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## We Are ... Marshall, August 29, 2003

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# *We Are...Marshall!*

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • AUGUST 29, 2003

## *Marshall Opens New Residence Halls*

Marshall celebrated the opening of its first new on-campus housing since 1968 with a ribbon cutting and open house at the complex Aug. 21.

Members of Marshall's Institutional Board of Governors joined President Dan Angel, Senior Vice President for Operations Dr. Ed Grose and others in cutting a green ribbon near Gibson Hall on the complex plaza, signifying the opening of the \$28 million, 500-bed facility.

"A year ago we helped alleviate some of our parking problems by opening a 1,000-space parking

garage," Angel said. Now, with the opening of these four magnificent buildings, we've greatly improved our housing situation. This is a great day for Marshall University."

The complex is part of a \$40 million project that included the \$8.8 million parking garage and the purchase and demolition of the property between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> streets, and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> avenues. It took Neighborgall Construction 18 months to complete the housing project. A dining hall, located at the northeast corner of the complex, will open in January.

Grose has been involved in the financing, programming and construction of the project since its conception. "It's the smoothest, nicest project I've been involved in at Marshall, and I've been here 14 years," he said. "We finished within budget and ahead of schedule. I'm real proud to have had the opportunity to help make this improvement on campus."

The complex has many features, such as two computer hookups and two TV cable outlets in each of the suite-style rooms, and free cell phone service for each student. Each floor has a lounge, equipped with a microwave and a sink.

One of the buildings is for females only, and one is for males only. The other two, including one for honor students, are co-ed. After rooms for honor students and 100 freshmen were reserved, residents of the other rooms were determined through a lottery because of overwhelming demand.



*Above: Marshall University Board of Governors members, administrators and other dignitaries cut the ribbon for the new residence halls Aug. 21. From left: Steve Hensley, Dean of Student Affairs; Winston Baker, Director of Residence Services; Dr. K. Edward Grose, Senior Vice President for Operations; Carol Hartley, member of Board of Governors; Charles Neighborgall of Neighborgall Construction, general contractor; John Harris of architects Bastian and Harris; President Dan Angel; Brandon Stephens, Student Government Association president; Menis Ketchum, member of Board of Governors; Verna Gibson, co-chair of Campaign for National Prominence; Sherri Noble, member of Board of Governors; A. Michael Perry, chair, Board of Governors; and Bob Willis, representing Joyce and Bill Willis, for whom Willis Hall has been named. Below, left: President Angel introduced Verna Gibson. Gibson Hall is named for her and her husband Jim. Below, right: Board of Governors chair A. Michael Perry addresses the crowd.*



### *University Community Invited to Groundbreaking Sept. 12*

*Joan C. Edwards,  
Brent Marsteller and Dan Angel  
cordially invite you to join them  
at the groundbreaking ceremony  
for the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center  
on the Cabell Huntington Hospital Campus  
Friday, September 12, 2003*

*10:30 a.m.*

*1340 Hal Greer Boulevard*

*Parking and shuttle service available at Fairfield Stadium*

# Marshall Welcomes New Faculty

Forty-two new faculty members have joined Marshall University for the 2003-04 academic year. They took part in activities held in various parts of the campus last week.

New faculty include: Alfred Akinsete, Mathematics; Kannan Balasubramanian, Mathematics; Steven Barnett, Music; Eric Blough; Biological Services; Dianna Bourke, Biological Sciences; Alexandra Bradner, Philosophy; Eric Clausen, ESSR; Patrick

