We Are...Marshall, March 26, 2014

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Marshall 20/20 planning team reviews progress, plans next steps

More than 50 faculty members, students, Board of Governors members, deans, administrators and classified staff gathered yesterday at the Heritage Farm Museum in Huntington to learn about the progress and celebrate successes of Marshall’s strategic planning process, which kicked off last October. Most importantly, participants in the MU 20/20 strategic planning also identified the challenges ahead and built a plan for the next steps.

The Marshall 20/20 cooperative planning process is designed to help the university respond to market and economic challenges in the next 10 years.

Work group updates included the communications team; the shared vision team; the academic portfolio review team; the budget work group; the administrative services portfolio review team; and the *pro forma* team.

Academic and administrative services portfolios are defined as the university’s current offerings. The term *pro forma* refers to a common presentation method for reviewing academic programs with regard to enrollment and expenses.

Copies of each team’s reports are located on the Marshall 20/20 website at [www.marshall.edu/2020](http://www.marshall.edu/2020). An overview of yesterday’s activities will be posted soon.

The We Are Marshall weekly newsletter will feature regular updates on the Marshall 20/20 planning process. Look for the logo for the latest information.

*Photos: (Above) Dr. Cam Brammer makes a point in the general discussion at yesterday’s Marshall 20/20 retreat. (Below) Dr. Dan Holbrook reports on his small group’s discussion.*
Reminder: Retirement reception for Pat Gebhart is tomorrow, March 27

The Office of Academic Affairs will host a retirement reception for Pat Gebhart, who has worked at Marshall for 40 years, Thursday, March 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Drinko Library atrium.

Click to view full invitation.

Reminder: ‘The Truly Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks’ takes place March 27 on the Huntington campus

The women’s studies program will present a unique event for the Marshall and greater Huntington communities called “The Truly Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27, in the MU Foundation Hall.

The event is based on a book by Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, which spent more than three years on the New York Times bestseller list and is read at college campuses across the country, including Marshall.

Lacks was an impoverished tobacco farmer who died of cervical cancer in 1951. A sample of her cells was retained without her knowledge or consent. Medical researchers discovered her cells, known as HeLa, possessed unexplainable immortal properties. Over the past 60 years, HeLa cells have been instrumental in contributing to scientific breakthroughs such as the polio vaccine, in-vitro fertilization, cloning and gene mapping. Her cells have enabled scientists to better understand the effects of the atom bomb, cancer and HIV. In total, HeLa cells have been the subject of more than 74,000 studies, and scientists estimate that more than 50 million metric tons have been cultured to date. They are being utilized in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

The book grapples with issues essential to who we are as scholars and educators: the history of race in America, women’s rights over their bodies, health care and poverty, and the ethics of the medical profession, said Dr. Laura Michele Diener, assistant professor of history, and one of the organizers of the event.
“Now admirers of the book can meet two of Lacks’ surviving family members in person and listen to their story,” Diener said. “Marshall is honored to have David Lacks Jr. and Kim Lacks appear as guests to discuss the amazing legacy of their grandmother.”

President Kopp will introduce David Lacks Jr. and Kim Lacks at the event. Two Marshall students, one from the School of Medicine and one from the Honors College, will moderate a question-and-answer session. A book signing will follow the formal event, with copies of the book available for purchase. The event is free and open to the public.

“The Truly Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” is sponsored by the Office of Medical Education, Office of Graduate Medical Education and Office of Diversity of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine as well as the Women’s Center, Intercultural Affairs, the Center for African American Students, the Office of the President, the Honors College, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Department of Psychology and the Department of History.

For information, contact Dawn Howerton (howertond@marshall.edu; ext.6-2914) or Diener (diener@marshall.edu; ext. 6-2954).

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**KIIS program for study abroad ready for this summer, accepting applications for 2015**

Several Marshall faculty members will be heading out all over the globe this summer—to Austria, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Tanzania, for example—to teach Marshall and Kentucky students through the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS) program.

Marshall has been participating in KIIS (pronounced “keys”) for only two years, but faculty response to the program has been enthusiastic, says Ryan Warner, Coordinator of Study Abroad and Global Engagement and Marshall’s KIIS campus representative.

