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## We Are ... Marshall, November 3, 2000

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# *We Are...Marshall!*

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • NOVEMBER 3, 2000

## *Events Set to Mark 30th Anniversary of Marshall Plane Crash*

The Marshall University community will pause several times during the period Nov. 11-14 to mark the anniversary of possibly the most significant event in the history of the university...the plane crash that took the lives of 75 football players, coaches, staff, fans, and airline crew on November 14, 1970. The accident is considered by many to be the worst sports-related air disaster in United States history.

Events to commemorate this milestone anniversary will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 11 at Marshall Stadium before the home game versus Miami. A memorial bronze, commissioned by a committee of Huntington community members, will be unveiled and presented to the university. Participating will be Burl Jones, the artist.

### *Peggy Theis is Employee of the Month*

Margaret "Peggy" Theis, executive secretary, School of Medicine, has been selected as the September Employee of the Month, according to Bill Burdette, chairman of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Theis has been employed at Marshall since 1979. She was nominated by Linda S. Holmes, Director of Development & Alumni Affairs in the School of Medicine.

In her nomination, Holmes wrote, "Not only does she serve as an Executive Secretary, she has been the School of

*(continued on page 3)*



School of Medicine employee Peggy Theis received her notification of winning the "Employee of the Month" award from President Dan Angel in person.

At 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, the Black Alumni, Inc. will sponsor a memorial service at the First Baptist Church in Huntington at 8th Street and 6th Avenue. Later that



*We will never forget...*

same day, at 6:45 p.m., a premiere of the public television documentary about the crash, "Ashes to Glory," will take place at the Keith-Albee Theatre for the benefit of the Big Green Foundation. (Ticket information for the premiere is available by calling 696-4661.)

Finally, the 30th annual memorial service will take place at 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 14 in the Memorial Student Center Plaza. The service is being organized and coordinated by the Student Government Association. In keeping with Marshall tradition, the water in the memorial fountain will be shut off for the winter at that time. This year, the shutoff will occur at 7:47 p.m., the exact time of the crash.

"It's important for Marshall to remember its history while looking toward the future," said President Dan Angel. "Those of us who live on must make sure that those who were lost in the tragedy are never forgotten."

### **Foundation Elects Officers**

Vincent G. Manzi, managing director of Banc One private client services, was elected president of the Marshall University Foundation, Inc at the annual meeting last month. Officers elected for one-year terms include, John Jay White, first vice president; Monica J. Wilton Hatfield, second vice president; Earleen Heiner Agee, secretary; and Phil E. Cline, treasurer. Sherry H. Asbury is the Foundation's executive director.

Re-elected for three-year terms are James R. Bailes; William N. Frazier; Monica W. Hatfield; Earl W. Heiner, Jr.; Churchill Hodges; Ronald L. Hooser; Andrew J. Houvouras, Jr.; Vincent G. Manzi; Dan R. Moore; Frankie L. Nowlin; Marshall T. Reynolds; Ann L. Speer; Joseph B. Touma; and S. Kenneth Wolfe.

Two new members were also elected to the 48-member Foundation: A. Michael Perry, chairman and chief executive office of Banc One West Virginia Corporation; and

*(continued on page 4)*

# Glenwood Series Resumes Nov. 5

Professor Jean Edward Smith, currently the John Marshall Professor of Political Science, will be the speaker for the second presentation of the Glenwood Series, a monthly program designed to bring a richly varied series of presentations to the MUGC Foundation's historic west side home in Charleston.



Professor Smith

The lecture will be November 5 at 4 p.m. at the Glenwood estate, 800 Orchard Street. A reception will follow.

Professor Smith, who joined the MU faculty last year, is recognized as the leading authority on U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice, and university namesake, John Marshall.

Smith is the author of several critically acclaimed biographies of political figures, including *John Marshall: Definer of a Nation*. He has also written books on Lucius D. Clay, George Bush, and his most recent

work, *Grant*, a biography of Ulysses S. Grant, is scheduled for publication in April 2001. He is currently working on a biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt which will be published in 2005.

The Glenwood Series was inaugurated last month with a "He said...She said" dialogue between President Dan Angel and his wife, Pat. The programs are scheduled for the first Sunday in each month through April, with the exception of January. Admission to the first presentation was free but subsequent programs will be \$10 per person. Because of limited seating, reservations are required.

