

Marshall University - Center for International Programs – One John Marshall Drive - Huntington, WV 25755-1054

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We are . . . the Center for International Programs

For those who are unfamiliar with the Center for International Programs (CIP), imagine the Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Now imagine taking a section of the International Terminal and place it on the third floor of Marshall University's Old Main in Huntington, West Virginia. Welcome to the tarmac of the Center for International Programs! This is the office where American students, many of whom have never ventured beyond the Ohio River, come to get assistance to study abroad in Japan, New Zealand, Spain and many other foreign destinations. It's also the office that brings international students from dozens of countries to the campus each year to enrich the Marshall community with their global diversity. It's truly one of the most exciting places to be on the Marshall University campus.

Note from the Editor

This is the first issue of Global Connections, a publication put forth by the Center for International Programs. It is our sincere wish that this newsletter will continue and become a regular publication that not only concerns international students but also the entire community.

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information to international students enrolled at Marshall University currently as well as international alumni, all Marshall students and faculty/staff, and the Tri-State community.

In this first issue, there are articles featuring new international students, graduating international students, the Story of the Month - Ms. Hee-jung Lee, the Staff Profile - Dr. William Edwards, the Alumni Profile - Ms. Aya Jo, and upcoming events.



Colombian Dancers at the Annual MU International Festival.

This international diversity on the third floor of Old Main is spreading, both on the campus and in the community. The next time you drive down 4th Ave. or stroll the MU campus, take a look at the faces of the students. So many of these faces represent the new global diversity that's taking hold at Marshall University.
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On a side note, we would like to honor Dr. William Edwards as he retires after serving 10 years as the Executive Director of the Center for International Programs and also congratulate Dr. Clark Egnor for his promotion to the position Dr. Edwards once served.

We need your full support of the newsletter. We welcome contributions from all segments of the community. Articles, art, or ideas may be delivered to the Center for International Programs (www.marshall.edu/cip/).

With the concerted help of interested students, faculty, and community members, we believe this first issue can grow into a viable communication tool for the international students as well as the entire campus.

Editor,
J.P. Pham

We are . . . the Center for International Programs - continued

In fact, since the establishment of the Center in 1993, we have seen a blossoming of things international in the local community, including an increase in the number of international companies, restaurants and grocery stores. Although the CIP alone cannot take all the credit for the international growth, we certainly have played a major role in facilitating this development. This becomes evident when you talk with some of the people in the community who directly benefit from our programs. (Read the article, "What People Are Saying," included in this newsletter.)

"The next time you drive down 4th Ave. or stroll the MU campus, take a look at the faces of the students. So many of these faces represent the new global diversity that's taking hold at Marshall University."

The CIP builds on a long history of international education at Marshall University. The International Festival we offer each year is a 35-year tradition at Marshall University. The annual exposition features fascinating foods, traditional music and dance and displays representing many different countries and cultures. The 35th Annual International Festival will be held in the Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center on **Sunday, November 16, 2003**. The festival is open to the public and is free of charge.

One of our most recent efforts to internationalize the campus and community was the establishment of the Language Buffet, a non-credit foreign language conversation school. The

program operates year round and offers 10 foreign language courses, including Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, German, French and Russian. According to Dr. Clark Egnor, Executive Director of the Center for International Programs, the aim of the Language Buffet is to promote an increased understanding of foreign languages and cultures. We are now enrolling participants for the Fall 10-week program which begins the week of **September 15**. The tuition is only \$100 per course and registration is online (see web link below).



International Students at MU

Beginning this year, in cooperation with the Campaign for National Prominence, we are extending our outreach to the community with the establishment of the **Global Green Scholarship Fund**. Money raised by the Global Green is used to fund scholarship costs for international education and also supports the cost of our annual International Festival and the Language Buffet. We need your support to continue the vast growth we have experienced during our recent history. You can provide support to the foundation by becoming an annual fund donor. For more information please visit the Global Green at the web link below or contact our office at 304-696-6265.

We thank you in advance for your contribution and continued support of our international efforts at Marshall University!

