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We Are ... Marshall, May 2, 2003

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MAY 2, 2003

Marshall to Graduate Record Number May 10

Last fall, Marshall University announced a record enrollment of 16,551. On Saturday, May 10, the university will break another school record when it awards nearly 2,800 degrees during its 166th commencement. On that same day, Marshall will celebrate 90,000 graduates in school history.

"We're upward bound, we're reaching new levels of National Prominence every year," MU President Dan Angel said. "Each time we reach another milestone, our stature climbs a little more nationwide. With added parking, new housing and plans for the new Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center and other state-of-the-art facilities in place, we will continue to grow and even better meet the needs of our students in the coming years."

MU Registrar Roberta Ferguson said the tentative number of graduates this spring is 2,758, or 207 higher than the previous record of 2,551 set in 2001. Marshall tentatively announced a record 2,577 graduates last year, but the actual number slipped to 2,524 after spring grades were compiled.

The 2003 commencement starts at 10 a.m. at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena. Marshall alumnus F. Selby Wellman, former Senior Vice President with Cisco Systems, Inc., will be the guest speaker. Four people also will receive honorary degrees. They are Laura G. Darby of Huntington, John C. Fiedler of Los Angeles, Charles H. Smith of Madison, N.J., and Wellman, who lives in Cary, N.C.

During the graduation ceremony, Angel will announce a representative of the 90,000 graduates, chosen from the current graduating class. A committee has trimmed a list of about 50 nominees for the honor to eight, and the representative will be selected from that group.

Four to Receive Honorary Degrees at Commencement

Marshall University will award four honorary degrees during commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 10 at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

Those to be honored include Laura G. Darby of Huntington, John C. Fiedler of Los Angeles, Calif., Charles H. Smith of Madison, N.J., and F. Selby Wellman of Cary, N.C. Each will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, bringing to 148 the number of honorary degree recipients at Marshall.

"Each of these four people have had a significant influence on this institution over the past three or four decades," Marshall President Dan Angel said. "They served Marshall University and the Huntington area in a time of need, continue to serve the institution now, and will do so in the future. We want to thank them for that."

Wellman, former Senior Vice President with Cisco Systems, Inc., also will be the guest speaker at commencement. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

Here is a brief look at this year's honorees:

Laura G. Darby - "Seek and you shall find, knock and it shall open." Laura Darby spoke those words when, as a nursing student working on her senior project at Marshall University in 1982, she discovered that the needs of terminally ill patients and

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Fourteen students, yet another Marshall record, will graduate with perfect 4.0 grade point averages. The previous record, set last year, was 11.

"Marshall University is proud of all of our students and we take particular pride in those who achieve the highest level of excellence - a perfect 4.0 record during their entire time at this institution," Marshall Provost Sarah Denman said.

In all, 500 students will graduate with honors, including 69 summa cum laude (3.85 to 4.0 GPA), 158 magna cum laude (3.6 to 3.84 GPA), and 208 cum laude (3.3 to 3.59 GPA).

Degrees will be awarded to 1,488 undergraduates. Also awarded will be 906 graduate degrees, 311 associate degrees and 53 School of Medicine degrees.

Marshall has planned several changes in the commencement ceremony this year, Denman said. For one, the starting time is an hour later than last year. "We wanted to make it a one-day event to encourage participation in the main ceremony," she said.

Also, the stage will be tiered, and graduates will walk to their seats on dark green carpet after entering the arena.

"Most important is the start of a new tradition of having the students walk 'the green mile,'" Denman said. "It will be a tradition for them to remember for years to come."

Karen Midkiff is Employee of the Month

Karen Midkiff, receptionist in the West Virginia Autism Training Center, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for February, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee of Marshall for 2 1/2 years, she was nominated by Cheryl Beaver and Wanda Wells.

Wells, who is an administrative associate/office manager for the center, wrote, "Karen Midkiff is the first person



Karen Midkiff received her Employee of the Month plaque from President Angel.

visitors or callers talk with when contacting or visiting the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University. With her warm personality, she readily puts people at ease. She is always ready to go the extra mile for anyone who needs her help. She works with our staff who are located across the state of West Virginia, as well as those in our offices here at Marshall University, coordinating their schedules, making appointments and rescheduling appointments for families as well as our staff. She does a great job of keeping these important duties on an even keel. Karen has a quiet presence but her friendliness and

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Faculty Recognized for Outstanding Teaching, Service

Five faculty members were recognized for outstanding teaching when they received awards for 2002-03 at the spring general faculty meeting April 22. In addition, 7 individuals received 2002-03 Distinguished Service Awards and 3 others were the recipients of 2002-03 Distinguished Artists and Scholars Awards. Fourteen retiring faculty members were also recognized.



