Alumni Association helping stock new Marshall food pantry

The Office of Community Engagement has just opened a food pantry, and the Marshall University Alumni Association is helping to get it stocked.

Currently canned goods and non-perishable items are being accepted. Donations can be made during business hours at the Erickson Alumni Center in Foundation Hall. To schedule in advance, call the Office of Alumni Relations at ext. 6-2523, or e-mail hayes2@marshall.edu. The drive will go through Friday, Feb. 28.

The pantry, which opened yesterday, is located in BW14, of the Memorial Student Center. Operating hours will be on Tuesday and Friday of each week, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Community Engagement at ext.6-2285, or communityengagement@marshall.edu. You can like them on Facebook: Search MU Food Pantry.

MU professor and her daughter write book about youth development program in Lincoln County

Dr. Linda Spatig, a professor of educational foundations in the College of Education and Professional Development, has co-written a book with her daughter, Layne Amerikaner, about a former youth development program made up of adolescent girls in Lincoln County.
The book is titled *Thinking Outside the Girl Box: Teaming Up With Resilient Youth in Appalachia*. Spatig spent more than 12 years studying a girls’ resiliency program in Lincoln County. She said she began writing the book in 2006-2007, when she was given extra time and assistance through her selection as a Drinko Fellow.

“Having the extra time and the assistance gave me the idea to put all that work together in the form of a book to tell the story of that program,” Spatig said.

In the Lincoln County program, the primary focus was on girls in adolescence. The adults used a variety of approaches, hoping to develop leadership in the girls to help them recognize, and build on their own strengths.

One way to do that was to provide challenging activities for the girls. For example, Spatig said, they did a lot with the arts. They worked with Colleen Anderson, a well-known poet from West Virginia, and published a book of poetry. They also worked with Ron Sowell of Mountain Stage, writing several songs and publishing two CDs.

The book was published by Ohio University Press and already has been released. Spatig said she is “thrilled” with the publication, particularly since her daughter co-wrote it with her.

“Even though it was based on research, we wrote the book as a love story,” she said. “We tell the story through key relationships with key individuals.”

One chapter is about Shelley Gaines, who started the program. Four chapters feature individual girls while still another chapter features two graduate students who worked with Spatig on the project.

“The last chapter features Layne and me,” Spatig said. “It tells about the research methods we used.”

Amerikaner is a communications specialist at People for the American Way in Washington, DC.

A reception/book signing is being planned for 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at Empire Books in downtown Huntington. Both authors will attend, along with some of the girls featured in the book.

According to a review by Bibliovault, the book was written “in an accessible, engaging style and, drawing on collaborative ethnographic research that the girls themselves helped conduct, the book tells the story of an innovative program determined to challenge the small, disempowering ‘boxes’ girls and women are so often expected to live in.” Spatig said the program was discontinued a few years ago and its demise is part of the story told in the book.

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*Photo: Dr. Linda Spatig, left, and her daughter, Layne Amerikaner, in the photo from the jacket of their new book, *Thinking Outside the Girl Box: Teaming Up With Resilient Youth in Appalachia*. Photo by Martin Amerikaner.* *****
Legislature to visit Huntington campus to talk to small businesses Feb. 17

Marshall University next week will host the second stop of the “Seeking Solutions | Celebrating Successes” listening tour sponsored by the West Virginia House of Delegates Committee on Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.

The town hall-type meeting is open to the public and will be held on Monday, Feb. 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Shawkey Dining Room of the Memorial Student Center. The session is intended to solicit input from area business owners and entrepreneurs at all experience levels—from someone thinking about starting a company to the owner of a third-generation family business.

House Speaker Tim Miley initiated the listening tour to allow delegates on the 25-member committee to hear directly from state citizens about both the benefits and obstacles of doing business in West Virginia. He said the goal is to determine what hurdles small businesses face that state legislators could remove to allow them to flourish.

President Stephen J. Kopp said he is pleased the tour will stop on the university’s campus.