Language Buffet

<http://www.studymarshall.com/languagebuffet/>

Global Green

<http://www.marshall.edu/cip/globalgreen/>

Welcome New International Students!

The following students are new to the LEAP program this Summer 2003:

Al-hodi, Dalal - Saudi Arabia
Al-kharahsh, Khaled S. - Jordan
Choi, Sun-hee - South Korea
Ghadiri, Amir Akrami Nemati - Iran
Le, Loan Bich - Vietnam
Le, Son Duy - Vietnam
Lim, Heon-seoh - South Korea
Mohebbi, Mehran - Syria
Nojima, Gerson - Brazil
Ohasi, Kuniyoshi - Japan
Pham, Hieu Trung Thi - Vietnam
Pham, Linh Tung - Vietnam
Rafiee, Mina - Iran
Rugordreep, Trabtup - Thailand
Salem, Abdul Adim - Libya
Seki, Arisu - Japan

The following undergraduate and graduate students enrolled for the first time at Marshall University for the summer of 2003 semester:

Aizawa, Takayuki - Japan
Akamatsu, Eriko - Japan
Al-dhahri, Abdullah - Saudi Arabia
Al-rebdi, Annjad Nasser - Saudia Arabia
Al-zakri, Abdullah - Saudi Arabia
Aroctingi, Edward - Syria
Matsumoto, Taeko - Japan
Ozawa, Noriko - Japan
Zhao, Xugin - China

We welcome the new students and hope them the best of luck in their academic studies!

Why did they choose Marshall?

Anna Mitina, a graduate student in Political Science at MU from Russia, asked international students why they chose Marshall and here is what they said:

1. Affordable tuition and living costs
2. Friendly atmosphere
3. Small and safe community
4. Good environment for study
5. Availability of graduate assistantship positions

International students participating in the survey were from Vietnam, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago, Russia, India and Venezuela.

MU Representative to Visit Mexico, Brazil, Vietnam and Thailand this Fall

Dr. William Edwards will represent Marshall University at several international student recruitment fairs in Mexico, Brazil, Vietnam and Thailand this fall. Dr. Edwards would like to meet with Marshall alumni in these countries to enlist their help to recruit international students. If you would like to meet with Dr. Edwards, please email edwards@marshall.edu to arrange an appointment. His travel itinerary is as follows:

- * Guadalajara, Mexico - Sep. 21-30
- * Sao Paulo, Brazil - Sep. 30-Oct. 6
- * Hanoi, Vietnam - Oct. 23-26
- * HCM (Saigon), Veitnam - Oct. 26-29
- * Bangkok, Thailand - Oct. 29-Nov. 7

MU Meets the Department of Homeland Security Deadline

Marshall University's Center for International Programs met the August 1 deadline for switching over from the paper-based student visa processing to the new Department of Homeland (DHS) Security computer tracking system called SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System). DHS plans to use the system to know the location and activities of every international student in the United States. According to Scott Hoppe, Director of the Center's International Students and Scholars Program, Marshall University was one of the first group of universities in the country to begin implementing the data entry process. "This allowed us to accommodate the many glitches and delays that have arisen as a result of SEVIS problems," says Hoppe.

Congratulations to the Graduating Students



Keiko Takaoka and Miho Egnor display Japanese characters on their graduation caps.

There were 59 international students who graduated from Marshall University during the 2002-03 academic year.

May 10th, 2003:

