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## We Are ... Marshall, February 11, 2000

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# *We Are...Marshall!*

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • FEBRUARY 11, 2000

## *Byrd Technology Center Serves as Example*

An article in *American School and University* about the award-winning design of the Robert C. Byrd Academic and Technology Center in South Charleston sparked a visit from eight staff members of Midlands Technical College in Columbia South Carolina, according to Kemp W. Winfree, Marshall's Vice President of Regional Operations.

The Byrd building was featured in a two-page color spread in November by the magazine in its Architectural Portfolio issue which showcased educational projects throughout the country. A panel of distinguished architects evaluated the entries looking for features that make an outstanding building. An important criterion for this year's entries was the integration of technology, for which the Robert C. Byrd Center received high marks.



*The Robert C. Byrd Academic and Technology Center in South Charleston has received a architectural award from the American School and University magazine.*

### *Black History Month Continues*

As part of the Black History Month 2000, a faculty/staff/student forum is scheduled for February 16 at 7 p.m. in 2W alumni lounge in the Memorial Student Center.

Other events include a black Greek organization day February 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center lobby; Talent Night, February 15, beginning at 8 p.m. at Marco's in the MSC basement; and "Off to the Races" February 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

For additional information, contact the Center for African American Studies at 696-6705.

And the visitors from South Carolina went away quite impressed with what they saw, Winfree says. The \$4.8 million, 25,000 square foot facility, which opened in January 1998, was cited not only for the innovative brick and glass design but also for successfully providing state-of-the-art space for academics while accommodating the needs of local business and industry.

The Midlands delegation was led by its president,

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## *Broadway Star Betty Buckley to Appear in Huntington*

A versatile star of stage and screen who has sung and danced her way through a bevy of smash Broadway musicals will bring a Valentine to the Huntington area when she performs her one woman show on Monday, February 14, at 8 p.m. in the Keith Albee Theatre as part of the Marshall Artists Series.

Betty Buckley, winner of a Tony Award for her work in *Cats*, has starred in numerous musicals, including *Sunset Boulevard*, *1776*, *Pippin*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and *Carrie*. She was nominated recently for a Tony Award for her performance in *Triumph of Love*.

From her poignant portrayal of Grizabella the glamour cat, who sings *Cats* most unforgettable song, *Memory*, to the deluded silent-screen star Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, Buckley has delivered performances that have consistently delighted audiences. *New York Daily News* critic Howard Kissel noted that "Buckley has a real Broadway voice which has in recent years become a rare commodity. A Broadway voice has a penetrating quality that belongs to the theatre and projects the energy of the city itself."

Ironically it was a television series, *Eight is Enough* in which she played a patient and loving stepmother to a brood of eight mostly adult children, that first brought her to the attention of millions of viewers. After establishing a devoted television audience she continued to perform on Broadway after the series ended.

Tickets, which are \$36, \$34, and \$32 plus tax, are now on sale. They can be ordered by calling (304) 696-6656 to charge with Master Card or Visa.. They can also be picked up at the new box office at Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on Fifth Avenue. Box office hours are Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Betty Buckley is sponsored in part by WSAZ-TV, WKEE AM/FM and WTCR-FM.

# RECOGNITION...Make Someone's Day!

by Judy Blevins, Human Resource Services

Who among us doesn't appreciate being recognized for a "job well done" or "random acts of kindness?" Yes, it genuinely makes us feel good just to know we helped someone, either personally or professionally. But, when that particular someone recognized the effort, it really *makes our day* so to speak.

Why not make someone's day today? If you know a Marshall university staff member who consistently goes out of their way to brighten your day, let them know they are appreciated. Complete a "Someone *heard* your smile today and wanted to say... 'thank you!'" form. These tear-off slips are attached to posters displayed on bulletin boards throughout the Marshall University community. Copies also can be obtained by calling Human Resource Services at 696-6455.

The 'thank you' program originated in 1997 and was designed to recognize classified and non-classified staff for providing exceptional, quality service. A cash award of fifty dollars is presented three times a year to the individual receiving the highest number of 'thank you' acknowledgments during an award period, such as January-April, May-August, and September-December.

Previous "winners" include: Patricia Bane, Janet Dudley, Teresa Holschuh, Kitty Kelly-Smoot, Bill Lewis, Linda McComas, Liz McMullen, Terry Olson, and Sabrina Simpson.

Faculty, staff, students, and visitors are eligible to submit acknowledgments. Forms should be completed and forwarded to Human Resource Services, 207 Old Main. Go ahead...make someone's day!

## RECOGNITION Does Not End with a 'Thank you!'

The Marshall University *Employee of the Month* program recognizes staff members who exemplify exceptional levels of work performance and display high regard and loyalty toward Marshall and their job responsibilities. Each monthly recipient receives a plaque and \$100. The *Employee of the Year* (announced in July) receives a cash award of \$300, along with a plaque distinguishing this honor.

A committee, comprised of one representative from classified staff, non-classified staff, faculty, the MU Graduate College, and student government, evaluates the nominations and selects the monthly honorees, as well as the *Employee of the Year* recipient.