“We are delighted and honored to welcome members of the committee and the greater Huntington community to our campus for this important public meeting,” he said. “Marshall University undeniably plays a vital role in educating tomorrow’s business leaders and is actively supporting regional entrepreneurship through initiatives across all our colleges, as well as at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing and the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research.

“I encourage our students and faculty, local alumni and members of the community to come out Monday evening and provide feedback to the committee. It is by sharing information about our common goals and vision that we can further economic development and improve the quality of life for everyone in our communities.”

For more information about the Feb. 17 session or to register in advance, visit http://listeningtour.csurv.com.

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Reminder: Stringer Series to feature essayists Biss, Bresland tonight and tomorrow

The A.E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series will feature public readings by prominent non-fiction writers, Eula Biss and John Bresland this week in conjunction with the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival.

Biss will appear at 8 p.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Shawkey Room in the Memorial Student Center. She won the National Book Critics Circle Award for her second book of essays, *Notes from No Man’s Land*. Her work has also been recognized by a Pushcart Prize, a Jaffe Writers’ Award, and a 21st Century Award from the Chicago Public Library. Biss, who teaches creative writing at Northwestern University is currently working on a new book about myth and metaphor in medicine with the support of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Howard Foundation Fellowship, and an NEA Literature Fellowship.

Bresland will appear at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in room BE-5 of the Memorial Student Center. He is an essayist who works in film, radio and print, teaches creative writing at Northwestern University and serves as the film editor of *TriQuarterly*. His essays can be viewed at *Blackbird* and *Ninth Letter*, read in *Brevity* and *North American Review* and heard occasionally on public radio. He was twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and in 2006 he was the recipient of the Tamarack Award for fiction.

Both events are sponsored by the College of Arts and Media as part of the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival, which is taking place through Friday, March 6. Visit [www.marshall.edu/cam](http://www.marshall.edu/cam) for more information on the month-long celebration of 21st-century art and expression.

For a complete list of the remaining Birke Arts Festival events, click on the following link: [www.marshall.edu/ucomm/2014/02/03/remaining-events-in-the-birke-fine-arts-festival-jan-30-march-6-2014](http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/2014/02/03/remaining-events-in-the-birke-fine-arts-festival-jan-30-march-6-2014).

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Art faculty members to participate in ‘Gallery Divided II’ at the Clay Center

Marshall art faculty members Jonathan Cox, Frederick Bartolovic, Peter Massing and Hayson Harrison will have works on display at an exhibition titled ‘Gallery Divided II,’ which begins Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Clay Center in Charleston.

The exhibition is identified by the Clay Center as “a head-to-head matchup between Marshall and West Virginia University art faculty.” Viewers are encouraged to show their support in a battle for bragging rights as the Mountaineers and Thundering Herd face off for a rematch in the art gallery. This is the second edition of this popular exhibit; the first was in 2012.

A lecture and public opening reception will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. Sculpture artists from Marshall and WVU will discuss their exhibited works and their approaches to teaching at the first in a series of lectures to accompany “Gallery Divided II.”

The lecture series will continue with sessions on printmaking on March 6, ceramics on March 27 and the schools’ two new capital projects on April 3. Each lecture begins at 6 p.m. in the art gallery and is free to the public.

“Gallery Divided II” will be on display through April 19. It is sponsored by The Elliot Family Foundation.

Museum gallery admission is free for museum members or just $6 for children and $7.50 for adults. For more information on this and other Clay Center exhibits and programs, visit www.theclaycenter.org or call 304-561-3570.

TRIO programs to welcome participants to Huntington campus
Feb. 17

The five TRiO programs at Marshall will be hosting “TRiO Day” Monday, Feb. 17. Participants from the programs will learn more about Marshall and take part in a tour provided by the Office of Recruitment. The Army ROTC will also have the STEM Experience for TRiO participants as well as the university community to enjoy.

All TRIO events will take place in the Campus Christian Center on the Huntington campus, according to Scott Robertson, counselor in the Heart of Appalachia Talent Search (HATS) program. The day will begin with a tour of the campus followed by a presentation from the
Office of Recruitment and Student Support Services. Lunch will be provided by the Office of Recruitment.

