We Are … Marshall, March 4, 2005

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Marshall Caps Research Day with Two Awards

Marshall University students earned two of the three awards presented March 1 by the West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (WV EPSCoR) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Undergraduate Researcher of the Year competition at the Capitol.

Marshall freshman Zachary Tackett of Proctorville, Ohio, was chosen first runner-up for his biochemistry poster titled, “Identification of Fluoroquinolone Resistance Proteins in Staphylococcus aureus.” He won $500.

MU juniors Justin Swick of Chesapeake, Ohio and Derek Gregg of Barboursville were chosen second runner-up for their biochemistry poster titled, “Instrumentation for Large Scale DNA Manufacturing.” They were presented with a check for $300.

The awards were presented by Paul Hill, director of WV EPSCoR, during a reception that followed Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. Ninety-nine students representing eight public institutions and four private institutions took part in the event, displaying posters of their projects on both levels of the Capitol’s rotunda area.

Fourteen Researcher of the Year finalists were chosen from the 99 participants, and the three winners were picked from the 14 finalists.

“We had two juniors and a freshman who walk away with checks,” Marshall Interim President
Marshall Signs 2+2 Agreement with Ashland CTC

President Greg Adkins of Ashland Community and Technical College and Marshall University interim president Michael J. Farrell have signed a 2 + 2 articulation agreement that further strengthens the relationship between the two institutions.

The agreement offers an additional 2 + 2 degree option in Business Administration. It allows students to complete an Associate in Arts at ACTC and transfer the courses smoothly into any business major within the Lewis College of Business at Marshall.

“Marshall University is very proud of the long relationship with Ashland Community and Technical College,” Farrell said. “We have been very satisfied with the students who have transferred here as part of the 2+2 agreement. With this agreement, students can begin their academic careers in Ashland and complete them at Marshall with confidence that they have received a high quality education close to home.”

The agreement specifically states that students may enter Accounting, Economics, International Economics, Finance, Management, Health Care Management, Management Information Systems or Marketing.

The institutions also announced the updating of another 2 + 2 agreement already in place between the two institutions. It allows ACTC students who are pursuing an Associate in Applied Science degree with a management option a smooth transition into Marshall’s Business Administration program with a management major. The original agreement was signed in 1996.

“There are many positives in having 2 + 2 programs,” said Dr. Lorraine Anderson, associate dean in the Lewis College of Business. “They allow us to articulate the transfer of courses between two programs which makes students feel comfortable knowing how their coursework will be accepted at the next institution.”

Anderson said the agreements also could encourage a student to pursue a four-year degree when previously he or she had considered only a two-year degree.

Staff Council Results Announced

Results of the Staff Council Election have been announced, according to Jim Stephens, director of Human Resource Services.

Barbara Simpkins was elected in EEO Group 30 - Other Professionals.

Leslie Lucas and Lu Ann South were elected in the EEO Group 50 – Clerical.

‘Color Me Dark’
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the 1920s, the atmosphere is laden with pre-Civil War oppression, and African-American families are still subject to fierce prejudice from their neighbors as they try to forge a new life. The Love family is stricken in an unforgivable way, driving young Erma Jean Love into silence. In an attempt to abandon these injustices, the family migrates to Chicago only to encounter similar, if not more severe circumstances. While Erma Jean finds comfort in her silence, Nellie Lee is forced to defend both herself and her sister.

Tickets can be purchased through the Marshall Artists Series Box Office, located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. Phone orders can be placed by calling ext. 6656, using a VISA or MasterCard.
The Marian Anderson 2005 Black Heritage Commemorative U.S. Postage Stamp was unveiled locally at a ceremony this week in the Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center.

The public event was sponsored by the Marshall’s Office of Multicultural Affairs and the U.S. Postal Service in Huntington. Members of the Marshall and Huntington communities, along with U.S. Postal Service representatives, conducted the unveiling. Bruce William Moody, a Marshall alumnus and retired high school principal in Fairburn, Ga, was the featured speaker. Interim president Dr. Howard R.D. Gordon and graduate student Zulma Hernandez had an article, “Association of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Self-Efficacy with Sexual Risk Behaviors Among High School Students in Aguablanca Cali, Colombia,” accepted for presentation at the Eastern Educational Research Association conference. The article will be presented by Dr. James Sottile on March 5 in Sarasota, Fla.

Distinguished Faculty Nominees Sought

Interim President Michael Farrell has created the Marshall University Heritage Committee and charged it with the responsibility of selecting and recognizing Distinguished Faculty who have served the university long and well.

Members of the committee are Alan Gould, Robert Hayes, Sam Clagg, William Denman, Dorothy Hicks, Linda Holmes and Robert Alexander.

