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We Are ... Marshall, July 8, 2005

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JULY 8, 2005

Marshall 5-Year Campaign Nears Goal

More than \$98 million of the \$100 million goal has been secured for Marshall's "Campaign for National Prominence," according to MU Foundation Inc. President and CEO Glen Kerkian.

"The attainment of the \$100 million 'Campaign for National Prominence Goal, combined with the fact that we will soon be managing more than \$100 million in assets, puts Marshall University and the Foundation in elite company," Kerkian said. "Our students and academic colleges will be the beneficiaries of this consistent outpouring of generosity."

The board assembled late last month for a weekend meeting at Stonewall Resort.

"Marshall's future is exciting," Foundation Chairman Monica Hatfield said. "This weekend we had the pleasure of

meeting Marshall's new president. Dr. Sarah Denman shared student accomplishment on the state and national levels. Glen Kerkian shared wonderful news about the conclusion of the Campaign for National Prominence, which will occur at the end of this year. The Foundation's endowments and assets are at an all-time high. Needless to say, I left the meeting feeling that Marshall is truly on the road to national prominence."

Dr. Paul Uselding, dean of the Lewis College of Business, also made a presentation at the board meeting.

Stephanie Neal Named Employee of the Month

Stephanie Neal, Administrative Assistant to the President of the Marshall Community & Technical College, has been named the Employee of the Month for April, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

A Marshall employee since July 1985, she was nominated by Mike Dunn, Manager 1, Physical Plant, chair of the Classified Staff Council and currently Marshall's representative to the Advisory Council of Classified Employees.

In his nomination Dunn noted that "...she has worked day and night with the West Virginia Legislature to protect the rights and the well being of classified employees here at Marshall as well as the whole state. As the ACCE rep for Marshall University she has earned the respect and approval of all the local senators and house members."

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President Kopp On the Job



Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp assumed office on July 1 and has begun moving into his office. On his first day, he was interviewed by phone on the radio show of West Virginia MetroNews' Hoppy Kercheval.

Library Associates Plan Book Celebration

A noted expert on antiquarian books and a local Civil War historian will join forces to celebrate books at the Marshall University's Library Associates summer event July 29 in the Drinko Library Atrium from 4 to 7 p.m. A reception and presentations will start the program.

Antiquarian bookman Jack Walsdorf will speak on the joys of book collecting and relate some of his adventures in over 30

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Stephanie Neal (left) receives her Employee of the Month plaque from Marshall Community and Technical College President Dr. Vicki Riley

Reasons, Bissett Appointed to Marshall Posts



Laurie Reasons

Laurie Reasons and Bill Bissett have begun working at Marshall University. Reasons, a former sales manager with Continental Airlines, has been named director of special projects for the Marshall University Foundation, Inc. according to Executive Director Glenn Kerkian.

Reasons started on June 6. Her primary responsibilities will include event planning for the Foundation, as well as ad hoc special projects.

"I'm looking forward to jumping in with both feet and giving everything I can to strengthen Marshall University," Reasons said. "Our state is unequivocally one of the best places to live and work, so I'm delighted to focus my energies here."

Reasons began her eight-year career at Continental in 1997 as a part-time reservations clerk. Ultimately a sales and service specialist opportunity became available, which led to a TeleSales manager, then a promotion to a field manager with responsibility for Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

"My job at Continental was...to help corporations fly where they needed to go to close a deal or improve the company's bottom line," Reasons said. "In this new position I will have the consummate privilege of helping students fly to their ultimate destination in life—at which point they will hopefully decide to give back to their alma mater! I intend and hope to make a difference here."

Reasons earned her B.A. in English in 1981 from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She is married to Dr. Allen Reasons, Senior Minister of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Huntington. They have two children, Katherine and Preston. Katherine is a member of Marshall's Society of Yeager Scholars Class of 2009.

As part of Marshall University's ongoing communications effort, Bill Bissett has been selected to serve as Director of Public Relations at Marshall's South Charleston campus.