At 1:30 p.m., a celebration of TRiO Programs will take place in the Christian Center, where President Stephen J. Kopp will address those in attendance. The university community is invited to attend the celebration to learn more about the federally-funded TRiO Programs at Marshall and the impact the programs have on the lives of students. Robertson asks that any Marshall faculty or staff members who are alumni of any of the TRIO programs contact him so that they can be identified.

A small reception will be held during the celebration, Robertson said.

For questions, or additional information, contact Robertson, at ext.6-3287 or robertson2@marshall.edu.

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‘Carmen’ hits the Keith-Albee stage Feb. 20

Carmen, Georges Bizet’s well known masterpiece and operatic tour-de-force, comes to the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

For those who are interested in learning more about this masterpiece, there will be a pre-show opera chat beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Keith-Albee. This chat is free for those with a Carmen show ticket in hand. Audiences can join MU music professor Dr. Larry Stickler and Teatro Lirico D’Europa’s Artistic Director Giorgio Lalov as they provide insight into the passionate story of Carmen.

Carmen, the heroine of Bizet’s opera, which is often characterized as the essence of opera, is a gypsy woman who has been captivating hearts for nearly 250 years. Both dangerous and beautiful, an unpredictable femme fatale, she draws both Escamillo and Don José to her flame.

The story of Carmen takes place in mid-19th century Seville. Don José, who is training for priesthood in Basque country, murdered a man in a quarrel and has since enlisted in the Seville Army. His mother and Micaela, a woman who loves him and hopes to marry him, have followed him to the south. Micaela is in love with the soldier and expects to marry him. José loves her too, but at the same time is dazzled by the more passionate charms of the gypsy, Carmen. He goes to jail because he helps Carmen escape a fight she started. Meanwhile, Carmen has fallen in love with a bullfighter, Escamillo. Supported by a full orchestra, the opera fills the air with surprises and drama.
Many media outlets have reviewed the opera as it tours the U.S. Richard Dyer of The Boston Globe wrote, “Last night’s performance of Carmen really cooked. Credit goes to the excellent Bulgarian ensemble of chorus and orchestra and two Americans in the starring roles. Kristin Chavez has sung the role at the New York City Opera. She’s physically and vocally limber, and revels in her femme-fatale look. She has a bright lyric mezzo with a strong top and sings with many a teasing, personal, and humorous inflection. She can play the castanets, and she acts up a storm, while always keeping her place in the ensemble effort.”

Bizet’s Carmen is sponsored by Community Trust Bank, KEE 100, WVHU, WSAZ, The Herald-Dispatch, Marshall University, and the Marshall Artists Series. For additional information or for tickets, contact the Marshall Artists Series Box Office at ext. 6-6656, or visit their box office located in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Box office hours are Monday through Friday 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

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Reminder: Alumni Association accepting nominations for awards

Each year the Marshall University Alumni Association recognizes alumni and friends whose professional accomplishments or service to the university are particularly distinguished. These awardees will be recognized at Alumni Weekend scheduled for April 25-26.

The nomination form that outlines the procedure for nomination and the different award criteria are online at http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/files/web/AlumniWeekendAwardNomination_2014.pdf.

In addition, nominations are also being accepted for the Carolyn Hunter Faculty Service Award. This award was established to recognize contributions and to provide incentives for continued service from faculty to the community, the university and students in their respective fields.

Everyone is invited to nominate individuals for these awards. If there are questions or for additional information, call ext. 6-3134 or e-mail at pelphrey@marshall.edu.

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Note of Thanks

The family of Dr. Michael W. Galbraith (professor of leadership studies, MUGC) wants to thank the Marshall family, and specifically President Kopp, Board of Governors President Dr. Touma, and the entire MUGC staff and faculty for the cards, flowers, food for the family, visits, remembrances and donations to the CORE Center for Organ Recovery & Education in Michael’s name. This has been a very difficult time for the family, given the unexpected nature of Michael’s death. We are deeply appreciative of your love and support.