Ahmed, Razin Mashbur - College of Science (B.S.)
Alrebdi, Nasser A. - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Bahawi, Ghazi Obied - University College (R.B.A.)
Barrios, Juan de Dias - Technology Management (M.S.)
Borres, Warner Querubin - Forensic Science (M.S.)
Bueno, Juan Manuel - Graduate College (M.B.A.)
Chen, Liya - College of Business (B.B.A.)
Chu, Ming-jen - College of Business (B.B.A.)
Darooka, Meha - Graduate College (M.B.A.)
Dike, Nnamdi C. - College of Science (B.S.)
Han, Jianming - Graduate College (Ph.D.)
Hasegawa, Rei - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Hernandez, Zulma - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Huang, Ying - Graduate College (Ph.D.)
Kato, Wakako - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Khodja, Walid - Journalism (M.A.)
Mwaura, Abraham Thiga - College of Science (B.S.)
Niwa, Kouichi - College of Liberal Arts (B.A.)
Seyedtalebi, Ahmad - Industrial and Employee Relations (M.S.)
Sigurdsson, Bjorgvin - Forensic Science (M.S.)
Srithep, Surachai - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Takaoka, Keiko - Secondary Education (M.A.)
Takiguchi, Keiko - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Usuda, Yuta - Journalism (M.A.)
Wen, Jinhui - Information Systems (M.S.)

Yuan, Jinhua - College of Business (B.B.A.)
Zhang, Fan - Information Systems (M.S.)

December 13th, 2002:

Abo-Ashy, Mohammed Ahmed - Communication Studies (M.A.)
Al-qawasmi, Husein A. - University College (R.B.A.)
Anand, Dimple - Graduate College (M.B.A.)
Bai, Weihui - Information Systems (M.S.)
Blanco, Werther - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Cao, Jiong - Information Systems (M.S.)
De Leon, Hector Xavier - Graduate College (M.B.A.)
Du, Minghuan - Information Systems (M.S.)
Haile, Betelihem Tsegaye - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
He, Dian - Chemistry (M.S.)
Heng, Jia - Information Systems (M.S.)
Kaky, Abeer - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Kanehisa, Hiromi - Counseling (M.A.)
Mansoor, Riffat Nauman - Information Systems (M.S.)
Miller, Maricris Ho - Graduate College (M.B.A.)
Noureddine, Nizar Darwiche - Biomedical Sciences (M.S.)
Shaar, Kamilla Lois - Biological Sciences (M.A.)
Sontornchareonont, Kingkaew - Graduate College (M.B.A.)
Su, Chang - Graduate College (M.B.A.)
Tanaka, Jun - College of Science (B.S.)
Tozuka, Tomoko - Exercise Science (M.S.)

August 16th, 2002:

Chaowadee, Polpinate - College of Science (B.S.)
Gu, Ke - Information Systems (M.S.)
Kawamoto, Kazutaka - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Lougklou, Fani - Psychology (M.A.)
Luo, Jun - Graduate College (M.B.A.)

July 12th, 2002:

Alahari, Lakshmi Sireesha - Information Systems (M.S.)
Al-lamki, Mohammed Ali - College of Business (B.B.A.)
Gjorgjievaska, Tatjana - Communication Studies (E.S.)
Mejia, Ana M. Acosta - Adult and Technical Education (M.S.)
Niu, Jin - College of Business (B.B.A.)
Selikhov, Natalie Nickolayevna - Secondary Education (E.S.)

MU International Student Dies in Missouri Car Crash

Hee-Jung Lee, 23, a Marshall University exchange student from Daegu, South Korea, was killed this past May in a single-car accident in Columbia, Mo.

Hee-Jung, attended Kungpook National University in South Korea where she studied agricultural chemistry. She had been participating in a one-year exchange program at Marshall University since last fall and was returning home when the accident happened.



Two other Marshall exchange students from South Korea, both males, were in the automobile when the accident occurred on May 21. They survived with minor injuries.

Hee-Jung and the two students were en route to San Francisco from Huntington when the accident occurred. They decided to take a cross-country trip before flying from San Francisco to South Korea for the summer. Neither excessive speed nor alcohol appeared to play a role in the crash.

Originally, Hee-Jung was planning to travel alone on Amtrak to Chicago and then continue west by rail to California, where she would board a flight for Daegu, said her friend, the Rev. David Webb of South Point, Ohio.

A funeral service was conducted for Hee-Jung at the Marshall University Newman Center on May 30. Hee-Jung's father, Jae-O Lee, her mother, Sang-Sook Lee, attended the funeral. Officials from Kyungpook National University and the Korean Embassy in Washington D.C. were

also at the funeral to pay their respects to Hee-Jung.

