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We Are ... Marshall, March 9, 2001

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MARCH 9, 2001

Marshall Artists Series Moves Locations

Because of the recent fire in the Keith-Albee Theatre, the two remaining Artists Series shows will be relocated to other venues, according to Angela Jones, Director of Marketing for the Artists Series. Anyone with reserved seating to any of the productions will have a reserved seat at the new location, she says. Ticket holders will be contacted soon with details of the new seating location. All remaining tickets for the two upcoming shows will be general admission.

Aida, Verdi's dramatic opera with its chorus of 40, a full orchestra of 50, plus a ballet ensemble, will come to the **Huntington Civic Arena** at 8 p.m. on April 2. Set in ancient Egypt, the drama focuses on the story of Aida, an Ethiopian princess who becomes a slave at the court of the Pharaoh. The musical saga follows her internal struggle with conflicting loyalties—her love for her country and her passion for the Captain of the Egyptian army who defeats her people. General admission seats + are \$38. The performance is also sponsored by Clear Channel Communications, WOWK, and BB&T.

Quartetto Gelato brings a unique blend of repertoire, from gypsy fiddling and tangos, to operatic arias and

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Higher Ed Day at the Legislature is March 13

Higher Education Day at the Legislature will take place Tuesday, March 13, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Rotunda of the State Capitol. Colleges from throughout the state have been invited to bring displays for the event, which is sponsored by the Higher Education Policy Commission.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Marshall are invited to stop by the MU display.

As in the past Marshall will have its own day at the Legislature, this year on April 11, sponsored by the MU Alumni Association. Organizers hope for a large turnout from the Marshall community. On the evening of April 11, "The Third House," a witty legislative spoof which traditionally draws sold-out crowds, will be performed by area news personalities. Proceeds from the event will benefit Marshall's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Beverly Surratt is January Employee of the Month

Beverly Surratt, Graphic Arts Designer in Printing Services, has been selected as Marshall University Employee of the Month for January, according to Jim Stephens, chairman of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Surratt, who lives in Huntington and has been employed at the university for more than seven years, was nominated by Sara Elizabeth Chapman, interim director of Continuing Education, with support from Dr. Keith Spears, vice president for University Communications and Assistant to the President.



Beverly Surratt

In her letter of nomination Chapman wrote, "Beverly Surratt represents true Marshall spirit. Her work is outstanding but, equally impressive, is the manner in which she delivers it. Quite often we are under pressure in Continuing Education to meet deadlines regarding our material processed through Printing Services. Beverly goes above and beyond the call of duty to accommodate us in getting projects completed...Once, I even picked her up like a taxi service and she worked on getting a file transmitted from Cabell Hall to Printing Services when programs were incompatible. Now that's service!"

Chapman has high praise for Surratt's helpfulness. "A warm smile, an attitude of interest, and an accommodating spirit are exemplary of Bev's consistent demeanor. She is direct, informed, and has fantastic design ideas. We are truly fortunate to have a graphic designer with her talents at Marshall."

She goes on to say that Surratt has earned admiration for her efficiency in getting jobs done quickly and concludes by saying, "Bev sets a high standard and admirable example for all Marshall employees."

In a letter of support of the nomination, Spears says "Bev is an outstanding person, designer and employee who often goes above and beyond the call of duty with the services she provides to the university. No matter the task, she is willing to help out and provides her talents to whatever projects are at hand, even if this means overtime."

He goes on to say, "An exceptional artist, she not only knows how to create an attractive design but also how to get the project done right and on time. And, most importantly, she does all of that with a smile on her face and a

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Human Resources Slates Seminars for March

Several training development programs, covering a variety of topics, are being offered by Human Resource Services during March.

Workshops will include:

March 13 - Basic Banner Navigation, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Drinko 349. The class is limited to 15 participants, who will learn how to log in to the Banner Administrative Information System, understand how the Banner modules are related, navigate through the system using all navigation tools, conduct efficient searches for persons and non-persons, and query and update the database. This course is intended for new Banner users from all areas of the University. It will be taught by Pat Gebhart of Computing Services.

