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We Are ... Marshall, April 14, 2000

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • APRIL 14, 2000

Angel Inauguration is Apr. 19



The inauguration of Dr. Dan Angel, Marshall University's 31st president, will take place on Wednesday, April 19 beginning at 4 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Staff and faculty are invited to attend and there will be a reception immediately following the ceremony.

Jeanne Adkins Receives Employee of the Month for March



Jeanne Adkins

Jeanne Adkins, assistant supervisor/building and campus services in physical plant, has been selected as the Marshall University Employee of the Month for March.

Adkins, who lives in Huntington, has been employed at Marshall for 13 years. She was nominated by Joe Butcher, Michael Clay, Charles McKinney, Linda Jefferson and Anthony Mitchell.

In nominating her, Anthony Mitchell wrote that in his more than four years at Marshall, "...I have never seen a supervisor more dedicated to not only her duties as a boss, but at the same time...supportive to her employees. Ms. Adkins can take control of a task or a situation and make sure the job gets done on time and with above normal standards, and is quick to respond to the staff and faculty. Although she is not seen all the time by her supervisors or faculty and staff, her presence is known by the cleanliness of her building," an evaluation with which Linda Jefferson concurred.

Characterized as "a great worker" by Clay, McKinney, and Butcher, Jeanne Adkins, they wrote, "is an employee who works very hard and who works with employees who need extra help. She stands in and helps when other people are off. When we have floods in the building and she is called in, she comes in and works very hard until the work is complete. We need her all the time."

Adkins received a plaque and \$100 for being named Employee of the Month and will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.

Jomie Jazz Center Scheduled for Gala Opening Today

A number of events are centered around the formal dedication of the new Jomie Jazz Center on April 14 as part of the fifteenth anniversary of Marshall University's College of Fine Arts.

The \$2.6 million dollar jazz academic facility is the new home to jazz studies at Marshall and is named for university friends and patrons Joan Edwards and her late husband James Edwards.

The dedication of the center will take place at 11:30 a.m. The College of Fine Arts Award Convocation will be held at 2 p.m. in

the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, along with the MU Jazz Ensemble, will perform at 8 p.m., also in the Performing Arts Center. Ticket information for this event can be obtained by calling 696-2787.

The Preservation Hall Jazz specializes in the jazz of New Orleans, where the band is based, and combines influences from riverboats, turn-of-the-century street parades, the blues, and Spanish and French ballads

Continuing the celebration of Fine Arts, the Marshall Chamber Choir and Cantori Montani will be performing Bach's

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Lewis College of Business Announces Hall of Fame Inductions

The Elizabeth McDowell Lewis College of Business has announced its 2000 class of inductees for the MU Business Hall of Fame. Jack E. Fruth, Verna K. Gibson, Charles B. Hedrick, Kermit E. McGinnis and James and Clara C. Thomas will be honored at the seventh induction ceremony April 28 at the Memorial Student Center.

Jack E. Fruth founded Fruth Pharmacy, Inc. in 1952 and since that time it has grown to 21 locations currently employing over 500 people. In addition to serving on several civic and social boards he is a member of the John Marshall Society. Among the numerous awards he has received for community service are the West Virginia Entrepreneur of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999 and the Distinguished West Virginian Award by Governor Cecil Underwood last year.

Verna K. Gibson is nationally known for her career and leadership in the retail fashion clothing industry. She worked her way up the corporate ladder to become President and CEO of the Limited Stores and later added Limited Too and Cacique Lingerie. Among the many awards she has received is the Marshall University Distinguished Alumnus Award given to her in 1986. She is a member of the John Marshall Society and a former member of the Society of Yeager Scholars. She has provided significant financial support by establishing the Verna K. and James E. Gibson endowment for Yeager Scholars and provided major financial support for the building fund for the Higher Education for Learning Problems Program. She and her husband, James, are major contributors to Marshall athletics.

