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We Are...Marshall, March 5, 2014

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Maher to chair statewide technology-based economic development coalition

Marshall Vice President for Research John M. Maher has been elected chairman of the board of TechConnect West Virginia.

A statewide economic development organization, TechConnect fosters and promotes innovation-based businesses and entrepreneurial activities. The group’s members represent education and research, private industry and the public sector.

Anne Barth, TechConnect executive director, said, “A longtime member of our board, Dr. Maher brings significant value to the position of chairman. His background in research and new business development in the private sector, as well as his current role leading the research enterprise at Marshall University, give him insight that benefits our organization greatly. We are pleased to have him engaged in this leadership position.”

Maher joined Marshall in 2007. In addition to his vice president role, he also serves as executive director of the Marshall University Research Corporation. From 2003 to 2007, he was the executive director of the Chemical Alliance Zone, a collaborative devoted to economic development in the chemical and allied sectors. Before that, he worked for 21 years at the Union Carbide Corporation, serving in a broad range of technical and managerial assignments in areas as diverse as catalysis research, plant technology support, intellectual property management, capital project execution and new business development.

For more information about TechConnect West Virginia, visit www.techconnectwv.org.
2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival closes with artist talk tomorrow evening

A lecture by visiting artist Vanessa German will close the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6. The event will take place in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on Marshall’s Huntington campus. A closing reception will follow in the playhouse lobby.

The lecture marks the end of a month-long symposium, *Trending Now: Artists and Audiences in the Information Age*, which featured internationally renowned guest artists, public performances, lectures and exhibitions for the university and the community.

German is a self-taught, multidisciplinary art maker. She was born in Milwaukee and raised in Los Angeles. She is presently based in Pittsburgh’s historic Homewood neighborhood.

German’s sculptural and performance works blur the lines between public art, performance art, activism and citizenship. Her most recent body of work opened in October 2013 at the Pavel Zoubok Gallery in New York City. Her work has been shown at the Andy Warhol Museum, the Carnegie Museum and Art Basel in Miami Beach. It also appeared in “African American Art 1950- Present” with the David C. Driskell Center in 2012 and toured the nation with the International Collage Center in 2011.

She has performed at POPTech, TEDx Harvard and TEDx MIT, and has been a featured speaker and performer at colleges and universities nationwide. She is the creator/performer of four evening-length performance works. These “spoken-word operas” have been featured in theaters from Martha’s Vineyard to Cape Town, South Africa.

The lecture is sponsored by the Marshall College of Arts and Media.
Women of Color program, featuring Carmen Mitzi Sinnott, rescheduled for March 25

Marshall’s annual Women of Color program, originally scheduled for March 4, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 25. The celebration will begin at noon in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

This year’s theme is “Our Community in the Americas.” The keynote speaker will be Carmen Mitzi Sinnott, a versatile actress, writer, educator and activist. Women of Color awards will be presented and a luncheon buffet will follow.

Sinnott is the author of *Snapshot*, a one-woman play about her African American father, Lorenzo Batts, a popular and talented Huntington native who left for the Vietnam War before she was born. Her answers to finding her father for the first time were found in an album of old faded photographs. Fusing dance, music and film, the story chronicles the quest of a mixed-race daughter from southern Appalachia who eventually finds her father in Hawaii. It was performed in Huntington two years ago.

The Women of Color Program activities are coordinated by Fran L. Jackson, Program Assistant II, Center for African American Students Programs, Leah Tolliver, Director, Women’s Center, Lisa Allen, Administrative Assistant, Intercultural Affairs, and Kesha Glover, Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life.

The program is free and open to the public. Vendors and displays will be set up in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center throughout the day.

For more information, contact Fran L. Jackson at ext.6-6705.

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Mathematician to speak at Marshall March 10 and 11

Dr. Jeffry Hirst, professor of mathematics at Appalachian State University, will give two talks on computation and mathematics at Marshall next week.

On Monday, March 10, Hirst will give a general audience talk on “Ada and Alan’s Theoretical Machines” at 4 p.m. in the Shawkey Room of the Memorial Student Center. In this talk, he will discuss the work of computability pioneers Ada Lovelace and Alan Turing. On Tuesday, March 11, he will give a research talk on “Reverse
Mathematics, Graphs, and Matchings” at 4 p.m. in Science Hall 465. Additional information may be found at www.marshall.edu/math/ARI/.

Hirst earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Penn State University. His research on mathematical logic was recognized by a John Templeton Foundation grant in 2011. He is a named author on 35 research papers, and is the co-author of the textbook *Combinatorics and Graph Theory*.

Hirst is speaking at Marshall as part of the Advanced Research Initiative of the Department of Mathematics and College of Science. This program invites distinguished researchers to Marshall to speak to both general and specialized audiences and interact with graduate and undergraduate students.

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**Foster Care Awareness subject of event March 12**

WomenConnect will host an awareness event about foster care in West Virginia at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, in the Shawkey Dining Room in the Memorial Student Center.

