We Are...Marshall, July 16, 2014

Office of Marshall University Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter

Recommended Citation
http://mds.marshall.edu/mu_newsletter/295

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Marshall Publications at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in We Are ... Marshall: the Newsletter for Marshall University by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.

The 2014 – 2015 season of the Marshall Artists Series promises to be another thrilling season, according to Penny Watkins, executive director of the series.

“We are presenting a series of icons in our 78th season,” she said. “From TV icon Jay Leno, to music icons Frankie Valli, American Idol’s Phillip Phillips and W.Va. music icon Kathy Mattea. From Broadway icons Beauty and the Beast, Elf and Cole Porter’s classic Anything Goes to the beloved holiday icon Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer on its 50th Anniversary; and from Dancing Pros Live to opera’s iconic La Boheme, to one of the world’s finest orchestras, and W.Va.’s own iconic radio show, Mountain Stage the Marshall Artists Series has something for everyone to enjoy. This season features an outstanding lineup that’s guaranteed to please! We invite you to join us for this iconic season!”

All productions will take place at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center with start times of 7:30 p.m., with the exception of Mountain Stage, which will begin at 7 p.m. The fall and spring international film festivals will feature multiple show times.

Acclaimed late-night TV show host, stand-up comedian, TV and movie voice-over artist, and philanthropist Jay Leno opens the series Thursday, Oct. 16. Leno’s late-night TV domination included more than two decades of “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.” Under his helm the show was honored by the Television Academy with an Emmy for “Outstanding Comedy, Variety or Music Series.” The show was also awarded “Favorite Late Night Show” by TV Guide. Leno was recently installed in the Television Academy’s Broadcast Hall of Fame.

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons In Concert — The legendary “Jersey Boys” bring their hits to the stage Friday, Oct. 17. Thanks to the massive success of the Tony-winning musical Jersey Boys, which chronicles the life and times of Frankie and his legendary group, their classic songs such as “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” “Walk Like a Man,” “Rag Doll” and “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You” are popular all over again. With the musical in its 7th year on Broadway, the just-released feature film, and five other casts performing Jersey Boys nightly from Las Vegas to London, the real Frankie Valli is also packing venues around the world.
Singer-songwriter and American Idol winner, Phillip Phillips, makes an appearance Monday, Nov. 3. The 11th season winner of American Idol, his breakthrough single “Home” reached No. 6 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts and was certified quintuple-platinum in the United States. More singles followed that were also certified platinum. Phillips’s recently released sophomore album “Behind The Light” finds the 23-year-old Georgia native offering up songs marked by a more ambitious and refined sensibility, while still retaining his earthy authenticity. The lead single “Raging Fire,” debuted in the Billboard Hot 100 and quickly earned raves for Phillips’ vocal delivery and guitar work.

Dancing Pros Live— The world’s finest dancers battle it out live on stage and the audience picks the winner on Thursday, November 6. Hosted by Alan Thicke, pro dancers from Dancing With The Stars, So You Think You Can Dance, and competitions around the globe will dance off against one another. Using electronic voting remotes, each member of the audience will get a chance to vote for their favorite couple. The show features a talented celebrity and pro cast, a glamorous set, fantastic costumes, video packages, group numbers, and unbelievable dance moves.

The Fall International Film Festival will take place Nov. 7-13. Featured films include The Lunch Box (India), Wadjda (Saudi Arabia), Instructions Not Included (Mexico), The Great Beauty (Italy), Like Father, Like Son (Japan) and Twenty Feet From Stardom (USA).

To spread some early holiday cheer, Elf, the Musical, will be performed Monday, Nov. 17. Based on the hit movie “Elf,” it spins the tale of Buddy, a young orphan who mistakenly crawls into Santa’s bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy’s enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa’s permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Another holiday highlight, Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer, The Musical, is the original television classic come to life. First aired in 1964, Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer has become a beloved Christmas classic, capturing the fancy of generations of fans. Now, 50 years later, Rudolph soars off the screen and lands in Huntington on Thursday, Dec. 4. Audience members can join in celebrating Rudolph’s 50 years on television and see all of their favorite characters live in this all new musical production.
West Virginia’s own Kathy Mattea, a two-time Grammy Award-winner and two-time Country Music Association “Female Vocalist of the Year,” brings the sounds of the holiday season home when she performs on Friday, Dec. 12. The South Charleston native won a Grammy for “Good News,” her first collection of Christmas songs, and followed up with the critically acclaimed “Joy for Christmas Day.” With close to 30 Top 40 country hits, Mattea’s voice was hailed by USA Today as “a voice as cozy as a crackling fire and a favorite quilt. According to Mattea, her holiday concerts are “more about the spiritual side of Christmas, and not so much about the holiday.” The result is a concert that focuses on the reverence and joy of the Christmas celebration.