Collier, Biological Sciences; Floyd Csir, Library; Edward Custer, Geology; Susan Frank, Communication Disorders; Maria del Carmen Castro Garcia, Modern Languages; Jennifer Gingerich, English; Venkat Gudivada, Information Systems; Joshua Hagen, Geography; Susan Hager, Nursing; Cynthia Hamilton, Criminal Justice; Marina Herbst, Modern Languages; Daniel Holbrook, History; Pam Holland, Communication Disorders; Katherine Karl, Management/Marketing; Barbara Loebach, Education; Patricia Logan, Information Systems; Richard McCormick, Engineering; Kosto Mitov, Mathematics; Burnis Morris, Journalism; Kenneth O'Connor, Chemistry; Joy Peluchette, Management/Marketing; Maria Quintana, Modern Languages; Terry Shank, Mathematics; Traci Sisson, Communication Disorders; Molly Stedman, Education; Ruth Sullivan, Journalism; Seiji Takemae, Physics/Physical Science; David Trumpower, Psychology; Anita Walz, Geography; Robert Webb, Sociology; Mary Welch, English; Joan Wheeler, Criminal Justice; Dwight Wood, Sociology; Yanya Yang, Art; Guo-Zhang Zhu, Biological Sciences.



New faculty members for Fall 2003 posed on the steps of the Drinko Library during a break in orientation activities last week.

## Vaseashta Receives NATO Grant

Dr. Ashok Vaseashta, associate professor of Physics in the College of Science, has received an award of nearly \$50,000 from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that will enable him to conduct an advanced research workshop in Bulgaria.

The workshop on "Nanostructured and Advanced Materials for Applications in Sensors, Optoelectronic and Photovoltaic Technology" will take place at a conference in September 2004. Graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and scientists will hear lectures from 12-14 internationally known speakers at the conference.

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## 'Copenhagen' to be Presented in Staged Reading

Jack Cirillo, associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, will be one of the performers presenting a staged reading of Michael Frayn's Tony award-winning play, *Copenhagen*, Sept. 4-5-6 at 8 p.m. in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre.

"Copenhagen" is the re-imagining of the mysterious wartime meeting between two Nobel laureates to discuss the atomic bomb. The play explores the 1941 meeting between two old colleagues, Danish scientist Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg, German scientist and head of the Nazi nuclear program.

The London *Times* characterized the play as "a piece of history, an intellectual thriller, a psychological investigation and a moral tribunal in full session."

Cirillo will portray Werner Heisenberg. Others taking part are local actor Michael Fesenmeier as Niels Bohr, and West Virginia Wesleyan professor Bess Reynolds as Margrethe.

Tickets are free and are available at the door.

## We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (312 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Sept. 12, 2003.

Deadline is Sept. 5. 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: Kris Standifur

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Kris Standifur

She left the flat plains of Michigan for the rolling green hills of West Virginia 28 years ago. Now she's a "down home mountaineer" and proud of it.

But the hills felt claustrophobic at first, Kristine Standifur admits. "I felt closed in with all these hills. Not panicky, but I was just so used to everything being flat; it was a big change for me. It was so much slower paced here, but everyone was so friendly. It took a while for me to get used to people stopping in the middle of the road in their cars just to chat with one another."

For Standifur, who is administrative secretary senior in the Division of Human Development and Allied Technology, and her husband, David, a native of Logan County, the move from Michigan to the Huntington area was a good one.

And just as she was getting used to the state, she had an opportunity to get to know Marshall as well.

In 1975 she was looking for a job and Marshall was one of five places she applied. She heard from the other four, but not from the university. She took a job with Dutch Miller Chevrolet in Huntington and was surprised to hear from Marshall six months later for a job opening in the Geology Department.

"I came for the interview and I liked the prospect of working in an academic setting," she recalls. Dutch Miller wanted her to stay on but the lure of Marshall was too strong. Actually she was a good fit because she had previously worked in the admissions office at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

She's gotten to know Marshall well since she welcomes challenges and isn't afraid to tackle new experiences. After a stint in the Geology Department, she worked at RCU (Research Coordinating Unit) for several years. Since RCU was grant funded and the grant was slated to run out, she transferred to Safety Technology and eventually took her present position in which she wears several hats. The division, a part of the College of Education and Human Services, also includes the Counseling and Family and Consumer Sciences departments, and she serves as departmental secretary for Adult & Technical Education.