Organizers say the series is intended to present a varied collection of programs which will showcase the talents of artists and scholars from both Marshall and the community at large while opening the estate to members of the public.

On December 3, "A Musical Afternoon" will be presented by the MU College of Fine Arts Department of Music.

For additional information, or to make reservations, call (304) 746-2072.

## Staff Council Seeks Aid for House Fire Victim

A loss has been suffered by a full-time employee, Rhonda Mullins, who works in the Office of Student Financial Assistance. She lost her home and nearly all of her belongings in a house fire on Sunday, September 24. A Fire Assistance Fund has been opened at Bank One on her behalf. Contributions may be mailed directly to Bank One, 1000 Fifth Avenue, Huntington, 25701. Please make your check out to the Rhonda Mullins Fire Assistance Fund, noting Account #630590172 on your contribution. If additional information is desired, please contact Sherri Stepp at Ext. 2276 or Janis Winkfield at Ext. 3158. Thank you for remembering a member of the Marshall family.

## We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (212 Old Main) and South Charleston (110 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of November 17, 2000. Deadline is November 3. 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/Staff Achievements

*Dr. Joyce East*, Program Director of the Humanities Program at MUGC, attended the annual meeting of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs which was held in October in Oakland, California, where she presented a pre-conference workshop for new program directors. She is finishing a two-year term as secretary-treasurer of the Association.

*Brian M. Morgan*, assistant professor in the Integrated Science and Technology department, had an article, "Distance Education at What Price?" published in the recently released *Educause Quarterly* magazine (Volume 23, Number 3). The article was written and submitted based on research results from his master's capstone subject—"Determining the Costs of Online Education." His site, [www.marshall.edu/distance](http://www.marshall.edu/distance), which includes a copy of his paper and an online cost estimator for higher education institutions interested in distance education, has received more than 100,000 hits since its creation in May, with a high of 25,000 in July. Morgan also attended the AACSB Continuing Education improvement conference in Tampa, Florida in September where he was a featured speaker on the costs of online education and his Web site.

*William Palmer*, professor of history, has published "Scenes From Provincial Life: History, Honor, and Meaning in the Tudor North," in the *Renaissance Quarterly*, 53 2 (Summer, 2001), pp. 525-48.

*Thomas E. Wilson*, professor of Physics and Physical Science, presented a paper (Session DO2.001:Molecular Physics) entitled "Ultrashort-pulsed, high-power millimeter-wave laser" at the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society held this year at the University of Toledo on October 13-14. The theme of the meeting was "Photovoltaics and the Environment." Wilson arranged for several undergraduate physics majors to attend, including Wesley Gnatuk, William Hall, Warren Henry, Matthew Mattson, Jun Tanaka, Ernest Walker, Vanessa Williamson and Justin Woods. Funding for student travel was provided by a College of Science and Department of Physics and Physical Science grant. Unfortunately, Wilson says, the laser was not focused upon members of the Toledo Rockets football team the evening of October 14.

## Profile: Homer Preece

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Homer Preece

It was touted as the biggest celebration in a thousand years, a spectacular globe-spanning festival with something for everyone—gala parties, parades, eye popping fireworks—all the pomp and circumstance befitting the beginning of a new millennium last December 31.

But for some in the quiet river town of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, parties, balls, and holiday fun would have to wait. Homer Preece and his staff had more important things to do, like move the Mid-Ohio Valley Center into their brand new digs—New Year's Eve or not.

The long-awaited new center, on the grounds of the Pleasant Valley Hospital, had been a dream of Preece's since he took the job as director of the center in 1994. Working out of an office in a bank, with classes taught at Pt. Pleasant High School and the Mason County Career Center, he and the center's staff dreamed of the day they would have Marshall's very own facility located right in this historic small town. And now it was a reality. The only problem was that moving days were coinciding with the December holidays.

But that turned out not to be such a big problem after all. The staff pitched in day after day working long into the evenings, even working late on New Year's Eve. Students dropped by to volunteer their labor. And right on schedule, before the bells and whistles signaled midnight, the move was completed.

That kind of support doesn't surprise Preece, who can't say enough good things about the staff members, including Sheila Fields, his administrative assistant, who help him operate one of Marshall's fastest growing centers. Begun six years ago, the center came about in response to a need for a consistent MU presence in Mason County.