For the first time in Marshall Artists Series history, Puccini’s La Bohème will be staged at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. La Bohème will be presented by Teatro Lirico D’Europa (making an encore appearance from last season’s presentation of Carmen) with a full orchestra on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Puccini’s tour de force is known for its lush melodies and touching characters. It’s the romantic, yet poignant, story of the poet Rodolfo, the beautiful Mimi, and their friends, set in the garrets of 1830 Paris and the raucous streets of the Latin Quarter. La Bohème will be performed in Italian with English supertitles.

Let the good times roll, as the old saying goes, when the W.Va. radio program Mountain Stage brings a Mardi Gras Celebration to the stage on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. Larry Groce, host and artistic director of Mountain Stage, will bring some New Orleans flavor to town just in time for Fat Tuesday. Recorded in front of a live audience, Mountain Stage features performances from seasoned legends and emerging stars in genres ranging from folk and blues to indie rock, synth pop, world music and beyond. Artists appearing will be announced at a later date.

The Spring International Film Festival will take place March 27-April 2. Featured films include Gloria (Chile), Land Ho! (USA/Iceland), Love Is Strange (USA), Ida (Poland), 2 Autumns, 3 Winters (France), and Ilo Ilo (Singapore).

Direct from Broadway, Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, one of the most beautiful love stories ever told, graces the stage of the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center Tuesday, April 14. Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature film, the musical love story features unforgettable characters, lavish sets and costumes, and dazzling production numbers. This is the classic story of Belle, a young woman, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped in a spell. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, he will be transformed to his former self. But time is running out and the search for a happy ending is on.

Under the command of Maestro Keith Lockhart (Conductor of The Boston Pops), the BBC Concert Orchestra will present a program featuring works by Ravel, Walton, Vaughn Williams and Britten Tuesday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. Founded in 1952, the BBC Concert Orchestra is a force in classical music, and is considered to be one of the world’s finest orchestras, having performed at the Royal Festival Hall, the Proms in London, and The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee concert. The show will also feature the young American piano sensation, Charlie Albright.
For tickets or pricing information, contact The Marshall Artists Series at ext. 6-3326. The Artists Series accepts all major credit cards. Season packages may be ordered via telephone by calling ext.6-3326. Orders may also be mailed in to Marshall Artists Series, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755-2210; be faxed to 304-696-6658 or e-mailed to artistsseries@marshall.edu. The Artists Series office is located in the Jomie Jazz Center. The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

New season subscription orders and season package renewals for current patrons are on sale now. Deadline for season ticket renewal is Friday, July 25. All orders will be processed in order of date and time received. Tickets to individual events go on sale, Monday, Aug. 18. The Artists Series is again offering a two-payment plan that offers patrons greater flexibility in their season planning. For those interested in this plan, call ext.6-3313.

Photos: Some of the highlights of the coming Marshall Artists Series season include Jay Leno, Elf the Musical and West Virginia’s own Kathy Mattea.

School of Medicine faculty member elected to national post

Dr. Darshana Shah, associate dean for faculty affairs and professional development at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, is the new chair-elect of the Association of American Medical College’s Group on Faculty Affairs (GFA) Steering Committee.

The mission of the GFA is to build and sustain faculty vitality in medical schools and teaching hospitals.

“I feel honored and privileged to have been elected to this post, “Shah said. “GFA professionals feel a great responsibility to prepare our faculty to meet the challenges of the 21st century. My training as a biomedical scientist, and experiences in the medical education and professional development arenas, will serve the GFA well during this time of educational and health care reform.”

Dr. Joseph I. Shapiro, dean of the School of Medicine, congratulated Shah on her election to the national post, which includes committee members from schools across the country.

“This is an important and prestigious position which reflects well on Dr. Shah and the entire Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine,” Shapiro said. “We are extremely pleased and proud that she will take on this new responsibility.”
Shah currently serves as chairwoman of the GFA annual conference program planning committee. This year’s conference is taking place this week in Boston.

Shah is a professor and chief of the pathology academic section, department of pathology and has been with the School of Medicine since 1997.

***

HSTA Summer Institute attracts more than 100 students from southern West Virginia

About 112 high school students from southern West Virginia are visiting the Huntington campus July 13-18 to take part in the annual Health Sciences and Technology Academy (HSTA) Summer Institute, conducted in collaboration with West Virginia University.

This will be the 10th year of “Fun With Science” at Marshall, which enables the students to learn more about science and the opportunities that are available to students majoring in science.