Her career at Marshall has been a diverse one, but that's part of the reason she likes working here, she says. In particular, she likes working with students, and her outgoing personality has been a big advantage in dealing with them along with staff members, faculty, graduate assistants and student assistants. When dealing with students, her years of experience in the university is a major help. "Having been here for several years, I know where to send people," she says.

The Standifurs are a true Marshall family. Daughter Amanda works in the mail room, son Aaron worked here for a time and son Russell was a student. Standifur and her husband live in Prichard, where

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**Dr. Soo Bock Choi**, professor emeritus of political science at Marshall and a native of Korea, is shown with a photo of his daughter, Eumi Choi, with U.S. President George W. Bush. Eumi Choi is a federal prosecutor in northern California and is believed to be the highest-ranking woman of Asian descent in that office's history. Dr. Choi came to the United States 48 years ago after five years in the military service, for

which he received a U.S. Bronze Star. He reports that he was the only Korean army officer to be nominated for this award.

## Faculty/Staff Achievements

**Dr. Phillippe Georgel**, assistant professor of Biological Sciences, and technician Nicholas Adkins were co-authors and were featured in a photo on the cover of the Aug. 22 issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* for the article, "Chromatin Compaction by Humans: ASSEMBLY OF NOVEL SECONDARY CHROMATIN STRUCTURES IN THE ABSENCE OF DNA METHYLATION." In addition, Georgel co-authored three other articles: "Formation of higher order secondary and tertiary chromatin structures by genomic mouse mammary tumor virus promoters." with T. Fletcher, G. Hager, and J. C. Hansen, in *Genes and Development*; "Quantitative Characterization of Specific Genomic Promoters Using Agarose Gel Electrophoresis" with J. C. Hansen in *Biopolymers*; and "The sld mutation is specific for sublingual salivary mucous cells and disrupts apomucin gene expression" with M.A. Fallon, L. R. Latchney, A. R. Hand, P. A. Denny, P. C. Denny and D. J. Culp in *Physiological Genomics*.

**Dr. Alina Zapalska**, Professor of Economics, has recently had several papers accepted in refereed journals. "Free Enterprise Education, Tourism" appeared in the *International Interdisciplinary Journal*. Forthcoming are "Small Family Businesses: A Case Study for Polish Female and Male Entrepreneurs" in *The Journal of American Academy of Business*; "Evaluating the Effectiveness of WebCT Using Students' Feedback," with L. Shao and D. Shao in the *Academy of Educational Leadership Journal*; "The Global Dimension of Business Education," with L. Shao and D. Shao in *Insights to a Changing World Quarterly Journal*; and "Analysis of Environmental Factors Affecting Entrepreneurial Activities: A Case Study of Indigenous Maori Entrepreneurs of New Zealand" in *Asia Pacific Business Review*.

Eight members of the School of Medicine faculty received teaching awards during the schools annual awards program, Aug. 13. Medical students honored Drs. **Mitchell Berk**, anatomy; **Betts Carpenter**, pathol-

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## **Kris Standifur** *from Page 3*

they've spent time renovating and adding on to their home during the 25 years they've lived there. They love living in the country on their 10 acres of land, more than one acre of which is lawn. Standifur says she is sure about that dimension since she's been mowing it with a push mower this summer while the riding mower is undergoing repairs. The countryside where they live is peaceful and beautiful and offers an abundance of wildlife, she says.

Animal lovers, she and her husband are soft touches—and animals seem to know it. Right now, in addition to their own dog, they're taking care of three of their children's dogs. Then there's the foster dog. A neighbor's dog has started spending "23 out of 24 hours" at their home, only going home for an occasional meal, she says with good-natured resignation. They also have six cats and 4 kittens.

And, with school starting, the Standifurs are welcoming their granddaughter, Nikkia, into their home for the next several months while the ninth-grader is attending a local school.