University Travel Policies and Procedures, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Drinko Auditorium 402. This workshop reviews MU travel policies and procedures to help travelers and those who prepare travel reimbursements with understanding the policies and procedures to ensure prompt reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. Kelley Francis and Belinda Callicot of the Accounting Department will be the facilitators.

March 15 - How's Your Outlook? Microsoft Office 2000 Can Improve It!, Part 1, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in 349 Drinko Library. Limited to 15 participants, the two-part hands-on workshop will cover such items as, understanding the basic Outlook screens; working with E-mail; avoid retyping entries; adjusting views and toolbars; creating and using folders; setting up contacts; and calendar savvy. It will be taught by Wylma Skean of the Community and Technical College.

March 20 - Employee Orientation, 8:45 to 3:45, Shawkey Room Memorial Student Center. By invitation, recently hired classified and non-classified staff members are requested to attend the orientation program which provides a general overview of university activities and opportunities. During the session, employees learn about various segments of the university community. Speakers representing each of the major divisions will share information with participants. Those who were hired after

October 1, 2000 should pre-register to assure inclusion. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

TIAA-CREF One-on-One Individual Counseling Sessions will be held in Huntington by representatives of TIAA-CREF. In Huntington, sessions will take place in rooms 2W9 and 2W10, MSC. To schedule an appointment, call TIAA-CREF directly at 1-877-209-3136 or visit their website at <http://www.tiaa-cref.org/moc/>.

March 21 - TIAA-CREF One-on-One Individual Counseling Sessions in 225 Medical Education Building.

Two Financial Education Seminars will feature a consulting officer from TIAA-CREF who will make two presentations, both in the Alumni Lounge of the Memorial Student Center. Reaching Your Financial Goals: Savings and Investment Strategies, will be held from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The objective of this program is to establish the importance of identifying personal financial goals and ways that voluntary (nonpension) products and services can be used to meet them. The seminar also provides product information, as well as "how to" techniques for accomplishing various financial goals.

Developing an Investment Strategy will be presented from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. This seminar will identify some key issues investors should consider when developing an investment strategy. The importance of risk tolerance, asset

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Faculty/Staff Achievements

Robert Bickel of the College of Education and Human Services, and Craig Howley of Ohio University and AEL, Inc., are co-authors of "The Influence of Scale on School Performance: A Multi-Level Extension of the Matthew Principle," which was published in *Education Policy Analysis Archives*. The article has been nominated as best electronic journal article of the year 2000 by the Communication of Research Group of the American Educational Research Association.

Michael Castellani, professor of Chemistry, was elected to a three-year term as a Chemistry Councillor to the Council on Undergraduate Research. This organization helps to foster research at primarily undergraduate institutions in the fields of biology, physics/astronomy, engineering, mathematics/computer science, and psychology, in addition to chemistry. Activities of the Council range from lobbying granting foundations to assisting individuals with preparing grant applications to public outreach activities. Information about the Council can be found at www.cur.org. For additional information about the Council, contact Castellani or Tom Wilson of the Department of Physics.

Jennifer Sias, User Education Librarian at the Drinko, and **Marcia J. Booth**, instructor in the English Department, presented their paper, "Active Learning Cross-Cutting Departments," in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, at the 2001 TYCA Conference, "Active Learning in the 'Actual' Classroom: Empowering Students," on March 1-4. Their paper dealt with their collaborative effort on an online library search assignment for composition classes. The goal of the conference was to present active learning techniques for the classroom.

We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (110 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of March 23, 2001. Deadline is March 16. 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: Phyllis Green-Honeycutt

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Phyllis Green-Honeycutt

For many years, hers was the warm, welcoming voice that greeted callers, the first person most people came in contact with at the graduate college in South Charleston.

Through the college's many name changes and its three locations, Phyllis Green-Honeycutt, the receptionist and wizard of the switchboard, guided callers to the correct extension, effortlessly and amicably. Without

missing a beat she could juggle several ringing lines at once, greet visitors to the college in person, give out room directions and other pertinent information and with a grandmother's fond eye, admire the toddlers and babies who often accompanied their student parents to the college.