The basis for nominating someone should include one or more of the following:

- Exceptional level of work performance
- Special contribution to the university
- Exemplifies the mission of the university
- Outstanding attendance record
- Responsible attitude toward his/her job
- Special rapport with other staff, faculty, and/or students

Each nominator is instructed to describe in detail why the employee he/she is nominating should be *Employee of the Month*, elaborating on any incident or accomplishment pertaining to the basis of the nomination.

Forms are on-line at <http://www.marshall.edu/human-resources/forms/eom.pdf>. Paper copies can be obtained in 207 Old Main, Human Resource Services.

An *Employee of the Month* nomination is a great way to express appreciation and recognition!

### Next Issue on February 25

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of February 25, 2000. Deadline is February 18. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).

## Faculty and Staff Achievements

**Dr. Michael Brookshire** has been given the outstanding service award by the National Association of Forensic Economics (NAFE) at the January 2000 meetings of the American Economic Association. Dr. Brookshire is a Professor of Management and Economics and is the Executive Director of NAFE. He served a two-year term as NAFE president in 1993-94. NAFE is an international association of 800 economists and other professionals who testify in legal cases as expert witnesses. He is the author of two books on the calculation of economic damages in litigation.

**Dr. Raymond L. Busbee**, coordinator of Parks and Leisure Services, has been appointed by Governor Underwood to the New Direction 2000 Natural Resources Task Force.

**Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley**, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs and International Programs, delivered the keynote address entitled "Replenishing the Dream: The Challenge to Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" at the Wood County Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 16.

## 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](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).

**Graduate Assistant:**  
Christopher Gould



## Profile: Marilyn Armentrout

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



*Marilyn Armentrout*

The hand lettered sign in the window—"We're in the attic"—said it all.

Three years ago, on what promised to be only another uneventful rainy March Saturday, Marilyn Armentrout, a long-time secretary in the counseling department at MUGC-South Charleston, and her family were trapped unexpectedly by the suddenly rising flood waters near their Sissonville home. Before the rain finally stopped she and her

family spent a harrowing 18 hours huddled in the attic of their home while flood waters engulfed their house destroying everything in its path. Before retreating to the comparative safety of the attic they hastily placed the sign in a window to let rescuers know of their plight and their location.

When they were finally rescued the next day by emergency workers in boats, they had to don life preservers and wade through chest-high water to get out of their house. The family, which includes husband Richard, son Paul and daughters Joyce and Christy fortunately survived the ordeal intact, which was more than could be said of their possessions. Lost in the flood waters were virtually all of their household furniture, clothing, linens, personal items, and most important to the family, stacks of family photos and several pieces of cherished antique furniture which had belonged to Armentrout's grandmother.

Incredibly, a little more than a year later, after a massive clean-up effort and after the Armentrouts had spent countless backbreaking hours laboring to restore their home and were beginning to see the remodeling take shape, a second flood, worst than the first, once again struck the this time unoccupied home, totally undoing the past year's work and leaving them once again flood victims with a ravaged home.

These experiences were enough to make anybody throw up their hands and quit. But for the soft spoken Armentrout, familiar to students and staff alike, the most important thing was that her family came the ordeals intact and, in fact, undaunted. And she found she had another "family" in her co-workers and the students who poured out offers of help to her. Ever the optimist, she had always been eager to help others, and now it was her turn to be on the receiving end.

And help she got. Within a day of the first flood, co-workers had sprung quickly to action to help the suddenly homeless family. Faculty members Bob and Nancy Wilson solved their most pressing problem by offering them a house they could occupy. Counseling faculty members Mike Burton, Wayne Coombs, Bob Rubenstein, and Bob Smith, along with accountant Garnet McKinley, spent hours getting the temporary home ready for them so they could move in quickly. Gifts of linens, skillets, cookware, dishes, a couch, a chair, a bed and other items were offered. Several

*(continued on page 4)*

## ***BOT Scholarship Tuition Waiver Applications Available***

Applications from Huntington campus graduate students for a limited number of graduate tuition waivers for Marshall University's summer terms will be accepted through Friday, April 7, in the MU Graduate College Office, Old Main Room 113, according to Dr. Leonard J. Deutsch, Graduate College dean. South Charleston campus students should contact their program area offices.

In line with the West Virginia Board of Trustees Policy Bulletin 49, priority will be given to faculty and staff of the state's colleges and universities and to West Virginia residents. A small number of waivers will be awarded to nonresident students.

Deutsch said academic merit will be the major consideration in awarding waivers, which cover tuition. Student Activity fees must be paid by the recipient. Academic merit will be determined by grade point average and scores on GRE, MAT, or GMAT examinations. Up to three hours of waiver for graduate course work will be awarded to qualified applicants.

Students interested in being considered for a Board of Trustees tuition waiver based on financial need criteria should contact the Graduate College to obtain the proper application form. Eligible students may be awarded up to six hours of waiver.

Students who previously held waivers must reapply to be considered for summer term waivers.

Applicants who are awarded waivers will be notified by mail, and approved waivers can be picked up beginning Monday, April 17. Waivers not claimed by Friday, May 5, will be assigned to other qualified applicants.

