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We Are ... Marshall, April 19, 2002

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • APRIL 19, 2002

Five Faculty Members Receive Service Awards

Five recipients of the 2002 Distinguished Service Award were recognized April 18 at the final general faculty meeting.

"These five people represent years of service to Marshall," Dr. Sarah Denman, senior vice president for Academic Affairs, said. "Thousands of students have benefited from their expertise and dedication."

The recipients are:

- **Michael Cornfeld**, College of Fine Arts, for 35 years of service to Marshall. He has been a faculty member since 1967 and a full professor since 1984. During his tenure, he developed the weaving area and directed and secured funding for the Birke Gallery. He served as chair of the department from 1987 to 1999, implementing student-juried exhibitions during that time.
- **Dr. James Harless**, Enrollment Management, 39 years of service. Harless was the first administrator of the Logan branch campus and took over as director of admissions following the death of Dr. Brian O'Conner in the 1970 Marshall plane crash. He is known to thousands of students, parents and counselors across the country as "Mr. Marshall." He was named Administrator of the Year by the West Virginia Counselor Association and has received dozens of other professional and civic awards.
- **Dr. Ralph Taylor**, College of Science, 30 years of service. Taylor

is associate dean and chair of Integrated Science and Technology. He serves on several local and regional environmental governing agencies and has taken leadership roles in SCORES, the Yeager Scholars, Sigma Xi and the West Virginia Academy of Sciences. He also is deeply committed to improving pre-college science education.

- **Dr. Stuart Thomas**, College of Liberal Arts, 30 years of service. Thomas began his career at Marshall in 1972 as an associate professor of psychology. He served in that capacity until 1987, when he became director of institutional research. He currently is a professor of psychology. He has continued to support the Marshall administration by completing special assignments for the Office of Institutional Research and the Office of Academic Affairs.
- **Dr. Powell Toth**, Graduate School of Education and Professional Development, 34 years of service. During his career, Toth has served the university, as well as agencies, institutions and companies throughout the state. He also was instrumental in developing the cooperative doctoral program in educational administration between WVU and Marshall, which served as the groundwork for Marshall's new doctoral program in educational leadership.

Eligibility for the Distinguished Service Award requires service at Marshall University for at least 20 years, a record of distinguished service to the institution or college, and a record of distinguished teaching supported by peer, administrative or student evaluations. Each recipient was presented with a check for \$1,000.

Rockefeller to Speak at Commencement



Sen. Rockefeller

U. S. Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV will be the guest speaker at Marshall's commencement ceremonies at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 11 in the Huntington Civic Arena.

"We look forward to welcoming Senator Rockefeller back to Marshall," President Dan Angel said. "His visit will give us an opportunity to showcase the continuing improvements we're making throughout our campus

and the remarkable accomplishments of our graduating students."

A 1961 graduate of Harvard University, Rockefeller spent three years studying Japanese at International Christian University in Tokyo before coming to West Virginia in 1964 as a VISTA volunteer in the mining community of Emmons.

Rockefeller began his West Virginia political career in 1966, winning a seat in the House of Delegates. In 1968, he was elected to the office of West Virginia Secretary of State. Following that term, he served as president of West Virginia Wesleyan College from 1973 to 1976. In 1976, Rockefeller was elected Governor and was re-elected to a second term in 1980. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984 and was re-elected in 1990 and 1996.

Retiring Faculty, Staff Honored

Retiring faculty and staff members are being recognized in separate ceremonies.

Eleven faculty members who will be retiring at the end of the spring semester were honored April 18 at the general faculty meeting. Staff members will be recognized at the Service Awards Luncheon on May 15.

"Our retiring faculty have provided the foundation for Marshall University to reach academic prominence within the state of West Virginia and the nation," said Dr. James Sottile, president of MU's Faculty Senate. "Such accomplishments should be acknowledged and their effort rewarded. We, the Marshall University community, owe each of them a special thank you."

The retiring faculty members and their years of service are:

Dr. Robert P. Alexander, Management and Marketing, 44 years; Dr. James P. Carey, Surgery, 13 years; Dr. Mack H. Gillenwater, Geography, 34 years; Dr. E. Bowie Kahle, Biological Science, 33 years; Dr. Robert C. Touchon, chair and professor, Cardiovascular Services, 12 years; Dr. Patricia E. Call, School of Education, 1 year; Paul E. Dillow, Safety Technology, 4 years; Dr. John D. Harrah Sr., associate dean of Curriculum Development and professor of Cardiovascular

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Administrative Professionals Day Apr. 24

A full day of varied activities—everything from work-place-related mini-sessions to timely health and fashion tips—is on tap as the 50th annual Administrative Professionals Day Conference takes place Wednesday, April 24, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Sponsored by the MU Community and Technical College, the conference offers a wide variety of diverse sessions given by professionals in several fields. The registration fee is \$59 and includes all sessions, materials, lunch, refreshments and .5 Continuing Education Units with certification. Ten percent discounts are available if there are three attendees from the same organization and 15 percent for four or more. The registration deadline is April 19.