"Bill brings a strong combination of public service and private sector experience to this position," Marshall University Interim President Michael J. Farrell said. "We want to put our South Charleston campus more 'on the map' with the public, and I believe that Bill has the ability and enthusiasm to make this happen."

Bissett assumed his duties on June 1.

"As a lifelong fan of Marshall University, I'm very excited about this new position," Bissett said. "While I plan on working



Bill Bissett

with the mass media across the Mountain State, my primary focus will be the Kanawha Valley. From forensic science to football, I'm looking forward to sharing information about the amazing opportunities that Marshall has to offer."

Bissett graduated with his undergraduate and master's degrees from Marshall University. He can be contacted at extension 62038 or by e-mail at bissett1@marshall.edu.

Sharon Porter Named President of MU Alumni Association



Sharon Porter

Sharon Porter, a Huntington resident and Marshall University graduate, is the new president of the MU Alumni Association. She assumed her two-year term on July 1, replacing Tom Harris.

Porter had been serving as secretary of the MUAA, and continued those duties until July 1. Her husband, Jeff Porter, was president of the association for three years prior to Harris' two-year term.

Porter, who was selected by the alumni association's nominating committee and elected by the full MUAA board of directors, said she has several goals for the

MUAA as she prepares to take office.

"I want us to finish raising money for the new Erickson Alumni Center, and get that under construction," she said. "Another goal is to increase alumni involvement, especially among young alumni – people in their first 10 years out of

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Summer Thesis Grants Awarded

Five graduate students have been awarded summer 2005 thesis/dissertation research awards, according to Dr. Leonard J. Deutsch, Dean of the Graduate College. These \$1,000 scholarships are designed to provide financial support to help students complete their research, Deutsch said.

The recipients and their advisors are:

- The Lamina Faye Maynard Queen Memorial Graduate Research Scholarship was awarded to Kristopher Clifford for "Writing through the Stereotypes: Confronting Social Issues through Appalachian Literature." Advisor: Dr. Shirley Lumpkin, English.
- The Bill Minner Thesis Research Award recipient is Elizabeth Duke for "Developing Numerical Methods with Time Scales Calculus." Advisor: Dr. Bonita Lawrence, Mathematics.
- The Jaci and Michael Maszta Thesis Research Award went to Robert S. Drake for "Winning is Everything: Eliciting Evolution of Testosterone in Females." Advisor: Dr. Steven P. Mewaldt, Psychology.
- The Jack Yeager Thesis Grant was awarded to Shawndra Kay Russell for "Genesis: The Foundation of Castaway Narratives." Advisor: Dr. John Young, English.
- The Stephen Cupps Thesis Grant was awarded to Kimilee Y. Wilson for "The Effectiveness of Memory Training Programs in Improving the Subjective Memory Characteris-

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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 July 22, 2005. Deadline is July 15. 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: Becky Sloan

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Becky Sloan

Put Becky Sloan near a boat, a pool or an ocean and she's a happy camper. Just as long as there's water around, the Sloan family is always up for some sunshiny fun. In fact this enthusiastic outdoors family is busy preparing for a special camping trip near Key West, Fla.

Sloan, who is an administrative secretary senior for the Psychology Department on the South Charleston campus, has been with the graduate college for 12 years, beginning in the Reading Department and then spending the last several years in her present job. It's a labor of love, she says, requiring among other things, patience and a good sense of humor.

"Well, I'm working on the patience part," she says with a laugh.

She loves working with students. She's a take-charge and no-nonsense person and students appreciate that, she has found. If students have problems, she'll try to help them. And she won't pass students around from place to place. "I try to solve their problem myself or get them to the right place," she says firmly. "I'll answer questions or help them in any way I can and get whatever information they need."

And students have responded warmly to her helpfulness. They've sent her thank you cards and e-mails and even gifts of appreciation. "I take good care of them, I get to know them personally and they're important to me," she says. "When I'm off I check my e-mail just to keep up with things. On weekends I check my e-mail and I get back when someone has a question or a problem. I've occasionally gotten calls at home in the evenings or on weekends because someone has an urgent problem or question and they know I'll take care of things if I can."