During spring break, Hee-Jung traveled the south with Rev. David Webb and his family, making stops in Kentucky, Nashville, Memphis, Texas and New Orleans.

"She loved catfish, crawfish, gumbo, etouffee," Webb said. They visited Loretta Lynn's Dude Ranch and met the star's horse. "The horse just came up to us, real gentle," he said. And a must when in Memphis is always the home of the King, Elvis Presley.

"Hee-Jung got an array of our culture," Webb said.

Even at her home away from home in Huntington, Hee-Jung took in the diversity of the area. Hee-Jung enjoyed movies and music, and loved to swim and stay fit, Riana Webb said.

"She was the apple of her family's eye," Riana Webb said. Riana Webb and Lee met as international students and became quick friends. A frequent guest at the Webb home, there was a cookout just days before her departure on her journey back to South Korea.

Even though there was time for fun, Hee-Jung applied herself wholeheartedly to studies. "She dedicated herself to learning," David Webb said.

Her goal was to take what she learned, both at the university and from the culture, back to South Korea and make it a better place, he said.

"We can learn a lot from her," David Webb said. "We can take her eagerness to learn and look for the best in all people and learn from it."

This above article was modified from an article by Lee Ann Welch that appeared in the Herald-Dispatch on May 28, 2003.

Words by Hee-Jung Lee (1980-2003)

I like the seat of the second floor in front of the big window in the Drinko library at night. When I can't concentrate on my studies, I watch the scenery through the window. At first, I can just see my white face reflected on the window. And then slowly, I can find a lot of orange street lights against the dark. It's warm and beautiful. It makes me think of my family and my home. Getting a distant view, I can see the dark grey silhouettes of buildings dimly. Beyond the stars can be seen faintly. Suddenly, a bump on the floor, I come back to my real life from a daydream.

A poem written by Hee-jung when she was studying English as a second language as a LEAP student during the Fall 2002 semester.

Thank You Notes

We are very grateful for the staff at the Marshall Newman Center and Father Bert Valdes who were able to bring spiritual comfort to the family of Hee-Jung Lee, a Marshall University exchange student from South Korea who was killed in a car accident in May. On behalf of Hee-Jung's family, we also express our gratitude to the anonymous community members who contributed to the Hee-Jung Lee Memorial Fund, a trust fund that was set up to help offset the family's funeral expenses. Finally, we appreciate the caring support provided by President Dan Angel and Provost Sarah Denman.

MU Sends Largest Group of Teachers to China Ever

The Appalachians Abroad Teach in China Program, housed in the Center for International Program, will send a record-breaking 37 teachers to five cities in mainland China this year. Most of the teachers who are graduates of Marshall University and other higher education institutions around the United States, including Yale, Harvard and Michigan State, will depart in late-August for one-year teaching assignments at universities, high schools and companies in China.

MARSHALL
UNIVERSITY
馬歇爾大學

Marshall University in Chinese



Jody Pritt (2002 MU Grad and 2002-03 Teach in China Participant) visits Great Wall.

According to QingQing Zhao, Director of the Center's China Projects, teachers are provided with stipends, travel expenses and housing by the Chinese schools. For more information about this program, visit the program's website listed below.

Appalachians Abroad Teach in China
<http://www.marshall.edu/gochina/>

International Faculty/Staff Profile: Dr. William A. Edwards

Dr. Edwards retired this summer so we thought that it would be appropriate if the very first staff profile would be of Dr. Edwards. Dr. Clark Egnor will be taking over the position of Executive Director for the Center for International Programs.

Dr. William "Will" Edwards was born and grew up in Huntington, WV. He graduated from Marshall University with his bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1970, his masters in educational administration and sociology in 1973, and his certificate of advanced graduate study in educational administration and career development in 1977. In 1991, he received his doctor of educational leadership specializing in HRD from West Virginia University.



Will started his professional education as the teaching principal of Beech Hill Elementary School in Mason County in 1970. He then served as the Director of Federal Program ESEA Title 3, Career Development for the Mason County Board of Education. His next career move included serving as the Mason County Assistant Vocational Director in charge of career development and adult education.