Presenters will address current issues within the foster-care system of West Virginia, said Dr. Laura Michele Diener, assistant professor of history and one of the organizers of the event. They also will discuss opportunities for internships and careers, as well as potential projects for service learning courses. The National Association of Social Workers will set up an information booth.

Speakers will include Carrie Dawson, M.A., Public Relations Director at Mission WV Inc.; Jessa Dingess, B.S.W., Child Protective Services worker at the Department of Health and Human Resources; Julia Kesler, M.A., LSW, Director of Permanency Services at Children’s Home Society in Charleston; Rachel Kinder, M.S.W., Permanency Coordinator for the Mission WV Inc. FrameWorks Program; Jake Ross, permanency social worker at the Children’s Home Society; Amy Sadler, child protective services worker at the Department of Health and Human Resources; Kristy Schnierlein of the Cammack Children’s Center; and Nikki Thomas from the Golden Girl Group Home.

“This program will be of interest to Marshall students and faculty members, particularly those in the fields of health professions, social work, psychology, counseling, education and women’s studies,” Diener said. “Get involved! Learn about opportunities to help our children in wild and wonderful West Virginia!”

This event is free and open to students, staff and faculty, as well as the community. It also is sponsored by Marshall’s Center for Teaching and Learning, Women’s Center, Women’s Studies program and Service Learning program.

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Development of transgender rights subject of lecture

Dr. Jami Taylor, an assistant professor of political science and public administration at the University of Toledo, will be the featured speaker Friday, March 7, at the 2014 Paul D. Stewart Lectureship. Taylor’s lecture, titled “The Politics of Trans Rights,” starts at 2 p.m. in room 402 of the Drinko Library.

Taylor will explore the development of transgender rights as a concern in governance. She also will explore the policy and political environment for trans identities in the United States, as well as the historic tensions within the gay rights advocacy movement over transgender inclusion and more recent concerns within the LGBT movement over policy priorities. Opportunities and challenges facing the LGBT movement will be addressed in Taylor’s lecture.

Taylor conducts research related to LGBT rights and on public service motivation. Additionally, she and Donald Haider-Markel (University of Kansas) edited the forthcoming volume, *Transgender Rights and Politics: Groups, Issue Framing, and Policy Adoption*. This book, which focuses on the empirical study of transgender rights, politics and policy, will be published by the University of Michigan Press this summer.

Her visit is sponsored by the Department of Political Science.

Marshall student team wins undergraduate business case competition

Marshall University was named the winner of the second annual Peoples Bank Undergraduate Business Case Competition Saturday, Feb. 1.

The Marshall team earned $1,500 for their first-place finish. They were advised by Dr. Marc Sollosy, assistant professor of management. Dr. Dallas Brozik, professor of finance, helped the students fine-tune their presentation skills.

“We appreciate the opportunity Peoples Bank gave them to put their knowledge into practice, hone their critical thinking and presentation skills, and further develop professionally,” said Dr. Deanna Mader, senior associate dean of the College of Business.

The teams, which each consisted of four undergraduate students, presented their business case responses to a panel of judges. They had been given one month to devise a solution for a
fictitious financial services-related business case. The case addressed multiple geographical regions and multiple functional areas (i.e. strategic planning, finance, marketing, and so forth). Presentations were 30 minutes in length, followed by a 15-minute question-and-answer session with the judges.

Six other colleges participated, including Ashland University (Ashland, Ohio), Marietta College, Marshall University, Muskingum University (New Concord, Ohio), Ohio Valley University, University of Charleston (Charleston, W.Va.) and University of Mount Union (Alliance, Ohio). Second place was awarded to University of Charleston and third place went to Marietta College.

“Peoples Bank is committed to investing in our communities through educational development and outreach,” said Chuck Sulerzyski, Peoples Bank CEO and president. “The case competition is an opportunity for undergraduate students from multiple institutions to invest time and effort in competing with their peers to provide a solution to a real-world business scenario. The competition allowed us to acquaint ourselves with potential candidates for employment and for students to become familiar with the area. We’re looking forward to the competition growing next year.”

In addition to the competitive opportunity, participants interacted with business leaders in the financial services industry and received valuable feedback on the results of their work.

The event was hosted by the McDonough Center at Marietta College.

Women’s Studies Faculty Colloquium Series continues March 7

Dr. Walter Squire, assistant professor in the English department, will speak from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, March 7, in the Drinko Library auditorium, Room 402.

Squire’s presentation, “Sky Gods, Mad Scientists, and Impossible Genetics: Frankenstein Fathers in Children’s Film and Television,” will consider a number of animated children’s films with motherless protagonists. “When a character is motherless but no mention is made of that character ever having had a mother, one can wonder whether or not a viewer is supposed to believe that the character was created by a father alone.” Squire said.

He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Tennessee, specializing in American Literature and Critical Theory. His research and teaching interests include children’s and fantasy literature, especially *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* film, proletarian literature and sexuality studies.
As part of the Women’s Studies Faculty Colloquium Series, the presentation is free and open to the public. Refreshments will follow.