Actually Sloan works for two colleges, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Education and Human Services, which houses the School Psychology program, a separate degree. She has admiration for the students who choose these programs and complete graduate degrees.

"It takes a lot of work to get a master's degree in Psychology and School Psychology," she admits. "They're tough programs and they require a lot of time, work and commitment. It's been fun watching students complete their degrees, then marry and have children. I love having our graduates come back with their kids for a visit and catching up on what they're doing now."

Summer is always a busy time for students in both colleges, she says. School Psychology students will take part in the month-long summer institute for children K-12 in Dunbar during June and July, and Psychology students will continue to do practica during the summer at the college-run Community Clinical Services Center, also located in Dunbar.

Sloan grew up in the Charleston area, graduating from Charleston High School. She's been married to her husband, Lee, for 21 years and spent eight years working for her father-in-law, a Charleston attorney, before making the move to the graduate college, which was then located in Institute on the campus of the former West Virginia State College.

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Stephanie Neal

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And, he adds, "Stephanie has been a great help to me these last two years of staff council ready to answer any questions that me or any other member of staff council has regarding any campus or state policy. Most of the time she can whip out her ever present code book and find the answer."

Neal has long been a tireless worker on behalf of the classified staff, Dunn says. "A lot of the things she does for us are not known unless you ask Senator Plymale or someone who works with her on ACCE. She does not toot her own horn!"

She was presented with a balloon bouquet, a plaque and a check for \$100 by Dr. Vicki Riley, president of the Marshall Community & Technical College.

Grad Students Provide K-12 Summer Enrichment

"Country Roads" is the theme of Marshall University's summer enrichment program for students K-12 now underway at Dunbar Intermediate School through July 28.

The program is designed to offer Marshall graduate students a clinical experience leading to certification, licensure



Dr. Gary Anderson, professor of chemistry who is also known as "Mr. Magic," demonstrates some colorful chemistry tricks for Jessica Rubenstein (left) and some of her fellow participants in the summer enrichment program in Dunbar.

or the completion of master's degrees while providing children an opportunity to participate in an activity-based learning experience, according to Dr. Joyce Meikamp, professor of special education and director of the summer program.

Approximately 70 graduate students from the academic areas of special education, school counseling, school psychology and reading are taking part. Activities include a "Mr. Magic" performance by Marshall chemistry professor, Dr. Gary

Anderson, performances by musician Ron Sowell and a Conestoga wagon complete with demonstrations of pioneer life.

Meikamp said the program, which also helps children in danger of failing, is more than 25 years old.

"The program gives our graduate students and school children a look at the real world while trying out new ideas," Meikamp said.

Homecoming '05 Theme Selected

Student Beverly Maynard is the \$100 winner of the Homecoming Committee's contest to find the theme for Homecoming 2005 scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 15.

Her winning suggestion was "R.O.C.K. in Conference U.S.A.," according to Nancy Pelphrey, coordinator of alumni programs. Marshall's homecoming opponent in football will be the Blazers from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

"We want to thank Beverly and all of the others who sent their great ideas," Pelphrey said. "We had a great response to the contest."

Anyone planning an event around Homecoming should let Pelphrey know by July 13 so the event can be included in publicity materials. She can be contacted at ext. 63134 or by e-mail at pelphrey@marshall.edu.

Becky Sloan

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The location of the graduate college may have changed but "One thing that is constant is the people," she says. "I've made good friends here at the college and with several graduates as well."

The joy of her life is her son Josh, a lively, sociable 9-year old who loves school, is fascinated by trains and keeps the family hopping. He's had some health problems in the past but he's working through them and he's doing well now, she says. He shares his parents' love of the water and water sports and loves to camp. Josh is extremely close to Becky's mother Juanita, who has baby-sat for him since he was born and who will be going on the upcoming camping trip. "Josh and I are so much alike, it's scary," she says, laughing.

And just for fun, Becky and Lee are big-time "parrotheads," one of the band of merry and irreverent Jimmy Buffet fans. They've been following the laid-back singer around for more than 15 years, going to concerts all over the east. And most of the fun, she says, takes place on parking lots before concerts where die-hard fans tailgate and vie to see who can be the most outrageous in clothing and décor.