Wilson

Those honored were Dr. Thomas Wilson, professor of physics, winner of the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award; Dr. Stephen P. Mewaldt, professor of psychology, winner of the Marshall & Shirley Reynolds

Outstanding Teacher Award; and Dr. Seth Bush, Dr. Sherri C. Smith and Joan St. Germain, winners of the Pickens-Queen Teacher Award.

The Hedrick award carries a \$5,000 stipend, which is made possible by a grant from Charles B. and Mary Jo Locke Hedrick. The award is named in honor of Charles Hedrick's father, a former history professor and later Chairman of the Graduate Council who planned the graduate program at Marshall. The Hedrick Award recognizes a full-time faculty member who has a minimum of seven years' teaching experience at Marshall and who has a record of outstanding classroom teaching, scholarship, research and creative activities.



Mewaldt

Wilson is highly respected at Marshall for his teaching and research achievements, according to colleague Elwyn Bellis. "Tom is an outstanding scholar and researcher who after arriving at Marshall University wasted no time in setting up a first-class research laboratory," Bellis said.

"He makes a strong, broad contribution to our department as both a teaching faculty member and a researcher," Physics professor Ralph Oberly said. "He actively interacts with students to energize them about physics."

As professor of psychology for 28 years, Mewaldt has demonstrated his dedication to his students, department and Marshall University, his colleagues say. In addition to the Reynolds Award, Mewaldt has won the Meet-the-Scholars Award, a Distinguished Research in the Social Sciences Award and Researcher of the Year.



Bush

"Steve Mewaldt has been a consistent and significant contributor to the Psychology department's mission, developed popular and important new classes, and supervised many projects both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, Psychology Department Chair Dr. Martin Amerikaner said.

Pickens-Queen Award winners Bush, Smith and St. Germain all drew accolades from both colleagues and students.



Smith

Bush currently is in his second year as a professor of chemistry. According to student Amina Glass, "Of the many professors I have known throughout my career as a student at Marshall University, Seth Bush has exemplified the qualities of an excellent instructor." She cites his love of students and chemistry and his passion for teaching as exemplary traits.

Smith has had a positive impact on her students and colleagues during her three years at Marshall.

"Dr. Smith represents the best of our profession. She is a masterful teacher who is an intellectual and innovative in designing her classes as in writing her own scholarly research," English Department colleague Shirley Lumpkin said.



St. Germain

St. Germain soon will complete her fifth year at Marshall. "Instructors in the Department of Theatre are not merely teachers, but also serve as mentor, advisor, and often as not they also function as surrogate parents," student James Kreiner said. "No one in the department exemplifies these attributes more than Joan St. Germain, whom I count as all of these things, and also as a lifelong friend and source of inspiration."

To qualify for Distinguished Service Awards, persons must have at least 20 years of service at Marshall, a record of distinguished service to the institution and/or college, and a record of distinguished teaching as evidenced by peer, administrative and/or student evaluations. Award winners received \$1,000. Those receiving this award were:

- Dr. Patrick Brown, School of Medicine/Graduate College, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, 28 years of service
- Dr. Michael Burton, Graduate School of Education and Professional Development (South Charleston), Professor, 28 years of service
- Dr. William Denman, College of Liberal Arts, Professor of Communication Studies, 36 years of service
- Dr. Maudie Karickhoff, College of Education and Human Services, Professor, Teacher Education, 20 years of service
- Dr. Chong Kim, Lewis College of Business, Head, Division of Management and Marketing, 26 years of service
- Mrs. Cora Teel, University Libraries, Archivist, Professor/Librarian IV, 22 years of service
- Dr. Ralph Turner, School of Journalism/Mass Communications, Professor, 32 years of service

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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 May 16, 2003. Deadline is May 9.

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.