For more information, contact Dr. Greta Rensenbrink, director of women’s studies, by e-mail at rensenbrink@marshall.edu, or by phone at ext.6-2955.

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Robertson to receive regional award from TRiO personnel association

Scott Robertson, Educational Counselor for Heart of Appalachia Talent Search (HATS), will be recognized as West Virginia’s 2013 Outstanding TRiO Achiever Tuesday, April 1, during the Mid-Eastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel’s conference at Virginia Beach, Va.

He was selected at last fall’s conference of the West Virginia Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (known as WV TRiO) and the Virginia Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel, held in Virginia Beach.

TRIO equals educational opportunity for low-income, first generation, veteran and disabled Americans. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help low-income and first generation Americans enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America’s economic and social life. These programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as TRiO programs.

While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRiO programs help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education. The Federal TRiO programs are Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, Upward Bound Math and Science, Veterans’ Upward Bound, Student Support Services and Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement.

Robertson has an extensive personal history with TRiO. He was a participant in both the Upward Bound and then Students Support Services Programs at Marshall. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies, graduating cum laude and a Master of Arts in Adult and Technical Education.

HATS Director Angela Holley said, “He has been instrumental in the development of new program services and has established relationships with participants and staff that go far beyond their time in our program. He has also become an advocate on the state, regional and national
levels through his commitment to TRiO Associations, where he has served in various leadership roles including serving as president of the WV TRiO Association.” He also worked to organize West Virginia’s TRiO’s Student Leadership Conference for three years.

A leader in his community, Robertson serves on the Wayne Town Council. In this position, he has led community projects for change including the development of a recreation center that will benefit local youth and installation of outdoor exercise equipment to encourage health and wellness. In addition, he coordinated a new spring festival, Trout’s Hill Day. He has also been active as the president of the Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau and vice president and webmaster of the Wayne County Family Resource Network. Robertson also has been a volunteer to support College Goal Sunday for the past five years.

The mission of WV TRiO is to promote equal educational opportunity and greater accessibility to higher education for TRiO-eligible students. WV TRiO seeks to broaden access to and retention in postsecondary education for low-income, first generation, veteran or disabled students. To learn more, see WVTRiO.org or contact their executive board at wvtrio@gmail.com.

Marshall to partner in clean water initiative

Marshall University will be partnering with the Charleston Area Alliance and others to create a center of innovation for water cleanliness and sustainability at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park in South Charleston.

The mission of the new West Virginia Water Sustainability Institute will be to develop and commercialize innovative technologies to maintain, improve and protect water supplies throughout the state.

Dr. John Maher, vice president for research, said the university is pleased to join the effort.

“The ultimate goal of the West Virginia Water Sustainability Institute is to harness the research assets of all the partners to make our water supply cleaner and safer, and to help industry innovate and create technologies that will support high-value jobs and investments right here in West Virginia,” he said. “We have an active water research program already in place at Marshall with scientists who are studying how to detect contaminants in water, predict their toxicity and understand how to remove them from the environment. This new center will give us an opportunity to directly use that work to help protect our community and create a better regional economy.”
Maher said formation of the center is still in its early stages but that the institute will support the following types of research:

- Commercializing technologies that reduce hazards to freshwater sources;
- Commercializing technologies for rapid identification of water contamination;
- Developing custom solutions to water quality and quantity issues;
- Testing and evaluating technologies that maintain the integrity of the entire water distribution system; and
- Providing independent assessments and reviews of potential hazards, technologies, contingency plans and related water quality issues.

In addition to Marshall and the Charleston Area Alliance, the partners in the initiative include the Charleston Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Chemical Alliance Zone, the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, West Virginia State University and the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research & Innovation Center (MATRIC). Over the next several months, these groups will be working with government leaders, private supporters and the business community to get the institute up and running.

For more information about water research at Marshall, visit [http://tinyurl.com/marshallwater](http://tinyurl.com/marshallwater).

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**School of Medicine announces creation of two new scholarships**

Two new scholarships have been established at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine to assist medical students with their educational expenses.

The first scholarship was created by Dr. Clark D. Adkins, a member of the SOM class of 1989, through the school’s “Adopt a Medical Student” program, which is a graduated giving program that allows gifts to be made annually until the fund becomes fully endowed.

The *Dr. Clark D. Adkins Endowed Scholarship* will be awarded to a first-year medical student who is a West Virginia resident and has financial need as per Office of Student Financial Assistance standards. Adkins, who is an orthopaedic surgeon in Charleston, created the scholarship in January.

The second scholarship, the *Marshall Health Scholarship*, will be awarded to a first-year medical student and will be renewable for three additional years pending normal academic progress.
“We are very grateful to Dr. Adkins and to Marshall Health for their generous contributions to our scholarships,” said Linda S. Holmes, director of development and alumni affairs. “Dr. Adkins understands the importance of paying it forward and his support is certainly inspiring. Additionally, Marshall Health continues to be our very important partner in helping finance the medical education of our state’s future doctors and we thank them for their invaluable assistance.”

The next issue of *We Are…Marshall* will be distributed March 12, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, March 10.