Charles B. Hedrick graduated from Marshall with a bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* and was the class valedictorian. After receiving a MBA with distinction from Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, he was manager of employee relations of Proctor Gamble, before retiring with 38 years of service. He and his wife, Mary Jo Locke, endowed a scholarship at Marshall to encourage academically talented and gifted students from West Virginia. They have also funded the Dr. Charles E. Hedrick outstanding Faculty Awards in honor of his father, a former MU faculty member who was instrumental in the establishment of Marshall's first graduate program. In addition to his service on hospital and educational boards, he is a member of the John Marshall Society.

Kermit E. McGinnis is chairman of the board and CEO of Huntington Federal Savings Bank, formerly the Huntington Federal Savings and Loan Association. A graduate of Marshall, he became the president of Huntington Federal Savings and Loan Association, and was one of the youngest presidents of any financial institution in the U.S. He served as president for 39 years. He has served on boards for numerous savings institu-

tions, civic and social organizations. A member of the John Marshall Society, he is the director of the LCOB Advisory Board. He served as President of Marshall University in 1982-83.

James R. and Clara C. Thomas are the third couple to be honored by induction into the Hall of Fame. James was the president and CEO of Carbon Industries from 1953 to 1983. He is Director Emeritus of One Valley Bank, NA and has served on numerous corporate and community boards. He has received several awards, including a Medal for Service from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Clara is involved in many civic and social boards and is on the board of the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc, the Advisory Board of the Lewis College of Business and is the vice-chairman of the Marshall University Graduate College Foundation, Inc. In 1997 she was awarded the John Marshall Medal for Civic Responsibility.

The Thomas' are members of the John Marshall Society and have provided significant financial support to the John Deaver Drinko Library Campaign.

For additional information on the inductees or ticket information, contact the Lewis College of Business at 696-2314.

Alumni Weekend Slated April 28-30

An event filled weekend, with something for everyone, is being planned for Alumni Weekend 2000 scheduled for April 28-30.

With the theme "We Are...Marshall", festivities will get underway on Friday evening, April 28, with a champagne reception when past distinguished alumni award winners will be honored. Dr. Dan Angel will give his first major address at a reception/banquet on Saturday, April 29. Thirty-four distinguished alumni and distinguished alumni from the Robert C. Byrd Institute have been invited back for this weekend.

An added feature is the Deans/Alumni brunch Saturday morning when the university deans will join the alumni with updates on every academic area of the university.

Another event of the "We are...Marshall" celebration will be the annual class luncheon honoring the class of 1950 on its 50th year reunion, the class of 1940 for its 60th year and the grand class reunion for those who are members of any class prior to 1950. Dr. Sam Clegg, Marshall's legendary historical expert, will serve as master of ceremonies for the reunion luncheon.

Other attractions on Friday include a "meet and greet" continental breakfast, an estate planning seminar, video highlights (institutional, basketball and football), the College of Business Hall of Fame Banquet and a Marshall Department of Theatre presentation of *Terra Nova*, which also will have performances on Thursday, April 27 and Saturday, April 29.

On Saturday there will be a trolley tour of the campus, a tour of the Deaver Drinko Library, and a walking tour of the athletic facilities.

Another new event this year is a golf tournament on Sunday with proceeds to go towards providing a scholarship for the student who portrays the university mascot, Marco.

Additional information about Alumni Weekend 2000 is available from the Alumni Association web site or by phone at 1-800-682-5869.

Staff Council to Meet

The monthly meeting of the Classified Staff Council will take place April 20, in the Alumni Lounge of the Memorial Student Center from 1-3 p.m. Staff at the Graduate College in South Charleston can attend via teleconference in room 134 of the administration building.

We Are...Marshall!

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Send story ideas to Pat Dickson, Editor, *We Are...Marshall!*, 110 Administration Building, South Charleston Campus, or send by e-mail to pdickson@marshall.edu.