Statewide Brownfields Conference coming to Huntington

Organizers have announced that this year’s West Virginia Brownfields Conference will be held Sept. 11-12 at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena Convention Center in Huntington.

The annual statewide conference is hosted by the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University in conjunction with the Northern Brownfields Assistance Center at West Virginia University, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and the West Virginia Development Office.

The conference has evolved into West Virginia’s premier redevelopment event, combining educational programming with networking opportunities for community representatives, local governments, development professionals and service providers. The program includes expert panels, interactive workshops, technical training and project case studies.

According to George Carico, director of the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall, brownfields properties can include former industrial sites, closed service stations, abandoned buildings or vacant properties. Brownfields may have potential environmental impairments but often have significant prospects for business, housing or recreational redevelopment.

The event committee has issued a call for presentations to be made at the conference. Example presentation topics include finance and funding mechanisms, liability and risk mitigation, site redevelopment strategies, and other redevelopment-related ideas, case studies and best practices. The deadline for proposals is March 3. More information about submitting a proposal is available at www.wvbrownfields.org.

“The call for presentations is a way of expanding on past conference successes, getting more communities and organizations involved, with the anticipated result being a wider variety of conference topics,” said Carico. “While we have always been diligent about bringing quality,
timely and relevant information to the conference, we want to give ample opportunity for folks from across the state to provide agenda input and take part in the program.”

Carico added that the event planners are teaming up with the Cabell-Huntington Convention & Visitors Bureau.

“One of our goals was to bring new visitors to Huntington and to get folks who haven’t been in a while to come back. There are a lot of good things happening here and we want people to not only participate in our conference but to take time to enjoy what Huntington has to offer,” he said.

Additional conference details, including registration information, will be available at www.wvbrownfields.org as plans are finalized.

Marshall and WVU schools of medicine team up to host Gold Educational Summit

In an effort to educate health professions students about the importance of compassionate care in medicine, the Marshall University and West Virginia University schools of medicine hosted the inaugural Gold Humanism Educational Summit last Friday at the Cultural Center in Charleston.

The event kicked off a week-long observance of Gold Humanism Week recognized by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin in a proclamation issued at the State Capitol prior to the summit.

The educational summit allows medical, nursing, physical therapy and pharmacy students to learn the essentials of delivering compassionate and patient-centered care from practicing health professionals. For a complete listing of topics and speakers, visit the event site at https://sites.google.com/site/goldhumanismeducationalsummit/.

“Studies show that patients heal quickly when health care providers take time to know them,” said Darshana Shah, Ph.D., associate dean, Marshall Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development, professor and academic section chief for the department of pathology and founding faculty advisor to the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) chapter at Marshall. “Keeping the balance between scientific knowledge and humanistic attitude is the key to providing quality care. This summit is intended to inspire participants and remind them of the value of humanism, while encouraging them to continue its promotion.”

“Our chapter was established in 2008 to recognize members of our learning community who are exemplars of humanistic qualities in rendering care for patients,” said Norman D. Ferrari III, M.D., vice dean for education and academic affairs, professor and chair of the WVU Department of Medical Education, and founding faculty member of the GHHS chapter at WVU. “We are most pleased to partner with our colleagues from Marshall University this year in having a
statewide celebration and educational conference showcasing the ideals of the Gold Foundation and its support of humanism in medicine.”

Medical students at WVU and Marshall are selected for inclusion in GHHS based on practicing patient-centered medical care by modeling the qualities of integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect and empathy. Medical residents, faculty, and administrators may also be recognized.

Rebecca “Becca” Hayes, a 4th-year medical student at Marshall and president of the Marshall chapter of the GHHS, said the event, funded by a Gold Foundation grant awarded to Marshall University, is a very beneficial interaction.

GHHS is an international initiative of The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, which works to improve healing and health care outcomes by restoring the balance between the cutting-edge science of medicine and compassionate, patient-centered care.

