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We Are ... Marshall, December 7, 2007

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • DECEMBER 7, 2007

Faculty Receive McGinnis Professorships

Two professors in the Marshall University Lewis College of Business were awarded Kermit McGinnis Professorships Nov. 19 during a reception at the home of Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp.

Dr. Deanna Mader, professor of marketing, and Dr. Harlan Smith, professor of economics, were recognized for their contributions to both the university and community. Both have taught at Marshall for 16 years. Mader is best known for her work with student groups consulting in the area of hands-on marketing.

"Her students have worked with local businesses, car dealerships in particular, to hone their marketing skills," said Dr. Paul Uselding, dean of the Lewis College of Business. "She has brought quite a bit of favorable notice to the college and the university."

Smith is best known for his service work, most notably in the area of assurance of learning, which was critical in the business school's accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

"His hard work was vital in our accreditation process," Uselding said. "We couldn't have done it without his commitment to the university and our college."

The professorships are named in honor of Kermit McGinnis, past CEO of Huntington Federal Savings Bank, the successor to Huntington Federal

Savings and Loan Association. McGinnis is a Marshall alumnus known for being one of the youngest presidents of any financial institution in the United States. He currently is chairman of the board of Huntington Federal Savings Bank, and has been with the bank for 59 years.

McGinnis, who has been a member of several civic and social boards, was inducted into Marshall's Lewis College of Business Hall of Fame in 2000.

The professorships were made possible by a gift to the Marshall University Foundation by Huntington Federal Savings Bank in honor of McGinnis. Both

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Wanda Peters Named Employee of the Month

Wanda Peters, Campus Service Worker, Department of Buildings and Grounds at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for October, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee for 27 years, she was nominated by Dr. Daniel D. Cowell.

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MCTC Open House Slated for Dec. 10

The Marshall University Community & Technical College is having an Open House at the Cooking & Culinary Institute, 917 Third Avenue in Huntington, on Monday, Dec. 10 from noon to 7 p.m.

Visitors can meet staff and faculty and learn about MCTC programs including Allied Health, Business, 4-year Transfer programs, Information Technology and Occupation & Technical programs.

There will be refreshments, door prizes and an opportunity to sign up for spring classes.

For more information call ext. 66282, e-mail at ctc@marshall.edu or visit online at www.mctc.edu.



Wanda Peters (center) receives the Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopp (left). At right is Dr. Daniel Cowell, who nominated Peters for the award.

Modern Languages Department Unveils Major in Japanese

Marshall University has announced the formation of a new major designed to educate students in the Japanese language. The Japanese major was launched in the 2007 fall term and currently has 22 students enrolled who are declared majors.

"Thanks to leadership of Governor Joe Manchin and the West Virginia Legislature's adoption of Senate Bill 603 in 2005, we now have the flexibility to add a new major like Japanese that prepares our graduates for the global marketplace and responds to the interest of our students," said Marshall University president Stephen J. Kopp.

Plans for a Japanese major have been in the development stages for several years.

"I came on board with Marshall University in August 2006 in preparation for this program," said Dr. Natsuki Anderson, assistant professor of Japanese. "We redesigned the courses ... being offered so that we could offer Japanese as a major and minor."

Art Work of MU Students, Faculty on Display at University of Rio Grande

The art work of several students and faculty from Marshall University's Department of Art & Design is being exhibited at the Greer Museum on the campus of the University of Rio Grande (Ohio) through Friday, Dec. 14.

Marshall professors Peter Massing and Mary Grassell from the Department of Art & Design hand-picked the students to join them in exhibiting their work at the University of Rio Grande.

The exhibition displays printmaking from Massing, Clay McNearney and Seth Cyfers; graphic design from Grassell, Elaine Holliday and Amelia Boslough; and photography by Rebecca Holbrook.

Gallery hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, contact Massing at (304) 696-6635 or Grassell at (304) 696-2894.

Anderson said the program, which is in the Department of Modern Languages and under the umbrella of the College of Liberal Arts, is experiencing tremendous growth because of an interest in the Japanese culture largely due to film and video. She said she advises students who are interested in the Japanese language major to combine their interest with another field of study in order to be more marketable.

"I encourage students to double-major because language is a tool that is used to do something else," Anderson said. "Many of our students are combining their Japanese major with information technology, education and business. This prepares them for careers in many different fields."

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Comedian Brian Regan Set for Jan. 27 Performance

Tickets are now on sale for the Live Nation presentation of comedian Brian Regan, who will appear Sunday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

Live Nation is the world's leading live entertainment company, annually connecting more than 67 million fans with their favorite performers at over 33,000 events.

Tickets are available at the Marshall Artists Series box office, which is located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Box office hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call ext. 66656.

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Three professors from the Communications Studies department participated in the annual conference of the National Communication Association in Chicago Nov. 15-18. **Dr. Susan Gilpin** presented a paper examining the rhetorical and semiotic implications of professional style. **Dr. Robert Edmunds** served as chair and respondent on two panels focusing on assessment of oral communication competency. In addition, Edmunds and **Dr. Robert Bookwalter** reported on the oral assessment process in the basic course at Marshall. Bookwalter also co-presented a paper on which he collaborated with Dr. Karl Winton, a former Marshall faculty member. Their paper explored certain special dynamics of the progression of friendships in the military.