Graduate Assistant:
Christopher Gould



Profile: Bonnie Ranson

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Bonnie Ranson (left) and Kathy Zimmerman review plans for the annual "Relay for Life" event in support of the American Cancer Society. The event will take place June 23-24 at Laidley Field in Charleston. (See related story at right.)

"April is the cruelest month," T.S. Eliot wrote, and Bonnie Ranson, who is captain of the MUGC Relay for Life Team, can surely relate to that.

Five years ago in April, Ranson, who works in the budget office in South Charleston, received the devastating news that she had breast cancer, possibly in an advanced stage. Although she had found a lump several months earlier and had mentioned it to her doctor, her cancer had gone undiagnosed for nearly a year.

For someone known for her bubbly personality and her cheery outlook on life, she was about to take on the biggest challenge of her life.

Within days of the diagnosis, Ranson underwent surgery and began aggressive chemotherapy treatments. Although she had heard horror stories about the nausea that often accompanied the treatments, and hers were to be triple strength, she was determined to remain upbeat and optimistic. She got through them with only minor side effects but no nausea. The biggest casualty was her luxuriant mane of shoulder length hair which fell out by the handfuls. Warned to expect that, she treated herself to a saucy red wig which she wore proudly until her hair grew back in.

But after the surgery her prognosis was grim. Because of the type of cancer and the large number of lymph nodes it had invaded, the cancer was at stage three—out of four stages—nudging into stage four. As gently as he could, her oncologist told her that without additional treatment she had only a 20 percent chance of surviving past two years.

One possibility, she was told, was to have a bone marrow transplant procedure. She was warned that the procedure was very rigorous and quite intense—something to be undertaken only when other more traditional treatments were not considered feasible.

Her oncologist worked with Duke University to get her an appointment to determine if she was a candidate for the bone marrow transplant, and she was accepted. In August she set off for Durham, North Carolina, accompanied by two of her caregivers, her daughter, Cyndi, and her friend, Kathy Zimmerman. Later her friend and colleague at the Graduate College, Sandie Means, and former graduate college employee, Peggy Richards, would take turns caring for her during the nearly four weeks she spent at Duke.

Faced with a procedure where her body was bombarded for days with chemicals, her bone marrow removed, cleansed, and then re-infused, it was the challenge of her life to remain positive and upbeat, but astoundingly, she did.

"With cancer, attitude is everything and I decided that I was going to look on each phase of my treatment as a contest, as an adventure," she says.

After four weeks of intensive treatment she returned home to Charleston to recover. Sandie Means and her family

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Zimmerman Chairs "Relay for Life" Event

When the American Cancer Society holds its Kanawha County Relay for Life, a 24-hour fund raising event, this June at Laidley Field, the Marshall University Graduate College will be fielding a team of enthusiastic volunteers for the fifth straight year.

According to Kathy Zimmerman, who works in the office of the Vice President for Regional Operations, and who, along with her husband, Dave, helped organize the team, the Graduate College's team has been remarkably successful in raising money. In fact, they came in second last year, out of 78 teams, when they raised \$7,658.

The relay, which is held annually in thousands of locations throughout the U.S. is composed of family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who join together to create teams that raise funds by collecting donations before and during the event. Teams walk or run around the track relay-style. Participants are offered campsites and are encouraged to stay overnight, enjoying a festival-style atmosphere of music, food, games, entertainment, competition, and camaraderie.

The Zimmermans didn't realize that the relay would be practically taking over their lives when they volunteered to help put together that first team in 1995. Neither had a history of cancer in their families but Kathy's care of a cancer-stricken friend, Bonnie Ranson (see profile on this page), while she underwent aggressive treatment, and seeing other friends and co-workers battle the disease was a call to action for the two of them. (Sadly, cancer did touch their lives later when Kathy's father, Abe Taylor, died in 1998 of lung cancer, just two days after being diagnosed.)

"I was Bonnie's caregiver for two weeks during the grafting stage of her bone marrow transplant. She was extremely sick and it probably was the worst part of her treatment. Bonnie has recovered from cancer, but I will never recover from watching my friend go through this illness. It was a very humbling experience," she remembers.