In 1979, Will was then hired by the WV State Department of Education where he served as the Coordinator of Services to Business and Industry. It was in 1985 that he made the move to higher education as the Executive Assistant to the President of Parkersburg Community College.

Will made his move back to Marshall University as the Director of the Board of Regents, Center for Education and Research with Industry in 1987. He became the Director of the Institute for Regional Development, Center for Regional Progress in 1989. He was then appointed as the first Executive Director of the Center for International Programs in 1993.

Will's educational experience spans 33 years of administrative experience on all levels of education, including elementary and secondary education administration, county school district administration, public school state department of education administration, community college administration, higher education state central office administration, and university administration. He also has 33 years of experience teaching and training in elementary, secondary, adult, undergraduate, and graduate level education for public schools, higher education, government, and business.

He has extensive community involvement which includes 30 years of service on the WV Development Office, Small Business Development Center advisory board of which he served 15 years as the Chairman. He served as the President of the Putnam County Development Authority, the Museum in the Community, Kanawha Chapter of the American Society and Development, and Marshall University chapter of the Phi Delta Kappa. Other organizations which he currently serves include the WV Energy Task Force and the Southern Growth Policy Board Global Strategies Advisory Committee.

He lives in Huntington when he is not traveling around the world. He has one daughter Cathie Lind Edwards who kept the family tradition by graduating from Marshall University with both her bachelor's and master's degree and also lives in Huntington.

International Alumni: Aya-Jo, Japan

Ms. Aya Jo attended the L.E.A.P. program during the fall semester of 2002 and enrolled in the undergraduate program at Marshall University during the spring of 2003. She has returned to Japan already and will be a senior at Kansai Gaidai University this coming fall. Now, she is looking for a permanent job while she is free during this summer. Below is a statement from her:

Hi, my name is Aya Jo from Japan. I now live in Osaka, Japan with my family. I am a senior at Kansai Gaidai University and my major is English. I stayed at Marshall University for about 8 months as an exchange student. It was my first time to study abroad and go to the U.S. so I was very excited. Before I went to the U.S., I was filled with happiness and hope. I was very glad to get the chance to study abroad. It was my dream since I entered Kansai Gaidai. I hoped I would make friends with not only American students but also students from other countries and experience what I can't in Japan. One of the reasons I wanted to study abroad was, of course, to improve my English skills. Another is to learn various cultures and the different senses of value between other countries' people and me. It was fun for me to know what I think as common sense is not always similar in other countries.

Many unbelievable things happened to me one after another after I arrived in the U.S. I experienced sharing a room with someone for the first time. At first, it was very difficult for me. I was sensitive to my roommate and couldn't have my own time to feel relaxed. Two months after I started the American life, I changed my room for confidential reasons. My new roommate was really nice. She was always kind to me and very funny. Whenever I had problems, she helped me. I was really happy to have her as my roommate. On the day I moved into our room, she asked me about my birthday. She then marked my birthday on her calendar and on my

birthday, she gave me a birthday card that she had made. I can't express how happy I was to receive it. Also, I can't forget the birthday party my friends had for me. I was very surprised because I didn't think they would have it for me, but I was really happy.

During the first semester, I was in the L.E.A.P. program. All the teachers were very warm. I didn't take L.E.A.P. in the second semester so I rarely saw them but whenever I saw them, they smiled at me and said hello. When I was in L.E.A.P., I made friends with Korean guys. We often got together and had a very good time. Although they went back to Korea at the end of the first semester, I am so glad to have spent a lot of time with them. Now they are studying very hard in medical school. I'm sure they will be very good doctors.

While I stayed at Marshall, I met a lot of people. If I didn't go to Marshall, I couldn't have met them. They always supported me when I was in a difficult situation. I want to thank all the people I met there, my friends in Japan, and my family. When I came back to Japan, one of my brothers hugged me and I cried. Not all of my experiences were good for me, but both pleasant and painful memories inhabit my mind as precious and unforgettable memories.