To obtain further details contact the Marshall University Graduate College, (304)696-6606.

## ***MU Retires Charlie Slack's Number***



*Marshall University retired Charlie Slack's No. 17 Jersey at ceremonies at the Miami game Jan. 26 at the Cam Henderson Center. Slack, who set an NCAA record for rebounding in the 1954-55 season, is shown here with Marshall athletic director Lance West.*

## ***Byrd Center***

*from Page 1*

Dr. Barry E. Russell, and Dr. Ron Rhames, vice president for business affairs, and included members of its board and administrative staff members.

The college, which is a multi-campus institution and now one of the largest colleges in South Carolina, is planning a fourth site which will include a new technology center—the first building to be erected on the new campus, according to Rhames. Located in Columbia, South Carolina, Midlands is a public two-year college which offers more than 80 degree, diploma and certificate programs.

The college had been looking for models for the new building which would integrate their information technology program with advanced machining technology. Officials had, in fact visited several other sites and looked at videotapes but had not found anything that fit their unique requirements, Rhames said.

“Most places had either the information technology...or they were doing the advanced machining technology. Very few places have integrated it together. When we saw the article in the magazine we thought this is exactly what we have been thinking about doing and it turned out to be just the model that we want,” he noted.

The multi-purpose building blends learning resources—which include the 4,000 square foot MUGC library, 12 fully automated classrooms, a 50-student distance-learning center, and 6,000 square feet devoted to a computerized manufacturing research and industry incubator.

“Because of our unique relationship with regional high-tech industry, the project developed into a multi-use facility serving both the academic and technology needs of the community,” Winfree says.

Of particular interest to the visiting academicians was the unique architecture of the building, which was designed by the HDMR Group. Perched on the edge of a bluff overlooking the interstate in South Charleston, the clean spare lines of the red brick building can be seen clearly for miles on the heavily trafficked I-64. At night, the building, which is a combination of rectangular and curving forms including glass columns and curving banks of windows, glows from interior and exterior lights, making it a readily identifiable landmark. Particularly dramatic is the internally lit “barrel” made of thick blocks of glass which vaults over the main circulation stairs of the two story building.

Inside, careful attention was paid to the selection of colors and textures of floor, ceilings and wall materials which direct students to the various learning areas.

“This project has helped to promote and label this institution as a landmark of quality higher education,” the magazine article noted.

“What we looked for in a lot of places and what we saw on the MUGC campus is going to be a model for other people in the country. In my judgment you have something that the rest of the country can copy,” Rhames said.

Plans currently call for a return visit to the South Charleston campus by Midlands technical personnel, who will be looking for design ideas.

## ***Marilyn Armentrout***

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employees volunteered to help clean up the flood debris and many, even the most squeamish ones, willingly lined up to get tetanus shots.

“I wouldn’t get a shot on my own for anything,” a volunteer waiting in line said, “but I’ll do it for Marilyn!” That seemed to sum up the attitude of the close-knit college community.

To enable the family to concentrate all their efforts on the clean-up work, a “supper club” was formed which provided the Armentrouts with a series of complete home cooked meals every day for several weeks.

And to no one’s surprise, Armentrout was back at work after only one week off. “When you’ve lost just about everything you have, you can become depressed, so that’s one reason I wanted to get back,” she said. “And despite everything that happened, I found out how many really good people are out there.”

The Armentrout home was declared a total loss by the Federal Emergency Association (FEMA) after the first flood in 1997, and the massive effort of rebuilding their home started with Richard and Paul doing most of the heavy work. The family had just finished replacing the insulation and electrical work when the 1998 flood struck. Two years later they’re finally nearing completion of repairs on their home and if the weather holds they hope to be back in the house they left three years ago in a couple of months or so.

Armentrout, who is known for her endless patience and her unflinching good nature, has always been philosophical about most things, and the disastrous floods are no exception.

“I used to get down every once in a while and I’d think, ‘We’ve lost this and we’ve lost that...’ But still when I look around I see that we’re better off than some other people who haven’t had the help we’ve had...we were lucky to find a place to live and the support we got from the people here and in the community was wonderful.”

And she’s still able to maintain a sense of humor after her harrowing experiences. Intrigued by their sign in the window, local television crews interviewed her and her family shortly after they were rescued and the segment was picked up by CNN. A former student recognized her and called the college to inquire about the welfare of the family and to offer help.

“You know they say that everybody has 15 minutes of fame and I guess this is mine,” she says ruefully. “But it also shows that people really care when an awful thing like this happens.”

## ***“Barber” Comes to Keith-Albee***

“The Barber of Seville,” one of the most popular comic operas ever written, will be performed February 22 at 8 p.m. at the Keith-Albee theatre by the New York City Opera National Company.

Written in 1816 by Gioachino Rossini, the Italian opera has been a mainstay of opera companies and an audience favorite since its debut.

This production will be presented in Italian with projected English supertitles. The supertitles paraphrase enough of the text to clarify the action without intruding upon the drama.

Tickets are currently on sale for \$36, \$34, and \$32 plus tax. For tickets call 696-6656 or stop by the new box office at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.