“The Health Sciences and Technology Academy’s (HSTA) vision was founded in 1994 on the faith, resilience, spirit and commitment of individuals, communities and universities throughout the state,” said Ann Chester, state director of HSTA. “HSTA is a 9th-12th grade math and science enrichment program built in West Virginia, by West Virginians, for West Virginians which encourages aspirations, opens doors, and empowers minority and underrepresented students and communities.

“This partnership brings students and teachers to campuses each summer for laboratory and classroom training and activities. The partnership then provides the infrastructure and support for community-based science projects mentored by scientists, teachers, health professionals, students and volunteer community leaders during the school year. Through HSTA, our students and alumni are building a better tomorrow by improving our education, our lifestyles, our health literacy and our communities today.”

“This statewide initiative was created to inspire and teach first-generation, rural and African American youth to attend college and offset the disparity of this population in science and health care professions,” said David Cartwright, director of the HSTA summer Institute.

Cartwright said the program is important for the HSTA students in many ways. One of the most important, he said, is that they find Marshall to be a warm and friendly place so that in the future, they may choose MU as their university.
The goal of HSTA is to increase the number of underrepresented and minority students who complete a postsecondary education in the health professions and remain in West Virginia as primary caregivers. The program was established with 45 students from two counties in 1994.

Co-directors of the event are Maurice Cooley, Dr. Girmay Berhie and Mark Mallory. Helen Bonham is assisting Cartwright, Cooley, Berhie and Mallory.

***

Heather Harrah-Lea named Employee of the Month

Heather Harrah-Lea, DNA Research Analyst, Forensic Science, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for April, according to the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed since 2005, she was nominated by Judy Fry.

In her nomination Fry said Harrah-Lea began working in the Forensic Center after receiving a B.A. degree in Integrated Science and Technology with a concentration in Biotechnology and Forensics from Marshall, and continued her education, completing a M.S. degree in Physical Science from Marshall as well. “Heather didn’t take the easy route in graduate school but took as many classes as possible which would enable her to be a forensic analyst. During this time she was working full time as a lab tech.”

And, Fry says, “In my opinion she is a top-notch, stellar employee. At the present Heather… Is working on a backlog of sexual assault cases received from various states. Another part of her job is working with our Forensic Science graduate students, training them to work in labs when they graduate. She is teaching an evening class in Forensic Science on the main campus this semester.”

In addition, “Heather is an exceptional employee; she juggles her life around her husband and …toddler twin boys. Her personal life never interferes with her professional career in a negative way. She always has a possible and a can-do attitude. We never hear ‘I can’t do that’ but ‘how can we get it done.’ When it comes to her fellow teammates, she always says positive and never negative comments.”

Harrah-Lea was presented with a certificate and a check for $100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

Photo: Heather Harrah-Lea receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.
Marshall University student researcher presents at national conference

Mohit Harsh, a research student at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and an entering first-year medical student, presented his team’s findings last month during a poster session at the 16th International Congress of Endocrinology in Chicago.

The research was done in the laboratory of Dr. Nader G. Abraham, one of the foremost researchers on the topic of obesity and metabolic syndrome in the world, as well as the Vice Dean for Research for the School of Medicine. The study focused on fructose and a metabolic by-product of fructose metabolism called uric acid and their effects on bone marrow-derived stem cell development. The use of fructose is becoming increasingly popular as a sweetener in western society and has been linked to worsening obesity and obesity-related complications like diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

“This was a significant study because it’s the first study to demonstrate that fructose treatments on stem cells increase the development of fat cells and actually decrease the secretion of adiponectin, a hormone known to have cardio-protective properties,” Harsh said. “Our results may provide an avenue for our better understanding of diet-induced obesity and obesity-related cardiovascular complications.”

Harsh worked with fellow medical students Jordan P. Hilgefort and George E. BanksV. Faculty members on the team include Zeid J. Khitan, M.D.; Joseph I. Shapiro, M.D., dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine; Komal Sodhi, M.D.; Luca Vanella, Ph.D.; and Abraham.

The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Brickstreet Foundation.

***

Online Master of Arts in Journalism, New Media Studies emphasis launches

The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications is offering a fully online graduate program in New Media Studies beginning this fall.

It’s a 30-credit-hour program that serves individuals who want to enter mass communications for the first time or veterans who are retooling for a changing industry. The online Master of Arts in Journalism maintains the school’s commitment to advanced study and research, but it approaches mass communications’ storytelling and graduate scholarship in innovative ways. Students will
study, write, design and produce digital work that will be distributed through emerging technology including mobile devices.

The “master’s initiative” requirement of the program is a three-semester project that produces a non-traditional thesis. Six hours of branch electives help students tailor the program to meet their individual needs and interests.