For 23 years Green-Honeycutt was the voice of the college, but three years ago, always ready for a change, she decided to transfer to the brand new MUGC library, a state-of-the-art facility that sits just across the parking lot from the administration building that houses the reception desk. She's enjoyed her new duties and the change of pace that came with the job.

And she doesn't mind change. Most of the time it's good and it keeps things lively, she feels. And now she's getting ready for another big change in her life.

"I've done two drastic things in the past ten years" she says. "First, in 1991, I remarried, and now in 2001, I'm going to retire."

So come the end of March, one of the most senior classified staff members in terms of years of service is leaving the graduate college. And while she regrets leaving all her colleagues and the good friends she's made over the years, she's bubbling over with plans for her retirement.

First there's the cruise in April with her husband Paul, who recently retired from the Merchant Marines. Then they'll be visits to her daughter Monica, an executive with the Marriott Hotel chain, who lives in Norfolk, Virginia. She's planning to visit friends in Colorado and spend more time with her son John, and daughter, Angie, who live in Charleston. And most of all there will be lots of fun times with her 7-year-old granddaughter Chey, who lives nearby.

"I've been working here for 26 years," she says, "and I decided if I'm going to retire I might as well do it now. I'm not planning to work any more after I retire because I'll never find a place that is as good to work in as the college."

When she first entered the job market in the early seventies, it took Green-Honeycutt a while to find out what she really wanted to do for a career, but along the way she sampled some offbeat jobs. She worked for a while in the Charleston Stone and

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Beverly Surratt

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pleasant demeanor with whomever she is working. No matter how tense the issue or critical the time element, Bev

always maintains a professional demeanor. As quoted to me once: 'She is the calm with the storm.' "

Spears concludes, "Beverly Surratt is a credit to the Office of Printing Services and an asset to University Communications and the entire Marshall University community."

Surratt received a balloon bouquet, a plaque and \$100 which were presented by President Angel. She will be eligible for Employee of the Year.



Beverly Surratt receives her Employee of the Month plaque from President Dan Angel.

Human Resources Seminars

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allocation, and diversification will be discussed by Jay Mahoney, who will conduct both sessions.

March 26 - Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for Supervisors, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Human Resource Services conference room, 207 Old Main. Limited to 16 participants, this workshop will provide direction for identifying and presenting the behavior as well as review Marshall's policy. The facilitators will be David Harris and Judy Blevins, of Human Resource Services.

March 29 - How's Your Outlook? Part II., 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Drinko 349.

March 30, The Right to Know: Hazard Communication Standard, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and 1 to 2 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge, Memorial Student Center. The topic is mandatory training for Physical Plant and Residence Services employees but all university faculty and staff may attend. The sessions will be taught by Perry Jones, Safety consultant, Retired OSHA Area Director.

Excused Absences

Absences have been excused for these students on the dates noted:

February 22-23 - Leah Anderson, Laura Bailey, Jessica Blevins, Sandra Fox, Derek Gwinn, Jennifer Londeree, Ann McDaniel, Emily Mottesheard, Jennifer Stark, Yuta Usuda, Emily Wilkins.

February 23 - Eric Akers, Kelly Childers, Laura Evans, Rebekah Gant, Darrell Haynes, Corey Knoll, Holly Little, Carrie McComas, Chris White, Elizabeth York.

February 26-27 - Jessica Blevins; Tami Dennis; Cari Esque; Jami McClanahan.

Phyllis Green-Honeycutt

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Thomas store where her willowy figure and striking good looks landed her modeling stints first for a specialty line of clothing and later as a model for cosmetics.

"That was fun for awhile," she remembers, "but I thought I'd like to move on to something else."

And then just like the lissome lass in the hit film, *Flashdance*, she became a welder. From model to welder may seem like a giant job leap to some, but it made sense to her. She didn't mind the sometimes grimy work. "I went to work for Fletcher's Enamel Plant in Dunbar. They made beautiful decorative metal fences, and they taught me to weld. I really enjoyed it and I stayed about two years."