“It’s a phenomenal program but a lot of our faculty don’t really know about it,” he says. “The program is truly amazing. We’re excited about it.” Prior to joining the consortium, faculty-led programs were conducted in-house, he explains, with the majority of the planning and logistics falling on faculty members. “If they had a location and course in mind they had to basically build the entire program from the ground up. Those logistics took a lot of work. Now through the KIIS program, the logistics are taken care of, faculty teach their own courses, and students get academic credit from Western Kentucky University.”
Each program has its own program director, usually someone who has been affiliated with the program for a number of years, who will assist faculty in putting their courses together as well as offering aid in other areas, Warner says.

Faculty interested in teaching during summer 2015 should contact Warner with two proposals of courses they want to teach. He will provide them with an online application with which they can submit the proposal with accompanying documents. The deadline for submitting proposals is Tuesday, April 1. He can be reached by phone at ext. 6-2379 and at by e-mail at warner68@marshall.edu.

Faculty selected teach a four-week course and receive a stipend, free airfare, food and lodging while abroad. Instructors can take along spouses or children but all of their other expenses, such as transportation and food, must be paid by the participating faculty.

According to the KIIS website, 28 programs are offered in a variety of disciplines. Faculty can choose a location and propose a course they want to teach, and selection is competitive. Some sites are geared toward specific disciplines, according to Warner. “Italy is more focused on art; Ecuador is more geared toward biology because of the Galapagos Islands. The academic disciplines are shifted around with the programs, however.”

The courses offered for summer 2014 include biology, political science, communications, art, music, Spanish and health professions. The latter will be taught in Tanzania by Dr. Monika Sawhney. Two faculty members who participated last summer will again be going abroad in June. Music professor Mark Zanter will be teaching in Austria for the second straight summer and Dr. Shawn Schulenberg, who taught a political science course last year in Argentina, will head to Spain. Dr. Suzanne Strait will teach in Ecuador, Christine Ingersoll and Mary Grassell will teach in Italy and Dr. Stephen Underhill will be in Germany.

“They go all over the world, you name it and we’ve got someone going to almost every continent,” says Warner. “This program is also good for our Marshall American students. INTO has been a big presence in the internationalization of the Marshall campus. Through it we bring students here but in West Virginia we also need to expand the options for our students and faculty to study outside the United States. This is an initiative of the Study Abroad office not only to bring international students here but to increase the options for our students and our faculty as well. This is a big initiative for our office, a large step and we think it will become a really big program for Marshall.”

Warner has garnered some encouraging insights from participating faculty and students. “A faculty member said it refreshed him after teaching abroad and when he came back the experience gave him a renewed excitement to teach.” And, he points out, participants also have an opportunity to conduct research as well. In addition, “Last year our faculty who taught abroad recruited 16 Marshall students to study abroad. For summer 2014 we have 29 Marshall students studying abroad in the KIIS program.”
“The feedback we’re getting from KIIS about our faculty’s teaching has been exceptional,” he says. “They’ve been really pleased with the quality of our teaching. There can be difficulty with having 30 students in another country—not everyone is cut out to teach abroad—so it’s been very gratifying to hear that our faculty members have had a great rapport with the KIIS program. All courses are taught in English with the exception of language courses. French, Spanish, German, it doesn’t matter what country it is. The program director in each location can speak the native language.”

Graphic: A promotion for this year’s KIIS program in Tanzania, which will be taught by Dr. Monika Sawrey. Eleven students from Marshall are expected to participate.

Reminder: Appalachian Studies Association Conference at Marshall expected to draw 700 to 1,000

An estimated 700 to 1,000 people from across the region and beyond are expected to attend the 37th annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference March 28-30 on the Huntington campus.

The theme of the 2014 conference is “New Appalachia: Known Realities and Imagined Possibilities.” It will feature a keynote on contemporary Appalachian issues by Silas House and a series of three “New Appalachia” plenary sessions designed to explore stories from and about the region, said Dr. Linda Spatig, the conference chair and a professor of educational foundations in the College of Education and Professional Development.

“The aim is to deepen our understanding of Appalachia and of our human experience more broadly, by engaging with ideas – and with each other – in lively, innovative ways,” Spatig said. She added that in addition to the keynote and plenary sessions, the conference will feature a large array of individual and group presentations, including academic papers, panels, workshops, readings, films, performance and, new this year, three “Come to the Table” sessions to invite new involvement in ASA. These are specifically designed to give newcomers a chance to meet others in the association and learn about and create ways to become involved.