The criteria for nomination for the Distinguished Faculty Award include:

- The candidate must have served a minimum of fifteen years as a Marshall faculty member; the (continued on page 4)

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Howard R.D. Gordon and graduate student Zulma Hernandez had an article, “Association of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Self-Efficacy with Sexual Risk Behaviors Among High School Students in Aguablanca Cali, Colombia,” accepted for presentation at the Eastern Educational Research Association conference. The article will be presented by Dr. James Sottile on March 5 in Sarasota, Fla.
Nega Debela
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Nega accepted a position as a faculty member at MUGC in South Charleston. For the past four years he’s been successfully running ESL classes, many of them online, making them available all over the state and in other areas. He’s working on plans to offer all his ESL classes online in the future.

And there’s some family togetherness in South Charleston which has worked out very well, Nega says with a smile. His mother-in-law, Dr. Bizunesh Wubie, also a native of Ethiopia, is on the faculty at the graduate college and, in fact, has the office next door to him.

Debela is looking forward to working with the students who will be attending his lectures and he hopes to give them some tips and insight into cultural differences.

“In the past we didn’t have many immigrants coming to West Virginia but we are seeing a new trend now that more immigrants are coming to the state, and teachers often don’t know what to do with them,” he says. “They feel frustrated and awkward because they have never had ESL students before. But now they know we have this program and it’s a very positive thing for the state.”

And it’s not just the language barrier that can be daunting to teachers. There are subtle cultural differences that teachers must be aware of, he believes.

“Imagine someone who doesn’t speak English coming to your class,” he says. “You would need to know that in many cultures students do not make eye contact with the teachers out of respect. They’re not hiding anything. In most cultures, teachers are revered and are considered highly knowledgeable so students are actually showing the teacher respect when they don’t make eye contact. It’s considered rude and disrespectful to look directly at the teacher.”

And, he goes on, in some parts of the Middle East and Africa, handing someone an object with the left hand can be considered a sign of disrespect. A light encouraging pat on the head by a teacher can be a cultural faux pas. In some parts of South America the traditional “V” sign signifying something good or positive can be interpreted as quite the opposite because in some cultures it’s considered rude or even obscene.

Debela recounts that President Richard Nixon received criticism when he gave the “V” sign during a visit to South America. His aides obviously hadn’t done their homework and didn’t know that the crowds he was addressing interpreted his cheery gesture in quite a different light.

And space can be an issue as well, he stresses. “Americans are used to having space between them and others but in some countries standing very close to another person is quite acceptable. That can be disconcerting to a teacher.”

So along with the language aspect of ESL, it’s important for teachers to be aware of the importance of body language, touch, gesture and space, he sums up.

Being a non-English speaking student in a class can be very frustrating for students, he realizes, and teachers want to do everything they can to put them at ease.

“I want to help students understand that as teachers when we teach someone from a different country, we have to know there are certain things you need to understand about them. Having this knowledge will help teachers develop strategies. I’m looking forward to working with students through the Teacher-Lecturer Series. I think students will learn lots of tips that they can use in their classrooms.”

Research Day Awards
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Michael J. Farrell said after congratulating the winners. “What does that say? It says we’re doing good things here at Marshall University.

“Zach Tackett began his research during his junior and senior years at Fairland High School. As outstanding as he is, he chose Marshall because it provided the best opportunity for him and his continuing research.”

Marian Anderson Stamp
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Michael J. Farrell, Maurice Cooley, director of Marshall’s Center for African American Students’ Programs, Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley, vice president for Multicultural Affairs, and others spoke at the ceremony.

“This is one of the most important events we put on because it’s a collaboration between the Postal Service and Marshall University,” Cleckley said. “And, it’s the unveiling of an outstanding black American.”

Anderson is regarded as one of the greatest classically trained singers of the 20th century and an important figure in the struggle of black Americans for racial equality. She performed more than 50 times at Carnegie Hall, making her first appearance there in 1920 and her last one in 1989.

Distinguished Faculty
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candidate must be retired and/or have left the university for a period of five years after serving the fifteen year minimum.

• The candidate will be evaluated on contributions made to the university in the areas of teaching, service and creative activity/research, weighted in that order.

In recommending candidates, nominators are asked to furnish the committee with information explaining the reasons for the nomination, and if possible, the person’s full name, academic department and length of service at Marshall. Individuals are requested to limit their submissions to no more than five nominees.

Recommendations should be sent to Dr. Alan Gould, Executive Director of the Drinko Academy, Room 211, Old Main. If using e-mail, send to both gould@marshall.edu and neal@marshall.edu.

“The committee encourages you to participate in the selection process and by so doing assist in the identification of members of our faculty who have made a difference and deserve to be honored,” Gould said.