Professor Jean Edward Smith was the after-dinner speaker at the annual Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg, Pa., Nov. 17. The Lincoln Forum convenes in Gettysburg each year to commemorate the president's "Gettysburg Address." He spoke on Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt as wartime presidents. On Oct. 15, Smith spoke at the Jimmy Carter

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WE ARE... MARSHALL™



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Profile: Sharon Jenkins

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Sharon Jenkins

The old saying that when one door closes, another one opens has special meaning for Sharon Jenkins. She's had some bad breaks, literally, but she hasn't let that keep her from pursuing a dream of finding a career path that would finally land her at Marshall.

No one could have told the Lewis College of Business Administrative Secretary Senior in the Management & Marketing division that when she went to work at her convenience store job that day four years ago, her life was about to

be changed forever by a heavy metal sign advertising cigarette prices.

"The large signs that advertised cigarette prices, which hung from the ceiling, had been taken down and I was trying to stack them on a shelf for storage when one fell. I jumped out of the way but fell on my left wrist and shattered it. I could tell it was a really bad injury," she remembers.

She had compound fractures and bone chips that over the next two years required three surgeries and extensive, painful therapy after each surgery. But, refusing to be daunted or defeated by this unexpected turn of events, she fought back from her injury with such steely resolve that the West Virginia Department's Division of Rehabilitation Services named her one of eight recipients statewide to receive their Abilities to Work Award for the Huntington district.

As bad luck would have it, she's left handed, so she had to laboriously relearn to write and do all the other things that she previously had done effortlessly. Even today, she's still suffering some residual effects of limited mobility in her hand.

"There are still some things that are hard to do," she says. "I have trouble putting curlers in my hair; putting on makeup; it's hard to crack ice; I can't put anything heavy in or out of the oven. I can't stand wearing jewelry even on my fingers on my left hand, and I can't wear sleeves that button at the wrist. I can't cut my grass anymore and I have to have someone help me move furniture around. It's hard to have to ask for help for things that I used to do by myself. Since I have titanium in my wrist and plates on either side of the wrist, my arm gets hot in the summer and cold in the winter. I can be in the sun for only short periods of time because my arm gets very hot, and it gets so cold in the winter I have to keep it wrapped up."

Most regretfully, she has had to give up some activities that she loved to do with her grandchildren. "I can't swing a bat and I can't ride a bike because I can't pull on the brakes and there's no more roller skating for me. I did all those things with my kids and then my grandkids came along, so I miss that, but we've found other things we can do together."

But if you think Jenkins is wallowing in a grand old pity party, think again. Actually she's grateful for the opportunities and the unexpected career twist that came her way after her accident. And with her optimistic attitude, she's quick to focus on all the things she can do and not the ones she can't. With grit and determination, she's made the best of a bad situation and altered the direction of her life.

A Huntington native, she attended St. Joseph's High School before graduating from Huntington East. Being athletic, she dreamed of becoming a gym teacher, so immediately after high school she headed to Marshall, where she completed one year. But in that era, it was easy enough for her career track to get derailed.

"Back then in the mid-1970s it was expected that I would get married, so I did," she says candidly. Her career plans on

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Wanda Peters

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Cowell writes that he has known her since he arrived at the School of Medicine in 1994 as Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine and he has seen and interacted with her virtually every day since.

"I have come to respect and admire Ms. Peters for the work she does throughout our building in keeping her assigned areas of responsibility clean and well served. Moreover, knowing faculty and staff as well as she does, Wanda is typically ready to offer words of encouragement to us."

And he cites "...her friendliness and eagerness to help both medical and non-medical staff in any way she can. By going the 'extra mile' for all of us, she not only makes our days a bit brighter, but she also contributes to maintaining a comforting environment for our patients."

Cowell says Peters and other staff like her are part of the treatment "team" which is important for favorable clinical outcomes. "In my experience, staff like Ms. Peters do their work and make their contributions to the general welfare in relative obscurity. Their dedication often goes unnoticed. She and they

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Faculty Receive Reassigned Time for Spring Semester Research

Nine faculty members are receiving reassigned time for research during the spring 2008 semester, according to Dr. Leonard Deutsch, Dean of the Graduate College.

The faculty and their projects are:

- Dr. Janet Badia, English, "Plath's and Sexton's Fan Culture"
- Dr. E. Del Chrol, Classics, "Metamorphoses: A Master's View of a Slave Narrative"
- Dr. Stephen D. Cooper, Communication Studies, "Blogstorms: Case Studies in Online Controversy"
- Dr. Brian A. Hoey, Sociology, "Difference, (In)equality and Justice: Locating Personhood and Place in the Commodity Landscape"
- Dr. Katharine Rodier, English, "The Works of Bessie Woodson Yancey" and other projects
- Dr. Kateryna Schray, English, "Two scholarly/pedagogical articles on Marshall University's Honors Curriculum"
- Professor Art Stringer, English, "Introduction to *Paradox Hill* by L. McNeill"
- Dr. Chris White, History, "The History of El Salvador"
- Dr. Thomas E. Wilson, Physics, "Coherent Acoustic Phonon Generation"

Jenkins

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hold, she was a stay-at-home mom for more than nine years with her two daughters, Krista and Kelly. When both girls were in school full time she decided it was time to get into the job market. With that in mind she went to work for the convenience store chain. What started as a temporary job, doing accounting and customer service work, turned into 18 years of service.