A veteran teacher at Wahama High School, Preece was quickly tapped to be the director. And in six years, enrollment has gone from 11 to 1100 for the 2000 fall semester.

"I think we've surprised everyone at the success of the center," Preece said. "Our biggest success is the students. There are a lot of success stories coming in and out of the doors of this facility."

And the key, he reiterates, is the center's hard-working and caring staff. "We have a staff that will bend over backwards to help our students," he says. "We challenge ourselves daily to help our students."

Currently three programs co-exist at the Sand Hill Road facility—high school dual-credit courses, undergraduate and graduate programs. Preece is especially proud of the dual-credit program with the local school system, where students from grades 9-12

(continued on page 4)

## Peggy Theis

from Page 1

Medicine Alumni Association Registrar since the association's inception in 1988. This alone has been a source of countless hours, during and after regular working hours, of additional duties and efforts to make the Marshall University School of Medicine Alumni Association a reality. She basically worked as a one-person office doing all the planning and organizing of board meetings, special events and following through on the ideas and directives established by the board of directors. Peggy also maintains the alumni database for all the School of Medicine graduates and has an invaluable personal history with many of our 811 graduates. Along with these duties, she coordinates the medical students' radiology rotations."

The nomination goes on to say, "Peggy has been a wealth of knowledge and a source of support. She is always pleasant, willing to go the extra mile to make sure the job is complete or done to her exacting standards, and ready to 'jump in' to get the task or request completed...Needless to say, Peggy is self-motivated, creative and possesses interpersonal skills that make her one of the School of Medicine's finest ambassadors."

Holmes concludes, "The best testimony to all her attributes and talents rings loud and true whenever I talk with an alumnus/ae and they ask about Peggy and send her their best wishes and, without hesitation, let me know all she has meant to them personally. Peggy is an exemplary employee and a very worthy candidate for the Employee of the Month."

Theis received a plaque and a check for \$100 and she will be eligible for the Employee of the Year Award.

## MU Receives State Farm Grant



Marshall has received a \$3,000 grant from State Farm Insurance to help state teachers gain certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Shown at the presentation are Dr. Rudy Pauley (left), Assistant Professor of Elementary Education; Dr. Ron Childress, Vice President for Graduate Studies, Herman Dixon, State Farm agency field executive, and Bill Mangus, State Farm agent, at the MU Graduate College in South Charleston.

The rigorous NBPTS certification process involves more than 200 hours of work in which teachers document their skills and ability to work with students over one year, culminating with a four-hour essay exam. According to a recent story in USA TODAY, only 45 percent pass on the first try and the second-time pass rate is 65 percent.

Marshall recently instituted a year-long Accomplished Teaching Project which will help prepare teachers who are seeking to become NBPTS certified, according to Childress. Participants began work last summer with a three-day institute and will continue to develop their portfolios during the fall and spring semesters.

"Our goal is to increase the number of high quality teachers in the state, and one way we can achieve this is through helping teachers become NBPTS certified," Childress said. "Through grants such as this, we can provide support for those going through a program that is going to produce master teachers."

## **Homer Preece**

### **from Page 3**

can take college classes to give them advanced standing when they enter college.

Working with young people has not only been Preece's vocation but a passion over his long teaching career. In the late 1970's, with two degrees, a B.A. and an M.A., from Marshall, he came from Mingo County and settled in Mason County for a career that combined athletics and academics. (He'll receive a third Marshall degree, an Education Specialist, in December.)

"I knew I wanted to do something in business, but I also wanted to coach." He ended up coaching varsity basketball for both the boys' and girls' squads, and served as an assistant coach in football. He also found time to advise an array of students groups and organizations. He's particularly proud of the success of the Wahama High Future Business Leaders of America. In the 14 years he was their advisor, they won nearly 300 awards in academic competitions, and produced 10 state officers, five of them state chapter presidents.

"I've never done the traditional things in life," he says with a laugh. "It seems like I've always been able to add variety...I believe in kids. I think kids need structure in their lives and they can get that from sports and from being team members, whether they are academic or sports. There is a connection between the two. If you allow young people to succeed and let them know what you expect of them, they will give it back to you. It may seem kind of corny, but I treat my college students the same way."

Preece's work with students has paid off. He has just been named the recipient of two major awards. The West Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education has named him the Collegiate Business Educator of the Year, and he has received the West Virginia Vocational Educator of the Year award, as well. He will represent West Virginia in the National Vocational Educator of the Year awards in December in San Diego, California.

