Honoring long-serving faculty and staff, welcoming new employees

By Karen Zeller

Newly hired WVU accountant Janine Bartram is counting on being around the University for a long time. Bartram began working at WVU last fall as a temporary employee. She became an official WVU team member in January when she started working full-time in the Controller’s Office.

She said she applied at WVU because she wanted to work for a non-profit institution.

"I worked in higher education previously, in Doddridge County, which is where my husband and I moved from last year," she said. "So, when we came here, I wanted to continue working for a similar type institution."

"Since arriving, every minute of her time at WVU has been a joy, even when she worked as a 'lowly temp,'" she said laughingly.

"I am really pleased with my choice to apply here," she said. "The people have been great and the job is really interesting and challenging."

In her new role, Bartram will be largely responsible for handling research grants money, among other responsibilities.

"This is a bigger, more complex organization than I have worked for in the past," she said. "So, it has been an exciting transition."

As she looks to her WVU future and reflects on employees with many years of service, Bartram is confident that the road ahead holds many promises.

"When I think about employees who have been here a long time, such as the ones who will be honored at the Distinguished Service ceremony," she said, "I would say that I look forward to the same— a long, and mutually beneficial association with WVU."

Bartram grew up in nearby Steubenville, Ohio. She earned a bachelor’s and master’s in business from Wright State College in Dayton.

By Amy Quigley

When Eleanor McDonald came to WVU 40 years ago, she was accompanying a cousin who was applying for a job. McDonald herself ended up working in Wise Library’s Cataloging Department and has never left.

"When they hired me, they asked if I would stay for two years, and I said, "Probably,"" McDonald remembers with a laugh.

The person who hired her made a good decision, said Department Head Donna Capelle Cook.

"Eleanor is a valuable member of the cataloging team," Cook said. "I don't like to think about the day when she'll retire. Sometimes you get lucky and you find the right person. Her supervisor 40 years ago was very lucky. She's dependable, she's loyal, and she's ready to take on any task you assign her. That's Eleanor."

McDonald’s early duties included cataloging and labeling books and alphabetizing cards. Over the years, she has earned several promotions and is now a library associate. Her favorite duty is supervising the department’s student workers. Not surprisingly, the biggest changes she has seen in her department have been in technology. Manual typewriters and adding machines were tools of the trade in the early years, she noted.

Program assistant: Long tenure ‘just happened’

By Sarah Gould

Deborah Moreland didn’t really plan to spend the next 30 years at WVU when she got a job as a clerk in the history department in 1970. “It just happened,” said Moreland, laughing.

Currently a Program Assistant II in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, Moreland works with the director of graduate education and is responsible for processing graduate tuition waivers for the statewide system, working with the graduate council and assisting the graduate professional development committee in scheduling their seminars.

She began her employment at WVU during one of the more tumultuous periods in campus history, when protests were common on college campuses across the nation. "We would come back from lunch and we wouldn’t be allowed in Woodburn Hall because they had gotten a bomb threat," she recalled. "It was a time of lots of protests on campus."

Moreland later worked in the Department of Chemistry and in the Office of Institutional Research (now called the Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning). Over the years she has been a part of a variety of projects, including working on the University budget and planning process.

“When I worked in Institutional Research, our office was involved with the site selection for the new stadium and did a survey of ticket prices at other institutions,” remembered Moreland, a die-hard WVU football fan.

She marvels at the changes that have taken place on campus. “The Downtown Campus is just unbelievable,” she said, noting the renovations made to Woodburn Hall. “I remember when some of the floors and walls in Woodburn Hall were six inches apart.”

A life-long Morgantown resident, Moreland graduated from Morgantown High School.

She is married to Perry Phillips, an associate professor in the College of Human Resources & Education, and has a step-daughter and son-in-law, Hillary Phillips and Charles Hartley, and a step-son, Todd Phillips.