In her rare spare time, Standifur is working on a family scrapbook album after being introduced to the scrapbook art by a friend. She tries to make as much time for reading as she can and at work she has taken advantage of a wide array of non-credit (CEU) classes on a variety of topics. For several years she was a member of Marshall's physical environment committee, which promotes safe working conditions.

One of the advantages of working on the Huntington campus is the wide range of activities that go on daily, she says, and she enjoys the campus sights as well. "Students and other groups always have things going on. There are the various festivals and events where you can sample all kinds of food or hear different kinds of music." And sometimes there are bonuses, such as the time Standifur and others were watching as a red-tailed hawk paid a rare visit to the campus, intent on scooping up some of the frisky campus squirrels for lunch. A passing faculty member gave an impromptu lecture on the hawk and its habits, a play-by-play nature lesson as it was unfolding.

"I'm open to new experiences; I'm ready to tackle anything. I used to be conservative about things but not any more," she says with an easy laugh. "Nothing surprises me. I've liked working here or I wouldn't have stayed. And I've liked living here as well. Even though it took me some time to get used to the hills, now when I go to Michigan to visit my family, which includes my mother and sister, I really look forward to coming back. I must be a true West Virginian now, because up north they love to hear me talk ... they say I've picked up an accent!"

## **Faculty-Staff Achievements** *from Page 3*

ogy; **Paul Durst**, pathology; **Joe Evans**, pediatrics; **Will McCumbee**, physiology; **Aaron McGuffin**, medicine and pediatrics; **Darshana Shah**, pathology; and **Sasha Zill**, anatomy. Gross anatomy and histology were singled out as outstanding courses by rising second-year students. Rising fourth-year students named the Department of Pediatrics as the most outstanding department.

## **Willie Nelson Due Sept. 11**



*Willie Nelson*

Superstar Willie Nelson is on the road again, and the road leads straight to Huntington with the legendary country performer making a stop on Thursday, Sept. 11 at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

This is Nelson's only area appearance since the 1990s as he kicks off the Marshall Artists Series 2003-2004 season. Tickets are available through the Artists Series

Box office at 6656, or through Ticketmaster at (304) 523-5757 or (304) 696-3326.

Recently, Nelson was at the top of the country singles chart with his hit, "Beer for My Horses," a duet with Toby Keith. An eight-time Grammy winner with more than 200 albums, Nelson is currently making an extensive U.S. tour.

Since his first performance in 1937, at the age of four at a Methodist gospel picnic, Nelson has always done things, to paraphrase the title of one of his songs, his own peculiar way. From the Central Texas beer joints of Waco and Hillsboro, he became one of Nashville's most prestigious songwriters. In the decades since, he has become a multi-platinum-selling recording artist, an A-list concert draw, a confidant of presidents, the possessor of more Grammys and CMA Awards than he can count, a Kennedy Center honoree, a founder of the Farm Aid philanthropic organization and a movie star.

The nearly 70-year-old Nelson has recorded country, pop, blues, movie soundtracks, jazz, gospel, American songbook standards, rock 'n' roll, western swing and more. His last two albums were respectively a blues album and a children's album.

## **NATO Grant** *from Page 2*

The NATO award is highly competitive and is approved only after a rigorous review by researchers from many NATO countries.

Vaseashta received a letter informing him of the award. "I re-read the letter a few more times just to make sure that indeed I was selected for the award," said Vaseashta, who came to Marshall in 1999 from Virginia Tech, where he served as a post-doctoral fellow and research faculty.

Since coming to Marshall he has established a productive research group in the physics and electronics of thin films. He has established a number of international collaborations that have resulted in scholars from overseas visiting the campus and discussing their scientific interests with Marshall students and faculty.

Dr. Joseph Bragin, dean of the College of Science, said breakthroughs in the fields of Vaseashta's research could come at any time.