The conference begins with a continental breakfast at 8:15 a.m. and will be followed by a welcome from Mrs. Pat Angel, who will be introduced by Dr. Vicki Riley, provost of CTC.

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Best-Selling Author to Appear April 29

Nicholas Basbanes, best-selling author of *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*, will be the featured speaker April 29 at a reception and dinner for the MU Library Associates Spring Celebration of Books.

Basbanes speaks at 8 p.m. in the John Marshall Dining Room at the Memorial Student Center. A reception is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the center's Shawkey Room, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. in the John Marshall Room.

"Mr. Basbanes is extremely entertaining as well as informative," said Barbara Winters, Dean of Libraries. "You will learn about a bibliokleptomaniac whose notorious 'Blumberg Collection' consisted of 23,600 rare books, all of them stolen from libraries; a successful businessman who paid \$2.1 million at auction for four Shakespeare folios and was in bankruptcy for \$32 million within a year; and a postal employee whose collection of English literature filled his house to overflowing and who died alone among his books."

"*A Gentle Madness*," first published in 1995, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in nonfiction, and was named a *New York Times* Book of the Year.

The cost to attend the reception and dinner is \$35. A book signing will follow Basbanes' speech. For more information, call Carolyn Bagby at ext. 7105.

We Are...Marshall!

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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of May 3, 2002. Deadline is April 26. 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.



Medical School Receives \$519,000 Bequest



The Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine received \$519,000 through a bequest from Delphia Johnson, a resident of Huntington who died in 1991. The gift will be used to set up an education fund for the medical school in Ms. Johnson's name. At the check presentation were (left) Dr. Lynn Mayer, Associate Vice President for Alumni Development; Dr. Carolyn Hunter, Vice President for Development; Linda S. Holmes, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, and Barry W. Dobson, David L. Plants, and Kenneth H. Berberich, all from The Huntington National Bank.

Smith is Pulitzer Finalist

Jean Edward Smith, the university's first John Marshall Professor of Political Science, was one of three finalists for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in Biography. The 86th annual Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism, Letters, Drama and Music were awarded this month on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.

Smith was nominated as a finalist for *Grant*, a biography of Ulysses S. Grant released in May 2001. The other finalist was *An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood*, by former President Jimmy Carter. The Pulitzer went to David McCullough for *John Adams*.



Jean Edward Smith

"I'm very gratified to be in the same company with McCullough and Jimmy Carter," Smith said. "And I'm gratified, particularly, since it suggests that Grant's reputation is now being rehabilitated. It does redo Grant's presidency."

Smith said *Grant* took five years to complete. He wrote one third while he was a professor at the University of Toronto, a second third during a one-year stay as a visiting professor at Princeton University, and he finished the book while at Marshall.

"To be one of three finalists for such an award is truly outstanding, and it is a real coup for Marshall to have such a renowned scholar on its faculty," said Dr. Alan Gould, executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy and a Distinguished Professor of History.

Smith, a native of Mississippi who grew up in Washington, D.C., graduated from Princeton University and earned a doctorate from Columbia University. He is recognized as the leading authority on Chief Justice John Marshall and is working on a biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He joined Marshall's faculty in August 1999 for a five-year appointment as the John Marshall Professor of Political Science after spending 35 years as a professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

Profile: Shirley Vaught

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Shirley Vaught

She's a gardener of the soul as well as the soil, a weekend farmer with strong religious beliefs who finds beauty in nature every day, even when surrounded by stark windswept fields blanketed under several inches of snow.

For Shirley Vaught, who has spent the last 21 years as part of the graduate college on the South Charleston campus—first in the payroll department and now as the administrative secretary senior for the Humanities department, it's not really much of a stretch to combine her faith with her love for gardening and a hearty outdoor lifestyle.

Following the purchase last year of 94 acres of wooded land in Mercer County, Vaught and her husband, Sam, spend nearly every weekend there. Rain or shine, wind or snow, hot or freezing, they work at clearing off the fields, which are dotted inexplicably with more than two dozen small sheds built on the property by a former owner. A daunting task to many, but there are thoughts of someday building a retirement home once the land is cleared, which Vaught says is an incentive to keep the couple going.

"It's a good thing we share similar interests," she says with a smile. "When you're working in six inches of snow in freezing temperatures and eating lunch off the tailgate of a truck, you'd better both like what you're doing!"

