & The Gang** has become a musical powerhouse which has redefined jazz, R&B, funk, disco, and soul for three generations. Originally a solely instrumental band, they made waves in the music industry from the very start, and have produced a bevy of memorable songs including the hit from the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack, "Summer Madness." After adding vocals to the mix in the late '70s, **Kool & The Gang** saw continued success with a series of unforgettable tracks, including the instantly recognizable "Celebration."

The performance will feature opening acts on multiple stages, including Myrtle Beach's premier Shag band, Jim Quick and Coastline, and DC's hip-hop dancers, Cultureshock

Tickets can be purchased through the Marshall Artists Series box office, located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, or by calling ext. 6-6656. Patrons can also visit [www.marshallartistsseries.org](http://www.marshallartistsseries.org) for ticket information. The box office is open Monday-Friday from noon to 5 p.m.

## ***Diane Williams***

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can even turn off the pastor if he runs on too long," she says impishly.

In fact she's become so proficient at this behind-the-scenes craft that she frequently serves as the sound technician for other functions such as state conferences. "I can't sing, I can't play an instrument, but I can do this," she says candidly.

She has a real zest for travel and, in addition to visiting her brother and her best friends in Florida, she also enjoys attending professional and church conferences. "I always find something in conferences to bring back with me." In fact she just returned from Grand Rapids, Mich., where she attended the National Women of the Church of God convention.

Williams is proud of her "surrogate grandchildren," the offspring of her best friend and husband, who is her former pastor. Three of the children live in Huntington and Williams delights in spending time with them. Two others live near enough in Parkersburg so that she can be part of their lives, also.

An avid photographer, Williams likes to take photos whenever she can find time and her tastes are eclectic. There are lots of photos of her adopted grandkids, of course, along with nature photos, people engaged in a variety of activities and events of all kinds, whatever strikes her fancy. The pictures form a memory scrapbook. Wherever she goes she stores up memories through her camera, because "Memories are so very important to me."

And working with the H.E.L.P. program all these years has certainly resulted in a flood of memories for her, many of them poignant. Students who come to the H.E.L.P. program often have been told all their lives that they are not "college material," she says, and many have even been actively discouraged from seeking a college education. One of her favorite times of the year is the annual reception held just before graduation for students and their families. "Everyone has an opportunity to speak and many talk about wanting to take their diplomas to show teachers or counselors or others who have told them they would never succeed in college. A lot of the graduates stay in contact with us and we see them grow and become successful in their careers."

And she's extremely proud that the program has grown from the initial five students to the more than 200 who are now participants. Many come to Marshall from out of state because they've heard about the program and its success stories. And they've come a long way insofar as facilities are concerned also, she says, moving from cramped quarters in a pre-fabricated metal building to their own building, Myers Hall. It was donated by benefactor Wilbur Myers, who read about the program and wanted to do something lasting for it.

With an abundance of energy and a lively curiosity, Williams never runs out of interesting things to do or new things to tackle. She loves to cook—she collects cookbooks—and enjoys setting a bountiful table for friends with the down-home comfort foods she learned to prepare from her mother.

"I'm so lucky that I have people who are like my family in my life. I love my job, and my church and my relationship with the Lord are the most important things to me. I can't say enough good things about the H.E.L.P. program. It truly has changed lives. It takes so many people working together and our common goal is to help our students succeed."

And not surprising to those who know her she adds, "Anything I do, I like to do well. I try not to take on things that I would just do adequately."

## ***Cell Symposium***

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sity and neighboring institutions will present their latest discoveries. In addition, the meeting will provide an opportunity for undergraduates and graduate students to talk about their own research projects, giving this future generation of scientists an opportunity to highlight their work.

The keynote speaker, Dr. R. Michael Roberts, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, will present his most recent work on reproductive biology, signaling and stem cells. Roberts is Curators' Professor of Animal Science at the University of Missouri.

In addition to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, his accomplishments include Scientific American's top 50 list for accomplishments in research and technology leadership and an NIH MERIT award. Scientists from the extended Tri-State area and neighboring states have been invited to attend the symposium.

"We expect that this symposium will lead to new research collaborations between individuals who would otherwise never meet," said Dr. Philippe Georgel, associate professor in Marshall's department of biological sciences, and one of the event organizers. "Such interactions will lead to enhanced research productivity and grant funding, which is one of the main goals of the MU CDDC."

Georgel said the symposium will be capped off by scientific presentations by undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. It will be followed by a reception and awards ceremony at the end of the day.

For more information, contact Kristen Sutherland at [bradley57@marshall.edu](mailto:bradley57@marshall.edu).

## ***Suddenlink***

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as journalists," said Dr. Corley Dennison, dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. "We could not be happier with this relationship with Suddenlink. Students, faculty and staff located at our South Charleston and Point Pleasant campuses will benefit from programming on their home cable systems and thousands of viewers will be updated on Marshall University weekly."

Michael Kelemen, Suddenlink's director of government relations, said, "Local programming is an integral part of Suddenlink's service to our communities. Marshall University is a great partner in providing well-produced and topical programs that will be of interest to more than just students."

The programs will air in the Suddenlink markets on channel 22.

## ***University Chorus***

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band plays at athletic events. So, I created a new arrangement that would work with or without the band."

He added that it is the goal of University Chorus to sing (and teach) the Alma Mater to its concertgoers, students and other members of the community. They hope to establish a tradition of singing it at all their concerts.

Admission is free and the concert is open to the public. For further information about this concert or music call ext. 6-3117 or e-mail Wray at [wrayr@marshall.edu](mailto:wrayr@marshall.edu).