Brown Wins Hunter Faculty Award

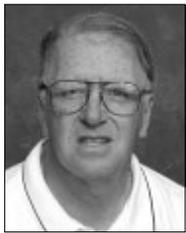
Dr. Patrick I. Brown, Professor and Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, has been selected as recipient of the inaugural Dr. Carolyn B. Hunter Distinguished Faculty Service Award, according to Lance West, Vice President for Alumni Development and Assistant to the President.

Brown received the award at the 66th annual Alumni Awards Banquet on April 26.

The \$1,000 award is named in honor of Dr. Carolyn Brindle Hunter, an outstanding teacher, administrator and employee whose dedication and loyalty to Marshall University spanned a 30-year period.

Profile: Joe Wortham

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Joe Wortham

He's a Joe of all trades, a modest man who likes to stay out of the limelight. But come Monday, May 5, Joe Wortham will be front and center with all the other classified staff service award recipients when he gets an award for 30 years of service to Marshall.

It will be an unaccustomed spot for Wortham, who has been a member of the awards planning committee for the past 13 years and chair of the affair for the past several years. He and his committee are used to working behind the scenes, planning and putting together all the details that go into making the luncheon and award service a tribute to the classified staff.

But this year marks the 30th anniversary of his employment at the university, all of it spent in one capacity on another in the athletic department. Currently he wears two hats—he is primarily responsible for the food service operations in the athletic department and he works in the athletic business office as well.

Sporting events dot virtually every month on the calendar, with only a little downtime in the summer, which gives him time to do planning, he says. In his other capacity, he works primarily with the business office, doing paper work, making daily ticket office deposits along with other fund deposits, while taking on other jobs as needed. The versatile and easygoing Wortham is willing to tackle anything, helping out with the mail and even delivering mail between the offices in the Henderson Center and the football stadium when student help is not available.

A lifelong Huntington resident who graduated from Huntington High School, he has been around Marshall athletics all his life. His father, a local businessman, was active in the Big Green scholarship organization and together they attended athletic events through the years. It was a given that he would attend Marshall. He majored in education and found work as a student assistant in the athletic department, ending up working in the sparsely staffed Sports Information section.

"I was mathematically inclined," he says, "so I was assigned to do statistical work. I updated the stats and occasionally wrote stories."

He was on the verge of graduation in December, when the catastrophic Marshall plane crash occurred in November 1970. He found himself suddenly thrust into the unanticipated role of interim sports director when Gene Morehouse, the sports information director, and the only other student worker in the department both perished in the crash.

"I was asked to keep the office running through the basketball season and basically I finished out the semester," he remembers. "They decided not to make any hasty decisions on filling the vacancies. They wanted to fill the athletic director position first and let him select people for the other positions. I served as interim sports information director from December 1970 through June 1971. Then the new athletic director, Joe McMullen, offered me a full-time position in July 1972 and I became the ticket manager. I stayed in that position until 1985, when I went to work in the athletic business office. In 1988, when Lee Moon was hired as athletic director, I became the concession manager

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Karen Midkiff from Page 1

helpful demeanor do not go unnoticed. She works with client families in any way she can, listening, dependable, always on the job early. We appreciate her very much."

Beaver, who is a secretary at the Autism Center, says, "Karen ... is very dedicated to her job. She has excellent phone skills combined with a pleasant personality which makes a great first impression ... She is conscientious about her job and every assignment that she is given is handled with perfection. Karen is always willing to lend a helping hand when teamwork is needed and this reflects genuine dedication on the job. Professionalism is the key word to describe how Karen handles the pressures of hectic phone lines, taking care of mail, and greeting visitors in our lobby. Karen knows how to locate staff, because she consistently updates their schedules on a day-to-day basis. She is always kind, generous and willing to help you with any questions you may have. The West Virginia Autism Training Center really appreciates her extra efforts and hard work!"

She was presented with a plaque, balloon bouquet and a check for \$100 by Lance West, Vice President for Alumni Affairs. She will be eligible for Employee of the Year.

Teaching Awards from Page 2

To be eligible for the Distinguished Artists and Scholars Awards, a faculty member either must be tenured or hold a tenure-track appointment. The purpose of the award is to recognize distinction in the fields of artistic and scholarly activity on the part of the Marshall faculty. Winners of the 2002-03 awards are:

- Dr. John McKernan, College of Liberal Arts, English, 36 years of service
- Dr. Richard Niles, School of Medicine, Biochemistry, 11 years of service
- Dr. Hongwei Yu, Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, 4 years of service

As senior faculty recipients, McKernan and Niles will receive \$2,000 apiece. As the junior recipient, Yu will receive \$1,000.