And Vaught says, she likes what she's been doing at the graduate college over the past two decades, particularly the warm camaraderie she's shared with coworkers. For most of that time she worked in what was known before the merger with Marshall as the Office of Financial Affairs. It was a staid-sounding department doing serious work for the institution, but in the midst of the number crunching, Vaught remembers the sense of fun spiced with a penchant for zany pranks that ran through the tight-knit group of employees.

For example, there was the train. Not actually a train, but boxes of old materials that were destined for storage in storage-deprived Sullivan Hall on the West Virginia State College campus. The boxes were temporarily stacked in the hallway awaiting removal to another part of the building. One day someone casually remarked that the stacked boxes vaguely resembled a train. That's all it took for the fertile imaginations of the finance office crew. Day by day the "train" took form, stretching down the hall with paper now covering the boxes. With the help of an artistic staff member, new details began to appear daily. Wheels materialized, and a smokestack belching paper smoke, big yellow headlights, a cattle catcher bumper and an authentic looking caboose took form. It definitely looked like a train and it was a big hit with visitors. After a few days, however, the builders reluctantly dismantled their masterpiece when storage space became available. But it was fun while it lasted, they all agreed.

And then, of course, there was the "Finance Felons" caper. Years ago, at a college-wide picnic, departments chose names and themes and competed fiercely in a wide variety of games testing skill and dexterity, including paper clip stringing, briefcase maneuvers, paper wad flip, and paper plate Frisbee. Playfully dubbing themselves the "Finance Felons" Team, the group made a dramatic late

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Concert to Benefit Autism Training Center

"Have a Heart for Autism" is the theme of an upcoming benefit concert and talent show sponsored by the West Virginia Autism Training Center which is located on the Marshall campus.

Featuring the Two of Hearts, a duo that performs popular and Broadway tunes, along with local artists, the concert is set for Monday, April 29, at 7 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door and can be purchased by calling ext. 2332 or in West Virginia at 1-800-344-5115.

Proceeds will go to the Autism Training Center for a lending library of books and educational videotapes for families throughout West Virginia. The materials provide information about autism to families and educators who request them and are mailed to them at no cost.

Autism is a brain disorder that affects one in 500 individuals, according to information from the Autism Center. More than 2,500 West Virginians have been diagnosed with the disorder, which affects communication, socialization and independence. The Autism Center at Marshall, which is a state-funded program with a mission to provide education and training for more than 657 actively registered families, is currently conducting an awareness and fundraising campaign.

For those who cannot attend the concert, organizers say contributions are welcome.



The Two of Hearts will appear April 29 to benefit the Autism Training Center.

Marshall to Host Candidates April 22

Eleven candidates for the West Virginia Senate and House of Delegates will have an opportunity to respond to questions pertaining to higher education issues when Marshall conducts a Town Hall Meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 22 in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge.

The event, which is open to the public, is sponsored by MU's Faculty Senate, Staff Council and Student Government Association.

The four candidates for Senate who have said they will attend are Marie Redd, Evan Jenkins, George Malott and Tom Scott. Seven candidates for the House of Delegates will attend. They include Brady Paxton, Jim Morgan, Susan Hubbard, Karen Nance, Portia Warner, Kelli Sabonya and Jody Smirl.

Members of the Faculty Senate, Staff Council and Student Government Association were invited to submit questions for the candidates, which the candidates received prior to the meeting, according to Faculty Senate vice president Donna Donathan. A moderator will ask the submitted questions, then the audience will be allowed to ask questions.

Faculty Senate president Jim Sottile said, "It's a great opportunity to bring together the community, the candidates and the academic community to talk about the politics of West Virginia. The meeting will provide an open and friendly discussion of issues in higher education."

Shirley Vaught from Page 3

entrance in lockstep wearing identical black-striped shirts (fashioned from white t-shirts and black electrical tape) and chained together trailing black balloon leg irons. They lived up to their name as they swept the games, emerging as first-place winners. Of course there were cries of foul and allegations of pre-strung paperclips, surreptitiously placed paper wads, and very suspicious-looking money that was liberally stuffed in judges' pockets. That her group won was strictly a matter of skill and endurance, Vaught says with a perfectly straight face today.

She transferred to the academic side shortly after the Marshall/WV Graduate College Merger in 1997, when most functions of the payroll office were transferred to the Huntington campus. "Working in payroll gave me an opportunity to meet everyone in the college and I liked that. Not only did I help distribute paychecks but almost everyone eventually had to come to the office for forms of some type so I did get to know just about everyone who worked for the college," she remembers.

But Vaught likes the challenges of working in the academic area and one tradeoff is that she now has more interaction with students, something she enjoys very much, she says.