As a resident of Mason County for the past 28 years, he's an active volunteer in the community, serving on several boards and committees. Next year, in fact, he will become president of the Mason County area Chamber of Commerce. He also regularly makes presentations to school improvement councils, faculty senates and academic boosters. But, he says modestly, "I feel that I need to give back to the community that's been so very good to me."

One of the newest fields of study at the MOVOC is a four-year nursing program that got underway this past summer with 20 students currently enrolled. "We worked very hard on the nursing program," he said. "I think it will be very beneficial to the hospitals and doctors' offices in the area." In fact, he notes, the new center was built with support from Pleasant Valley Hospital.

In addition to the core undergraduate classes and the three community college associate degree courses available, graduate programs delivered on site continue to be an important component of MOVOC, Preece notes. Right now graduate students can work on degrees in Special Education and Counseling. Reading just finished a program last summer.

To accommodate the explosion of student enrollment, the new MOVOC facility has nine classrooms, including a computer lab, two distance learning classrooms where classes can be transported from Huntington, and three satellite dishes so those courses can be accessed as well. To

get the facility up and running required the cooperation and hard work of several groups, including library personnel who helped get the library on-line with the Drinko Library, along with computer staff members, according to Preece. And, he says, the local cable company is supplying the center with free cable TV.

"Things are different every day and you really have to be flexible...We've gone through a lot, but we've made it and things will continue to improve to help the students of the community and surrounding areas. I really see nothing but growth in our future," he says, ever the optimist. "I see great things ahead for the Mid-Ohio Valley Center and Marshall University as a whole."

## **Foundation**

### **from Page 1**

Gary G. White, president and CEO of International Industries, Inc. Perry, a resident of Huntington and an MU alumnus, served as interim president of the university from August 1999 to January 2000. White who resides in Logan, is also an MU alumnus and serves as vice chairman of the MU Institutional Board of Advisors.

Two alumni, David Fox, Jr., of Huntington, and John R. Hall of Lexington, Ky., were inducted into the Foundation's Circle of Gold—an honor reserved for long-term members who have given exceptional service to the university and the foundation.

Fox, vice chairman of the board of McJunkin Appalachian Oil Field Supply Company and president of Appalachian Production Company, has been active in numerous civic groups as well as the MU Big Green Scholarship Foundation, the MU Foundation, Inc., and the MU Alumni Association. He has given generously to Marshall and has a \$50,000 scholarship named in his honor.

Hall, a retired chairman and CEO of Ashland, Inc., has been a major fund-raiser for Marshall, served as a major gift national chairman and has also served on the board of directors of the MU Society of Yeager Scholars. On 1992, the MU John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence was named in his honor to recognize his service to the university.

The MU Foundation, Inc., was established in 1947 as a non-profit, educational corporation to solicit, receive and administer private gifts on behalf of Marshall.

## **Excused Absences**

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

*October 3* - Terry L. Adkins, Paula R. Brafchak, Keith R. Davis, II, Stephen S. Fox, Heath T. Hayslett, Susan M. Huninghake, Allen C. LaDriere, Hollie A. Miller; Scott D. Pertee; Luke M. Phillips, Jason M. Reed, Aimee L. Reiner, Douglas S. Schneider, Travis W. Tallman, James C. Teters, Charles D. Thornton, James M. Worf, II.

*October 4* - Kristen Bennett, Glen Blackwell, William Carrington, Peter Chamis, Melville Cummings, IV, James Elliott, Kidone Fish, William Hosaflook, Sonya Hurse, Jeffrey Price, Jessica Rine, Clayton Seldomridge, Benjamin Simpson, Zachary Smith, Lindsay Torri, and Carla Wilkerson.

*October 3 and 4* - Paul J. Chapman, II, Ronald E. Hartley, Rodney H. Lipscomb, Jonathan D. Malone, Ira W. Miller, Paul S. Rockwell, James G. Temple, Matthew L. Wolverton, and Christina M. Young.

*October 19-21* - Glen J. Blackwell, Paul J. Chapman, Melville H. Cummings, IV, Rodney H. Lipscomb, Jonathan D. Malone, Ira W. Miller, Scott D. Pertee, Jeffrey A. Price, Jason M. Reed, and Matthew L. Wolverton.