Fourteen retiring faculty members, representing several hundred years of teaching service, were honored at the meeting. They are:

- Dr. Lawrence W. Barker, Counseling, 33 years of service
- Dr. Richard B. Bonnett, Geology, 35 years of service
- Dr. Patrick I. Brown, Anatomy, Cell and Neurobiology, 28 years of service
- Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, Sociology & Anthropology, 8 years of service
- Dr. Pamela R. Gardner, Communication Disorders, 25 years of service
- Dr. Maudie E. Karickhoff, School of Education, 20 years of service
- Dr. James W. Moore, Jr., Psychology, 14 years of service
- Dr. Maurice A. Mufson, Internal Medicine, 26 years of service
- Dr. Margaret A. Rotter, Communication Disorders, 13 years of service
- Dr. Wesley L. Shanholtzer, Physics & Physical Science, 37 years of service
- Dr. Robert R. Smith, Counseling, 24 years of service
- Dr. Stuart W. Thomas, Jr., Psychology, 31 years of service
- Dr. Ralph J. Turner, Journalism, 32 years of service
- Dr. William S. Westbrook, Sociology & Anthropology, 32 years of service

Joe Wortham from Page 3

and assistant ticket manager. I've had a lot of varied responsibilities and duties in the athletic department!"

Although he started out with intentions of becoming a teacher and entering a graduate program, he's not sorry his life took a divergent turn. He says he has thoroughly enjoyed his stint in the athletic department. And he's made time for some other activities, principally the Service Award Committee and the Classified Staff Council, where he is a representative from his department.

Work on the annual luncheon begins early. He and his committee sit down shortly after the event to begin planning for next year. They oversee every detail of the affair, everything from the budget, menu, and program, to gifts for the various categories and for the retirees. Traditionally retirees receive a handsome glass sculpture, "Iceberg," which has an etching of Old Main on it with the lettering "Marshall Emeritus."

Wortham insists on sharing credit with the awards committee members, most of whom are longtime members, who work to make the event special for the classified staff. Members this year are Nina Barrett, Jerri Clagg, Barbara Hayes, Leonard Lovely, Glenna Racer, Nancy Schultz and Cora Westmoreland.

And although things slow down a bit in the athletic department in the summer, they don't completely stop. But it does give Wortham and other department employees time to plan and get ready for the big fall and winter events, football and basketball.

As concessions manager he oversees the entire operation and works with the non-profit groups which actually operate the stands on a commission basis. At times during a big football game, for example, he will be overseeing 200-250 workers.

"We use various groups to operate each stand and they receive a commission that is a fund raiser for them ... I organize all these people, make sure they are aware of what needs to be done ... and we provide all the food and everything they need to operate the stand. Then at the end of the night, we settle up and they get paid a commission on what they've sold ... eventually the university gets a commission as well."

With a crammed schedule which includes weekend games, squeezing out time for himself isn't easy. Come summer, he does try to work in some time to indulge in his favorite off-duty pastime, riding one of his two working motorcycles. It's a wonderful stress reliever, he's found. The exhilarating feel of the road under his wheels is an enticement he sometimes can't pass up.

"I can't ride much in the fall or spring because of athletic events but I like to get out on an occasional weekend so I take several day trips. Sometimes when I don't have a whole weekend or even a day, I'll just go out for a few hours," Wortham relates. He likes the freedom of being able to hop on his bike and ride to Columbus, spend a few hours there and return home that same day. One Saturday morning a couple of weeks ago he drove to Jackson, Ohio, visited a bike store there for half an hour, returned to Huntington and made it to a double-header baseball game that afternoon. He's been known to ride to the Bob Evans restaurant in Rio Grande, Ohio, have breakfast and return home.

He does like to work in longer trips during the summer. "I try to take a couple of trips on my touring bike ... three out of four years I go to Minnesota on my bike to visit my brother, who has a house on the lake. I don't take the direct route so it's about a 3,000 mile ride, but I really enjoy it. I've been caught in the rain several times but that comes with the territory. You just expect that kind of thing and prepare for it," he says philosophically.

But right now, the upcoming awards luncheon is his biggest concern. He and the committee will be checking out all the details, making last minute adjustments and they'll even try to greet guests at the door as their time permits. As a participant, an unusual role for him, he'll be busier than ever this year.