The relay was relatively new to the Kanawha Valley and had not had a chairman to handle the dozens of details involved in putting on an event attended by over a thousand people. Dave Zimmerman volunteered to serve as chairman of the planning committee three years ago, and working as a team with his wife, he held the chairman's post until this year when, because of time constraints, he stepped down and Kathy took over as the chairman of the Millennium Relay for Life Planning Committee. Dave's commitment to raising money for cancer has not faltered, however. He is still very much involved with the local effort and has also been appointed to national committees.

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Computer Learning Center Announces Training

The spring schedule of computer workshops has been announced by Marshall University Graduate College's Computer Learning Center. Classes are held at the MUGC campus in South Charleston where free parking is available. Most of the seminars run one day with six hours of class instruction from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Classes offered include Access Intermediate, May 17; Microsoft Excel Windows Introduction, April 18 or June 23; Microsoft Excel Windows Intermediate, May 18; Microsoft Powerpoint Introduction, April 14 or June 7; Microsoft Powerpoint Advanced, May 19; Microsoft Word Windows Introduction, April 7 or June 14; Microsoft Word Windows Intermediate, May 12.

PageMaker 6.5 Advanced will be available April 19. In addition, Internet training classes to be offered include Web Page Development/Design Introduction, April 20; Web Page Development Design Advanced, May 4; and Front Page, May 11.

To register, or for additional information, contact Martha Pierson at 746-2062, FAX, 746-2097, or e-mail mpierson@marshall.edu.

Jomie Jazz Center *from Page 1*

St. John Passion April 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Huntington.

Selected works from the art department will hang in the lobby of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center throughout the celebration.

The visual and performing arts have a long tradition at Marshall, beginning with the establishment of the music department in 1899, the art department in 1902 and the theatre department in 1982. The MU Theatre was founded in 1926 and the MU Artists Series came along in 1937.

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of April 28, 2000. Deadline is April 21. 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.

Service Awards Luncheon **Scheduled for May 17**

The sixteenth annual Service Awards Luncheon will take place Wednesday, May 17, from noon to 2 p.m. in the W. Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center. Reservation information will be released in the near future.

To be eligible for awards employees must have completed 15, 20, 25 or 30 years of service to Marshall University by May 1, 2000. A tentative list of university staff members who will receive awards includes:

Fifteen years of service: Betty Adkins, John Bailey, Nancy Baumgarner, Marie Brown, Merry Brown, William Burdette, Mary Elizabeth Cassell, Edna Cole, Nancy Davis, James Eans, Linda Elliott, Jeffrey Ellis, Joyce Ellis, Jan Fox, Patricia Gallagher, Karen Haney, Fonda Hedgecock, Ronnie Hicks, Lucy Jackson, Karen Johnson, Randy Layne, Joseph Marshman, Chris McGuffin, Charles R. Newton, James E. O'Brian, Richard P. Petit, Jr., Joann Rhodes, Timothy Rider, Victoria Seguin, Evelyn Tooley, Gary Weis and Jacqueline Woolfolk.

Twenty years of service: Larry Barnhill, Phyllis Bias, Timothy Calvert, Dennis Casey, Geraldine Clagg, Carla Cook, Denver R. Cooper, Russell Dobbins, Deborah Dorsey, Bernie Elliott, Janice Carolyn Fisher, Thomas Irwin, James Jones, Edna Justice, Karen Kirtley, Darla Kuryla, Sharon Lake, Thomas Laney, William Lewis, Ted Massey, Lois McCarthy, Sharon Noble, Richard Dale Osburn, Wanda Peters, Martha Pierson, Jacqueline Smith, Keith Spears, Dennis Turner and Jack Wilson.