“We are excited to begin offering this new online master’s degree that will allow students the flexibility and innovative coursework to meet the demands of the 21st century mass media,” said Dr. Robert Rabe, graduate coordinator for the school of Journalism and Mass Communications. “Students will be able to tailor an individualized sequence of courses and experiences that prepare them for exactly the kinds of careers they hope to pursue.”

In addition to the new program, the SJMC offers its traditional Master of Arts in Journalism, an M.A.J. with a health care emphasis and three free-standing 15-hour certificate programs in Media Management, Integrated Strategic Communications and Digital Communications.

For more information about the programs, contact Rabe by phone at ext. 6-2360, or visit www.marshall.edu/sojmc.

Diversity conference seeks workshop proposals

The Tri-State Diversity Conference planning committee is accepting workshop proposals for the Tri-State Conference on Diversity & Inclusion, according to Dr. Shelvy Campbell, Assistant Dean for Diversity for the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Here is a link with general information on the conference, program guidelines and submission information. Proposals should be submitted by Friday, July 11, at 5 p.m.

“I hope you will consider participating by presenting a workshop. Please feel free to contact me with any questions,” said Campbell. She can be reached at 304-691-1607 or at campbels@marshall.edu.
In Memoriam: Dr. David Ice

Dr. David Ice, who served several years as Marshall’s Director of Pre-Award Research Projects, died July 9 in Colorado, where he lived after retiring from his Marshall post.

Born in Sistersville, W.Va., he attended Ohio Valley College and earned a B.A. from Harding College, then completed graduate work at West Virginia University in political science and public administration. Ice had a long and distinguished career working in education, beginning as a teacher and culminating with his appointment first as undersecretary of West Virginia Education and the Arts and then to the cabinet-level position of Secretary of Education and the Arts, where he had oversight responsibility for seven state agencies and more than 30 boards and commissions. After moving to Colorado, he spent five years working as a Senior Sponsored Research Administrator for Kaiser Permanente, a leading health care organization.

After a memorial service in Denver, a second one will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, July 18, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Vienna, W. Va. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the St. James Presbyterian Church, 3601 W. Belleview Ave., Littleton, CO 80123 or to the PCED-Prostate Conditions Education Council of Denver, 7009 SA. Potomac St., #125, Centennial, CO 80112.

Research institute and medical school to partner with international company in drug development venture

The Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (MIIR) and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine announced last week that they will be partnering with an international biosciences company to develop potential anti-cancer drugs.

Under the agreement with Shanghai-based HD Biosciences Co. Ltd., the three partners will share the costs and risks of discovery and development of these new drugs. They also will jointly own any intellectual property and commercialization rights to products developed through the collaboration.

According to Dr. Zijian Xie, MIIR’s director, getting new drugs from the research laboratory to clinical trials—where it is determined if the treatment is safe and effective for humans—is an expensive and time-consuming undertaking.
“Normally, it would take tens of millions of dollars and as long as a decade to translate the technology MIIR and the school of medicine have developed over the last several years into viable drug candidates,” he said. “This joint effort with HD Biosciences will significantly shorten the process because of their expertise in drug discovery, and ultimately will reduce the risk for all the partners.

“In short, this represents a bold approach that will not only advance MIIR’s mission of innovation, discovery, enterprise and advancement, but will also create new business opportunities and add value for all of us.”

Dr. Joseph I. Shapiro, dean of the school of medicine, said the partnership was formed with the goal of bringing new treatments to cancer patients as quickly as possible.

“We couldn’t be happier to work with HD Biosciences. Our venture allows lab-based scientists and clinical researchers to share ideas, move them forward at a quicker pace and ultimately provide better patient care,” he said.

Dr. Xuehai Tan, president and CEO of HD Biosciences, added, “We are very pleased to have established this collaboration with Marshall University. This agreement is another example of our company’s strategy and commitment to long-term growth. We will contribute with our extensive capabilities in preclinical drug discovery and new drug development in the Chinese market, and our ability to create value for the company and our partners, while the university is well versed in translational medicine, clinical trials and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidelines.”

Dr. John Maher, vice president for research, said the venture has significant economic development potential for Marshall and the entire region.

“By working together to examine the commercial viability of the disease targets and treatments being developed at MIIR and the medical school, we will be able to accelerate the translation of research from our labs into discoveries that will both help improve human health and stimulate economic development in the region,” he said.

***

“For the fourth consecutive year, the School of Kinesiology is hosting the Lose the Training Wheels Camp July 14-18 at Huntington High School.

The program, offered in concert with the non-profit charity iCanShine, teaches participants with disabilities how to independently ride a two-wheel bicycle.”
iCanShine is a national organization that works with local organizations to host camps in individual communities. Staff members travel the country conducting the camps, and have an average success rate of more than eighty percent. Participants attend one 75-minute session each day for five consecutive days.

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed July 30, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, July 28.