A prodigious canner, Vaught and her husband raise a backyard garden that provides them with a bounty of fresh vegetables all summer long, and when that supply runs short, she supplements her well-stocked larder with produce from the local farmers' market. Not only does she can the usual things, she also puts up her own special brand of vegetable soup—"end of the garden" soup, she dubs it, along with her specialty, spicy hot wieners.

And her green thumb doesn't end with just the edibles, either. The Vaught yard overflows with blooming plants, furnishing colorful bouquets during the spring and summer which she brings to work and generously shares with coworkers.

Nature is a deep part of her faith, she says. "I especially like spring. I like the resurrection in this season and the beauty the season brings." A member of the East Nitro United Baptist Church for many years, she served as the Sunday School secretary for 30 years "until someone else recently took it over," she says happily, with not a trace of regret.

In addition to gardening, she enjoys spending time with her three daughters and her grandchildren: Daniel, who is in the Air Force; nine-year-old Miracle, and now one-year-old Benjamin, who always has willing grandparents for sitting duties. And there's even a great-grandson, Anderson, who lives in another state, which regrettably cuts down on the fond grandparents' visits.

The Vaughts' other passion is Southern gospel music. "I can't sing at all, but I'm a good listener!" she says enthusiastically. Sam, however, is a singer and is their church's choir leader. They occasionally travel to the Renfro Valley, Ky., gospel concerts, and they never miss the annual Bill Gaither show in Charleston. To celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary last year, they treated themselves to a special week-long cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, on a boat that featured Southern gospel music entertainment exclusively.

With thoughts of retirement looming in the not-too-distant future, Vaught says she is content to take things day by day. And perhaps thinking of the outside work, come rain or shine, still waiting on the Mercer County farm, she says, "I try to get up every day with the thought that this is the day the Lord has given me and I'm going to enjoy it to the fullest. I don't care what the weather is like!"

Football Special Offers Ticket Savings

In case you haven't "Herd," MU football season ticket packages are now on sale with savings up to 44 percent, with additional savings possible for faculty and staff.

The early Herd savings will run through May 17. For ticket information, call 1-800-THE-HERD or go to the web site www.HERDZONE.com.

Poet Ann Townsend to Appear April 25

Poet Ann Townsend, whose poems have appeared in numerous journals and have won her several prizes and awards, will read from her work at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 25, in Marco's on the lower level of the Memorial Student Center.

Townsend's appearance is sponsored by the English Department's Visiting Writers Series and the College of Liberal Arts and is free to the public.

Her poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Nation*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review* and other literary journals. She teaches at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

Theatre Presents 'Romeo and Juliet'

"Romeo and Juliet," William Shakespeare's immortal classic of love, fate and tragedy, will be presented by the Marshall University Theatre April 24, 25, 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$8 for MU faculty and staff, seniors and children, and \$10 for adults. For ticket reservations, call 696-ARTS. Box office hours are from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Administrative Professionals from Page 2

Alisa Bailey, Commissioner of Tourism for West Virginia, will speak at 9 a.m. Mini-sessions will follow and topics include "Recognizing Your Opportunities," "The Pressure of Deadlines," "Cutting-Edge Customer Service," "Introducing the True You," "Herbs and Your Health," "The Microsoft Office User Specialist—Your Business Advantage," "It's What You Do With What You've Got," "Grammar Gremlins," "and Go Away! The Value of Travel."

Other topics available during the day include "Administrative Savvy," "Inside Scoop on the CPS Review," "Say It With Scarves," "Observations In the Workplace," "Ships & Isms: What You Need To Succeed," "Dealing With Stress At Your Desk Side." Nanya Friend, editor of *The Charleston Daily Mail*, will speak at 2 p.m. on "You've Come A Long Way, Baby." The day concludes with a style show by JCPenney, door prize drawings, and closing remarks by Dr. Diana Long, associate provost, Marshall Community and Technical College.

Retiring Faculty, Staff from Page 1

Services, 8 years; Dr. Edward C. Scheiner, Journalism & Mass Communications, 7 years; Dr. Donald A. Williams, Music, 19 years; Dr. Delbert Lawhon, Psychology, MUGC, 14 years.

Retiring staff members and their years of service are:

Panda Benford, Pathology, 23 years; Jack Davis, Physical Plant, 13 years; Jessie K. Dickens, Modern Languages, 19 years; Nora Fairchild, Resident Services, 12 years; Nancy Filbert, Library, 31 years; James Harless, Admissions, 39 years; Donia A. Hurley, Registrar's Office, 17 years; Bernard Keeney, Physical Plant, 16 years; Emily Legg, MUGC-Education, 7 years; Janice Parsons, SOM-Building and Grounds, 6 years; Barbara Ransbottom, Graphic Services, 31 years; Imogene Scott, Physical Plant, 34 years.