"It's like a big luau where everyone dresses up in Caribbean clothes," she reminisces. "People will bring wading pools and big plastic palm trees. People wear shark and cheeseburger hats and you have to have parrot necklaces and earrings. We all know every song of his by heart. It's worth going to a concert just to watch people in the parking lots. It's a group of people intent on having a good time and it's always fun and funny."

She's known around the college for being a soft touch for stray animals, particularly cats. She once rescued a frightened and hungry stray that had been spotted flitting around the campus and took him home where he lived a pampered life before dying of cancer. She currently has four cats, thanks to "Mystery," a pregnant stray that turned up at her door and presented her with four kittens, three of which she kept.

About her work she says, "I can't imagine working any place else. I have very good rapport with the faculty and that's a help." It can get very hectic in her department but luckily she has a good sense of humor. "You need that sometimes; humor definitely keeps me afloat," she says with a cheery smile.

Book Celebration

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years as a bookseller. Walsdorf travels the country with his version of Public Television's *Antiques Road Show*. This will mark the third time the author and editor of 15 books has visited Marshall to share his expertise. Two years ago, 123 people lined up at the Drinko Library to discover if a book handed down from a grandparent or picked up at a yard sale was a gem. He will be making appraisals beginning at 5 p.m.

Jack Dickinson, Confederate Bibliographer of the Rosanna A. Blake Library of Confederate History in Marshall's Special Collections, will discuss his latest publication, *Civil War Items*. This museum-quality book reproduces notable examples of printed material in the Blake Library, including sheet music, religious tracts, bonds and currency, patriotic items, newspapers and other periodicals, and letters, including one written by Gen. Robert E. Lee to Gen. G. T. Beauregard in 1863. The author of nine books about the Civil War, Dickinson is a West Virginia native and a member of the Company of Military Historians. A book signing session begins at 5 p.m.

Admission is free to members of the Library Associates and \$5 for all others. Payment will be collected on site, but reservations are required. Doors open at 3:45 p.m. and the reception/presentations begin at 4 p.m. A ticket order form can be printed from the MU Library Associates' Web page at www.marshall.edu/library/libassoc/. For more information, call the Libraries at ext. 62312.

State Farm Makes Presentation to Accomplished Teacher Project



State Farm agency field executive Herman Dixon (left), along with State Farm agents Faye Zinn and Lisa Godwin, presents a \$15,000 grant to Marshall University's Graduate School of Education and Professional Development, continuing a partnership that helps West Virginia school teachers attain national certification. Receiving the check were (from right) Dr. Ron Childress, Dr. Rudy Pauley and Emily Hundley.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) awards national board certification, the highest professional credential in the field of teaching, to teachers who successfully complete a rigorous, performance-based assessment.

During the past five years, State Farm has provided more than \$40,000 to support Marshall's Accomplished Teaching Project, a graduate-level program that assists in the preparation of teachers seeking to obtain national certification. Through this program, fifty-seven teachers have received National Board Certification.

"Through its continued support, State Farm has played a critical role in the success of Marshall's Accomplished Teaching Project," said Childress, Marshall University Vice President for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development. "With State Farm's continued support, we are establishing West Virginia as a national leader in the development of quality teachers and quality education."

Sharon Porter

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college. And, we need to increase our visibility in the Conference USA cities."

About \$2.9 million of the needed \$4 million has been raised or pledged for the new alumni center, Porter said. "(The architect) estimates the building time at about 18 months, so I'd like to see ground broken and construction begin soon," she said.

In addition to Porter, other MUAA board members include: first vice president, Martha Hill; second vice president, Nancy Campbell; treasurer, Mike Graybeal; secretary, Debbie Prester; and chairperson of the Erickson Alumni Committee, Robert Yost.

Thesis Grants

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tics of Healthy Older Adults with Memory Complaints: A Meta-Analysis." Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Thomas E. Ellis, Psychology.

The latter two awards were made possible through the generosity of Dr. F. Duke Haddad.