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Forensic Science DNA analyst presents property crimes research at the 120th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police conference

Season E. Seferyn, M.S.F.S., a Parentage DNA analyst at the Forensic Science Center, presented findings from a property crimes project at a conference sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The presentation titled, “A Comparison of 1,600 Property Crime Cases from Miami, Florida, and Charleston, South Carolina,” addressed findings from DNA test results of evidentiary items recovered from crime scenes from each jurisdiction. The findings included the types of evidentiary samples that were most likely to produce DNA profiles and the differences in legal definitions of a property crime from each jurisdiction according to federal, state or local code. Additionally, statistics were presented on the adjudication process of cases, sentencing and restitution for each jurisdiction.

The Marshall University Forensic Science Center (MUFSC) participated in this project, coordinated by the National Institute of Justice, to partner with forensic laboratories that required DNA testing of property crime evidence. The goal of the project was to identify best practices for the sample collection process at the crime scene and enhance the DNA identification of the perpetrator.

In this project, the Miami-Dade region represented an urban metropolitan area and the Charleston, S.C., area represented a medium metropolitan area for comparison to determine
success rates and identify trends in using DNA testing on evidence from no-suspect property crimes. The project is ongoing and includes property crimes that occurred in Huntington as well.

The project involved the identification of criminals through generating DNA profiles and entry of the profiles into CODIS, the COmbed DNA Index System. Information continues to be gathered on hits generated in CODIS to identify single perpetrators with multiple crimes and to identify serial events.

The information presented at the conference will assist law enforcement managers, supervisors and crime scene investigators with collection of evidence that may yield the best results from DNA testing to identify the perpetrator.

The agencies from South Carolina that participated in the project were the Charleston Police Department, the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, the North Charleston Police Department, the Mount Pleasant Police Department, the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division and the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center – Southeast.

The 120th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference and Law Enforcement Education and Technology Exposition was held in October in Philadelphia. The organization addresses issues confronting law enforcement through advocacy, program and research, training and other professional services.

School of Medicine health policy fellows studying West Virginia water crisis

Three Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine resident physicians in the department of family and community health who are also Paul Ambrose Health Policy Fellows are spending the month of February at the West Virginia Legislature reviewing the state’s recent water crisis and its health policy and health care implications, as well as other health-related legislation.

Dr. Kimberly R. Becher, Dr. Matthew Q. Christiansen and Dr. Kane A. Maiers started their month-long rotation on Feb. 3. Health policy fellows at Marshall have been providing physician resources to the legislative leadership since the program was created in 2010.

“As health policy fellows, we are plugged into the issues that affect the health of our state’s citizens, both on the individual level as well as the state level,” said Maiers. “There are many, many facets of this far-reaching water crisis and as physicians interested in public health policy, we felt devoting much of our time this session to reviewing the state’s infrastructure, response and public health policy in regard to the crisis would be beneficial.”
chair of the department of family and community health, said one of the original goals of the Paul Ambrose Fellowship Program was to help young physicians fine-tune their leadership skills so they can effectively contribute to the health policy process.

“We are fortunate to have three bright, young physicians who are interested in exploring health policy in our state,” he said. “Our department is working hand in hand with Drs. Becher, Christiansen and Maiers to provide assistance in their research of this particular health issue and applaud them for their commitment.”

Jennifer Plymale, who serves with Petrany as co-director of the program and is also director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, said it’s a wonderful opportunity for the residents as well as members of the Legislature.

“Drs. Becher and Maiers have participated in this program for three years and have learned much about the legislative process, while in turn providing a great resource for lawmakers,” Plymale said. “These physicians are on the front line, seeing patients every day, and their input on all kinds of health legislation is invaluable.”

The health policy program is a partnership of Marshall’s department of family and community health, Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. It was inspired by and named for Paul Wesley Ambrose, a Marshall medical alumnus whose life and dynamic health policy career were cut short on Sept. 11, 2001.

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IT Department launches newsletter

Marshall’s Information Technology department has launched a newsletter designed for faculty, staff and students titled “Herd IT.” Topics covered include Student Office 365, Access to lynda.com, the search program Summon, EndNote citation management software, library research guides and more.

To view the complete issue, click on the following link: http://www.marshall.edu/it/newsletter.

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The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Feb. 19, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17.