A newspaper ad in June, 1974, caught her attention so she applied for the advertised job which combined duties in the finance office with part-time receptionist duties at the fledgling College of Graduate Studies, whose offices were then in a converted dormitory on the campus of West Virginia State College in Institute.

There were no separate extensions for staff so all calls came through the switchboard which made the busy receptionist a key employee for the institution.

Her warm personality and willingness to go the extra mile for employees, callers, and visitors were a perfect fit for that position. After she was recruited for a stint of working for the City of Charleston, she returned "home" to the graduate college in 1976 and took over the full-time duties of the receptionist/switchboard operator.

"I learned how to deal with people, working on the reception desk," she notes. "I love working with people and helping them out, something I'm still able to do in the library."

Her prodigious memory didn't hurt either. She quickly memorized the more than 100 extensions and could punch in several calls a minute without ever glancing at a directory. Students who didn't know the names of faculty or staff they needed to reach soon found they could count on Green-Honeycutt to ferret out the pertinent information and get them connected to the correct person.

"Most of the times at the college have been very happy times...Everyone has always been so nice to me and I have made so many friends," she says enthusiastically. Still, there were some offbeat things that happened.

There was the time in the mid-70's when a 23-inch snowfall closed the college and most city and county operations. A new administrator, concerned that there was no message on the phone line explaining the closure, and with no way at that time to electronically create a message from another location, asked Green-Honeycutt to go to the college and record an explanatory message. She lived in Charleston, nearly 20 miles away from Institute, but she somehow managed to find a bus that was still running, rode it to the empty building, recorded a three sentence message, and went home, a round trip journey that took her more than three hours.

And then there was the "four o'clock phantom." For a few weeks in the early 80's, she received a call almost daily about 4 p.m. from a polite, soft spoken male who would ask to speak to various female employees. Once connected, the calls started out mildly enough but gradually turned out to be anything but polite. Green-Honeycutt soon learned to distinguish his voice even though he usually tried to disguise it and she would hang up immediately.

Would be obscene callers, including "the phantom," soon learned they weren't going to get by the no-nonsense receptionist who would often deliver a stiff lecture before a firm hang-up, so they eventually gave up.

Along with her regular duties she found time to volunteer for various college activities. She was a member of the Affirmative Action Committee, served on a screening committee for job applicants, helped out with registration in Southern West Virginia, and volunteered to work at commencements as well as the college-sponsored annual 10K run. She also took classes at West Virginia State College and earned a certificate from the Charleston School of Beauty Culture.

So it is with some reluctance that she is now leaving the college which has been her working home for 26 years. But then, there is the lure of the beach, good times with her family, time to pursue hobbies and travel, and the assurance that the good friends she has made over the years are still only a phone call away.

"I'm retiring from the graduate college, not all the friends I've made here," she says with her usual upbeat attitude.

CSEGA to Present 'Revelations'

"Revelations", a theatrical presentation with a West Virginia focus, will be presented on March 15 at 4 p.m. in the Experimental Theatre at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. The event is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia (CSEGA), and is free and open to the public.

Folklorist Carrie Nobel Kline, CSEGA's current Scholar-in-Residence, interweaves oral testimonials of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered West Virginians.

Kline says, "This readers' theater performance will illuminate these West Virginians' determination to express their true selves in a way that is worthy of respect and admiration. Revealing their paths toward self-acceptance, audience members will glean a fresh perspective on concepts of gender from people who have broadened their own views through complex intellectual and spiritual journeys."

CSEGA is funded through a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for the Humanities. The stated goal of the center is to challenge negative stereotypes about Appalachians with an emphasis on gender and ethnicity. For additional information contact Mary Thomas at ext. 3348 or e-mail her at csega@marshall.edu.

Marshall Artists Series from Page 1

classical masterworks on April 26 with curtain at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and the production will be held in the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium inside City Hall. Sponsors are Clear Channel Communications and WSAZ-TV.

Tickets for both events are now available and may be obtained by calling ext. 6656.