Now, I am doing job hunting in Japan. Actually, I don't know what kind of job I really want to get, but I want to get the job that I can support other people as everyone did for me while I was at Marshall. I am really glad to have spent 8 months at Marshall.

Record Number of MU Students Study in Japan

Eight Marshall University students studied in Japan during academic year 2002-03 as exchange students at Kansai Gaidai in Osaka and Tokyo Denki in Tokyo. The MU students at Kansai Gaidai were Justin Grimes and Patrick Allen (Integrated Science and Technology), Brent Jackson (Sociology), Ray Henson (Management Information Systems), Graeme Sawrey (Painting), Sara Armstrong (Journalism) and Pamela Hughes (English). The MU student at Tokyo Denki was Gina Ruggier (Psychology).

The MU exchange programs in Japan complement the Japanese language and Asian studies offerings in the Department of Modern Languages and the College of Liberal Arts. Students may study one or two semesters at the partner institutions which offer all levels of Japanese language study as well as many Asian Studies courses that are taught in English. MU students pay MU tuition, room, and board for their Japanese terms, the same as they would pay if they had remained on campus. Each year for the past five years, the Japanese Ministry of Education has provided thousands of dollars in scholarships for Marshall University students to study in Japan.

Calling All International Alumni

If you once studied at Marshall University as an international student or if you are a Marshall University alumni living overseas, we would like to hear from you. We would also like to hear from those alumni who once studied abroad as a Marshall University student.

Here are a few of the alumni who have left messages on our International Alumni website. Please register as an alumni on our website and we will include your name, email and message in our next newsletter.

Mustapha Sulaiman (COB '81 MBA) is living in Malaysia and can be contacted at email nik2256@tm.net.my



Students practice writing Japanese characters (Kanji) at Kansai Gaidai.

According to Dr. Clair Matz, Director of the Center's Office of Study Abroad, Marshall University students also participated in summer programs in Spain (Universitas Nebrija in Madrid), Mexico (Universidad Autonoma de Aguascalientes) and France (Catholic University of Lyon), as well as semester abroad exchange programs in England (Anglia Polytechnic University in Cambridge and Buckinghamshire College in London) and New Zealand (Auckland University of Technology).

The Center has established an email listserv to provide students with information about study abroad opportunities and scholarships. If you would like to join the email list, please send us an email at cip@marshall.edu.

Desire Lozano (Journalism '90 MA) is living in Venezuela and can be contacted at email coinserca@telcel.net.ve

Andy Cocallis studied at Marshall from '94 to '95 on the exchange programme from Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge. His email is aj@cocallis.fsnet.co.uk. Andrew is interested in obtaining information or contacts for either of the two other exchange students from Anglia for the same period he was there '94 to '95.

Hope to hear from you soon!

International Alumni

<http://www.marshall.edu/cip/alumni/>

U.S. Visa Rules Have Negative Impact on MU Intl Enrollment

The L.E.A.P. Intensive English Program at Marshall University has seen over a 30% drop in enrollment since 9-11. International enrollment in the undergraduate and graduate degree programs has also decreased. Marshall University is not alone. According to July 29 article in the Wall Street Journal, intensive English enrollments have thinned by a third since 2001 and academic-year courses are down 20% since 2002.

According to Clark Egnor, Executive Director, Center for International Programs, students are avoiding the U.S. due to the arduous process of getting a visa and the appearance from the international media that the U.S. is unfriendly to foreigners since 9-11. "This decline in international enrollments will be costly," says Egnor, "because foreign students usually pay full tuition which offsets the support given to Americans who have come to expect financial aid."

L.E.A.P. Brings Thousands to MU Each Semester

The Center for International Programs estimates that international degree students who matriculated from the L.E.A.P. Program contributed \$336,405 in out-of-state tuition and fees during the Spring 2003 semester. According to Nancy Person, Assistant Director of the L.E.A.P. Program, there were 44 undergraduate students and 58 graduate students who had entered the academic program through the L.E.A.P. Program.

"If the L.E.A.P. Program did not exist at Marshall University," says Person, "this would be money that Marshall University would not have."