After her accident and the years of grueling therapy, she tried to go back to her old job, but physically she couldn't handle some aspects of it anymore, particularly heavy lifting. She came to the painful realization that she would have to move on to a new career. "When it became apparent that I was going to have to go back to school, to study, take tests, I panicked. I was going on 51 and I thought, 'I just can't do this.'"

But do it she did with lots of help from family and friends. Divorced now, she was aided frequently by friends when she was undergoing therapy. Her daughter Kelly, Kelly's husband, who was leaving the Marines after an 8-year stint, and their two children moved in with her to help run the house. Now she had to go in search of a job that didn't require strenuous physical labor like her former position.

She found what she was looking for in a business program run by Goodwill Industries that trains and assists people with disabilities to find suitable employment.

"I was scared to death going into this program," she says candidly. "They help you get your skills back and learn new ones. I had done accounting, billing, receiving, invoicing but now I had classes in English, math, business and really important, computer training." In fact, she excelled in her studies and did so well she was awarded Goodwill's Placement Student of the Year Award.

Part of the program is an internship and Jenkins knew from the start she wanted to be placed at Marshall. She got her wish and in May 2006 began working for the Lewis College of Business. In short order, she took an interim job in the college that had come open. When the job was advertised, she applied for it and was hired on a permanent basis.

"When I was offered the job, I was in a state of shock. I was so happy; it's what I had wanted to do for so long but I had been afraid to try."

While she's using the technical skills learned in the Goodwill program, she's also brought along the considerable people skills she honed during her years of working with the public. Soft-spoken and unfailingly polite, she recalls that sometimes she saw up to 400 people a day. "Working at a convenience store, I learned how to handle people. Most people were polite but there were always some who test you. You just learn how to deal with it and move on."

And move on she has. Today she's as active as ever in many ways. She's up early each day brimming with energy to get the day started. When she was off work with her injury, she took up walking, often getting in 5 miles a day. Now she and a group of work friends take a brisk walk around campus before starting work and she loves to swim. An avid gardener, she finds there are still some chores she can do, such as weeding and hoeing.

Now back on Marshall's Huntington campus, she feels like she's come home again. She's always loved athletics and among her fondest memories are the football games she attended at Fairfield Stadium with her father, a tradition she carried on with her own children. Faithful fans, they attended whether the teams were winning or losing. In her home there is a cabinet chock full of Marshall memorabilia she's collected over the years. Now she's reveling in her four grandchildren, Addyson Grace 3, Jadyne, 4, Marshall 7, and Bryce, 11. She proudly relates that Bryce's main goal right now is to someday play football for Marshall.

The accident she suffered four years ago has strengthened her resolve and helped her reach some of her own goals, abandoned so many years ago. "My experience here has been so good," she says reflectively. "People in the college have been very helpful and accommodating to me, both staff and faculty. I love coming to work now, and, as I said in the book put out about the rehabilitation awards, I don't work any more—I have a job."

Professorships

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Mader and Smith will receive stipends to supplement their salaries during the next several academic years.

Japanese

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Anderson said she said she is aware of opportunities for her students ranging from government-sponsored teaching positions located in Japan to Japanese companies located in West Virginia.

For more information, contact Anderson at (304) 696-3543 or by e-mail at andersonn@marshall.edu.

Wanda Peters

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contribute to patients' feelings that we truly respect and care for them. They most often are not recognized for what they do for so many others at least not outside their own departments. This is regrettable because good and faithful service should be recognized wherever it occurs by whoever observes it."

He notes that medical and support staff know Peters. "Without exception they appreciate what she does—and has done since 1980. She would never seek recognition... I can think of no one more deserving for years of faithful service."

Peters was presented with a plaque, balloon bouquet and a check for \$100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

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presidential library in Atlanta. His topic was "Franklin D. Roosevelt: Liberalism Without Apology."

Undergraduate physics majors Daniel Valazquez, Daniel Crowder, Jon Linville, and physics professor **Dr. Thomas Wilson** presented a co-authored paper, "Anisotropic Capillary Wave Propagation in a Ripple Tank" at the 2007 fall meeting of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society held Oct. 19-20 at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Described as unlike the circular ripple waves produced in a pond by a tossed pebble, the artificial "anisotropic" pond, when excited by a vibrating ball in the center of a submerged custom contoured Plexiglas plate (fabricated via computer-controlled milling at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Flexible Manufacturing) produces capillary waveforms with non-circular patterns, including square waves. Such plates may in the future become standard accessories for commercial ripple tank apparatus routinely found in high school and college physics departments. The abstract is available at http://absimage.aps.org/image/MWS_OSF07-2007-000075.pdf