The years have gone by so quickly, too quickly, he feels. "I've had a very enjoyable experience at Marshall. I've been associated with a lot of people here. Many of them are still here and others have retired or moved on, and I've gotten to know many new people. It's been a great way to spend 30 years!"

Service Awards Luncheon is May 5

Nearly 100 Marshall University staff employees who have completed 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years of university service will be honored during the 19th annual Marshall Service Awards Luncheon, to be held from noon to 2 p.m. Monday, May 5 in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Staff members who will receive awards include:

15 Years of Service: Michael Adkins, Doris Atkinson, Beverly Bennett, Barbara Black, Brenda Carrico-Ferguson, Kitty Carver, Janice Colegrove, Julia Dickens, Yetta Evans, Dorothy Godgluck, Joyce Harrah, Virginia Holderby, Damon Holley, Verlin Hughes, William Moore, Sherry Osburn, Nancy Pelphrey, Judith Ross, Tara Runyon, Monica Shafer, Carol Stinson, Linda Stockwell, James Terry, Nina Thompson, Billie Weis, Wanda Wells, Cora Westmoreland and Cathy Zhea.

20 Years of Service: David Bailey, Ann Blankenship, Cassandra Chappelle, Loretta Earls, Peggy Egnatoff, Roberta Ferguson, Rebecca Goodman, Linda Javins, Roberta Kinney, Nancy McComas, Beverly McCoy, Frances Mooney, Janet Turner, Trula Stanley, Patsy Stephenson, Mark Ward and Connie Zirkle.

25 Years of Service: Vickie Crager, Tony Crislip, Jeffrey Daniels, Arlene Ferguson, Lester Fleming, Karen Greybill, Kent Hayes, Estil Hurn, Jeffrey Long, Arnold Miller, Carolyn Miller, James Richendollar, Marvin Stewart, Margaret Theis, Jack Toney, Deborah Watson and Charles Young.

30 Years of Service: Sue Bell, Charles Harless, Stephen Hensley, Carolyn Hunter, Randy Price, Ken Reffeitt, Joseph Vance, Alan Ward and Joe Wortham.

35 Years of Service: Deborah Hicks, Charles Newsom.

Retirees: Marilyn Armentrout, Mary Black, Annette Blake, Thelma Dawson, Sharon Doersam, William A. Edwards, Sharon France, Bennie Gill, Susan Heidekruger, Carolyn Hunter, Ethel Lipscomb, Ralph May, Belinda Callicoat-McFarland, Sheri McGhee, Carolyn Miller, Rowena Napier, James O'Brian, Patrick O'Neil, Joyce Ray, Ray Rice, Gail Sheets, Samuel Stanley, Margaret Theis, Michael Underwood, Shirley Vaught and Jane Vickers.

For more information, contact Nina Barrett, president of Marshall's staff council, at 696-2216.

Honorary Degrees from Page 1

their families in Huntington were not being met. So, she formulated a plan, developed a Board of Directors and incorporated Hospice of Huntington.

John C. Fiedler - Throughout his successful career as an executive and producer within the motion picture industry, John C. Fiedler has exhibited a tremendous commitment to his craft. During the past two decades, Fiedler has distinguished himself through his creative and developmental work on a number of successful major motion picture projects involving such stars as Bruce Willis and Holly Hunter, and directors John Waters and Jon Amiel.

Charles H. Smith - Affectionately known to many as "Reverend Charlie," Charles H. Smith was at the forefront of many civic, political and religious changes and improvements in Huntington during the 1960s and '70s. He oversaw the rebuilding of the beautiful facilities at First Baptist Church, where he served as pastor for 20 years, and was a leader in the building of Rotary Gardens, a housing project for the poor. And, through a group called the Soul Searchers, he worked tirelessly to help grieving loved ones following the tragic 1970 Marshall plane crash.

F. Selby Wellman - The life of Marshall University alumnus F. Selby Wellman truly is the story of a small-town boy who made it big. A native of Williamson, W.Va., he was the first in his family to attend college, graduating from Marshall in 1963, then receiving intense technical training in the Air Force. A long, distinguished career as a technology executive, with such prestigious companies as IBM and Cisco Systems, Inc., followed. Now retired, much of his focus is with the Wellman Foundation, which seeks to help needy students from grade school age through college in his home state.