According to the Center's estimates, \$254,421 was spent in out-of-state tuition and other academic fees and \$81,984 was spent on the campus dormitory and food service.

"The estimates do not take into account

Wayan Mastriyana, International Admissions Specialist for the Center, has noted that many of the internationals inquiring about studying at Marshall University are becoming discouraged with the process and choosing other countries to pursue a degree. "Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada are relaxing their visa laws and taking our market share away," says Mastriyana.

Improvement in the enrollment numbers is not expected to improve anytime soon. The Center expects to have 300 to 350 international students enrolled in the undergraduate, graduate and English as a second language programs this Fall 2003 semester. This is down from the approximate 500 international students enrollment before 9-11.

the financial contributions that these matriculated students from the ESL program make to other sectors of the community," says Person.

"If the L.E.A.P. Program did not exist at Marshall University," says Person, "this would be money that Marshall University would not have."

According to Person, the L.E.A.P. students who go on to study for a degree at Marshall University have a very high retention rate. After studying for one semester or a year in the L.E.A.P. Program, they will often continue living and studying at Marshall for two to six years. "During that time," says Person, "most of their funding comes from foreign countries and contributes to the both the campus and local economies."

What People Are Saying

We talked with some of the people in the community who directly benefit from the various services provided by the Center for International Programs. The feedback we received indicates that our internationalization efforts are succeeding.

Jean-Claude Lepinat, General Manager of Allevard, a major European manufacturing company that recently established a plant in Wayne County is one of these people. According to Mr. Lepinat, whose company will create over 150 jobs for the Tri-State area, "Marshall's international program helps to make the Huntington/Charleston area an attractive place to do business for international companies." Jean-Claude's wife, Sybill, who studied in Marshall University's L.E.A.P. Intensive English Program, says, "the Marshall campus has become like a second home for us. The international programs helped us to adjust to the local culture and language which will be crucial to our future success here."

"Marshall 's international program helps to make the Huntington/Charleston area an attractive place to do business for international companies."

Two years ago, Rosco Linthicum, a local businessman, established the popular Dragon Shop on the corner of 20th Street and 8th Ave. in Huntington. The store specializes in international groceries, especially foods from China, Japan, Korea and other Asian countries. According to Mr. Linthicum, the international program at Marshall University inspired his idea to open the ethnic grocery store near the campus. "The international students are a great asset to our community," says Rosco. "Not only do they contribute to our local economy, but they make our community a more interesting place to live and work."



Photo of Jean-Claude Lepinat and Dr. Clark Egnor, Executive Director, CIP, in front of the Allevard plant in Wayne County.

The reach of the Center for International Programs goes beyond just the Marshall University campus and the Huntington community. It extends all over the state and region. According to Amelia Courts, Executive Director, International Schools & ESL, WV Department of Education, the Center for International Programs has played a major role in the statewide efforts to prepare public schools to better meet the needs of limited English proficient students. Ms. Courts also adds that the CIP has made important contributions to economic development in the State through its partnership with the WVDE at the International School in Putnam County.

Steve Spence, Director, International Division, WV Development Office also comments on the contributions the CIP has made to the economic development of West Virginia, such as the recent establishment of the Language Bank which provides translation and interpretation assistance to the WVDO to facilitate international investment to the state. "I've also been very pleased with the Language Buffet and the language training opportunities it has provided to my staff and the business community."

What's Coming Up?

Week of September 15

The Language Buffet is now enrolling participants for the Fall 10-week program which begins the week of September 15. There will be 10 foreign language courses offered, including Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, German, French and Russian. Classes meet Mon.-Thurs. from 5:30PM to 7:30PM. The tuition is only \$100 per course. Register online at www.studymarshall.com/languagebuffet/ or call 304-696-6265.

Sunday, November 16

The 35th Annual International Festival will be held in the Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center on Sunday, November 16, 2003. The festival is open to the public and is free of charge. The annual exposition features fascinating foods, traditional music and dance and displays representing many different countries and cultures.

Marshall University
Center for International Programs
One John Marshall Drive
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