Twenty-five years of service: Kathy Adkins, Patsy Dickson, Russell Dorton, Joseph Dragovich, Jeffrey Edwards, Nadine Hamrick, Shannon Harshbarger, Kenneth A. O'Neal and Michael Underwood.

Thirty years of service: William Deel, Warren Lutz and Clarence Martin.

Retirees: Emerson Adkins, Larry Artrip, Hildegard Bauer, Helen Bledsoe, Marie Brown, Mary Caserta, Mamie Cole, James Davis, Nancy Davis, Martha Deel, William Deel, Lana Early, Janice Carolyn Fisher, Phyllis Griffith, Frank Justice, Thomas Kirwan, Warren Lutz, Newatha Perry, and Vivian Wood.

If it appears that someone has been left off the list, contact Joe Wortham at 696-5402.

Excused Absences

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

March 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Paula R. Brafchak, Shannon L. Couch, Sonya D. Hurse, Christina M. Young.

Bonnie Ranson *from Page 3*

opened her home to her and her daughter, caring for her during her recuperation. She was warned that with her weakened immune system, infections were a constant threat. Only two weeks after returning from Duke she did contact a stubborn infection which raged through her body, sending her to the hospital near death. The infection proved to be virulent and elusive to identify. She spent nearly a month in the hospital as baffled doctors performed repeated tests in a vain effort to identify the source of her illness. Nothing worked, and Ranson was getting sicker and sicker. Bald, emaciated, too weak to stand, her fever sometimes spiking to 105, she tried to remain positive but it was getting harder to do.

"I remember the day I finally did gave up. I called people at my church and told them I couldn't go on."

Her phone calls had an immediate effect. Within minutes of the first one there was an explosion of calls ricocheting up and down the Kanawha Valley as church members called one another, asking for prayers for Bonnie, activating prayer chains.

"And unbelievably; the very next day the infection was finally diagnosed and treatment started," she says. "As soon as I was treated, I began to get better and as far as I was concerned it was smooth sailing from then on."

Now five years later, there is still no sign that cancer has recurred. Officially in remission, she leads an active, energetic life. She's active in Reach for Recovery, a support group for breast cancer survivors and has started a cancer survivor group at her church. She has been enthusiastic participant for Relay for Life since the college teams began.

She has regular semi-annual checkups and last month her tests came back with what has become to her the most beautiful word in the English language—"normal."

"Cancer is no longer an automatic death sentence and I'm living proof of that," she says. "It's a treatable disease and there are now so many treatment options out there. I'd like to think that the money we raise from the Relay for Life can someday help find not just a treatment but a cure for cancer. That's why we take it so seriously and work so hard on it."

But she also knows that with cancer there are no guarantees. It could return at any time and she will always be classified as a high-risk survivor, more vulnerable than most to its return.

She doesn't put things off anymore. "I know now you can't take anything for granted. You don't know what the future will bring." She bought a jaunty red sports car, something she had always dreamed about owning, and last fall went on a Caribbean cruise with friends and family. In December she moved into a new home with a 30-year mortgage.

That long-term mortgage is particularly important to her. "Because," she says firmly, "I fully intend to be around to make the last payment!"

Kathy Zimmerman *from Page 3*

Both Zimmermans are evangelistic about the work of the American Cancer Society. "I felt very alone and helpless when I was helping care for Bonnie," Kathy says, "It was really a close-up look at cancer. One thing the Cancer Society has shown me is that no one needs to be alone. Through them there is hope, there is progress and there are answers."

Returning to the Graduate College, she acted upon a suggestion by faculty member Noel Bowling that the college become involved in some way with trying to help cancer patients and their families.

"The college provided us with a big tent. We all brought food, had a cookout, and many of us spent the night there camped out in sleeping bags and air mattresses." Many of the original team members have continued to participate every year while new people join.

Kathy says there is always more room for help in the fight against cancer, and she invites anyone interested to join the MUGC Relay For Life Team on June 23 and 24. "It's a lot of hard work," she says, "and every year I vow I won't do this again, but I can't resist!"