Faculty and students from a number of Marshall’s programs will be among those presenting their research at the conference, including scholars from the colleges of arts and media, liberal arts, science, health professions, and education and professional development, as well as the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. Their presentation topics range from midwifery to ecology to language.
“We got a generous grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council and the things they’re sponsoring, which include the Friday night keynote speaker and the plenary sessions, are free and open to the public,” Spatig said. “Also, Marshall students with current IDs can attend anything at the conference free. The mixed-genre, interdisciplinary sessions will draw on everything from history and literature to music and storytelling, she said.

The plenary sessions tie past heritage to present legacy. They are:

- “Me? An Appalachian Stereotype? I Thought My Stories Worked Against That;”
- “Appalachian Women, A Herstory of Oppression and Resistance;” (sponsored by MU Women’s Center); and
- “Collaborative Ethnography, Collaborative Research: Co-imagining New Possibilities for Appalachian Studies.”

In addition to the scheduled sessions, there will be several receptions and events, including a Saturday night concert – New Appalachian Voices: An Evening with NPR and Mountain Stage’s Ron Sowell. In addition to Sowell, the concert, to be held in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, will feature special guests Johnny Staats, Butch Osborne, the Appalachian Children’s Choir, and award-winning duo The Sea The Sea. A post-concert, open-mic event, hosted by award-winning West Virginia storyteller Adam Booth, will be held at Black Sheep Burrito and Brews.

On Saturday afternoon, businesses in downtown Huntington will host a “Stroll, Sip, and Shop” event. In addition to many unique, locally-owned shops, the event will feature two art exhibits—one in the Morris Building and one at Gallery 842. “We’re trying to make good connections with downtown Huntington,” Spatig said. “A lot of downtown shops are going to stay open later, until about 6 o’clock, on that Saturday, so they can accommodate the conference attendees.”

On Friday and Saturday evenings, a series of independent Appalachian films will be shown in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre on the MU campus. Also, local musicians, as well as those visiting from elsewhere, will be performing throughout the conference.

This will be the second time the conference has been at Marshall, which houses the Appalachian Studies Association. Mary K. Thomas is the executive director.

For more information about the conference, including a full schedule of programs, visit http://www.appalachianstudies.org/annualconference/.

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Rain, rain go away (safely and efficiently with Marshall’s expertise and planning)

When it rains around here, it tends to pour. And when it pours, the streets around Huntington tend to back up and flood. This is a compounding problem for the Marshall community, its neighbors and the environment.

But the water drainage problem has had at least one positive effect: It carved out a special position in Marshall’s Environmental Health and Safety Department for an expert to reduce the runoff and meet governmental regulations of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4). The permit requires municipalities – or areas of high concentrations of people such as a college campus – to reduce the amount of stormwater and pollutants discharged from their property.

Travis Bailey has been on the job as an environmental specialist at Marshall University for just over two years. His problem:

- Huntington’s campus is roughly 112 acres.
- Nearly 80 percent of that surface is impervious to water – building rooftops, artificial turf, sidewalks, parking lots and alleys.
- In a rainstorm, the downtown area of Marshall can generate millions of gallons of stormwater.

Yes, millions.

Once it reaches the streets, runoff can pick up pollutants, including oil from automobiles and sewage, which make their way to the Ohio River, head downstream and end up in the Gulf of Mexico.

“We’ve then created a problem for downstream communities whose drinking water and livelihood comes from healthy water,” Bailey said. “And we certainly do not want that to happen.”

So, he works to solve the problem. Daily visits to storm drains, constant research into new technologies, and continual collaboration with the likes of smart scientists who have a passion for the environment as well as problem solving. He has meetings with experts from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, who enforce compliance of the MS4 permits. In a recent inspection, the university received kudos from inspectors.

“That’s unusual for anyone,” Bailey said. “The letter actually commended us on our efforts. It was a big day for us, but we still have so much to do.”

He also has monthly meetings with a group of experts from the College of Science including Dr. Charles Somerville, dean; Mindy Armstead, associate professor, David Graefe, assistant
professor; Emily Gillespie, assistant professor; and Avia Huisman, outreach coordinator. Margie Phillips, manager of the university’s Sustainability Department, and Pete Divers, assistant director of Housing and Residence Life, round out the group Bailey calls “The Incredibles.”

“Anything is easy to fix if you have a lot of money to throw at it,” Bailey said. “But I want to develop easy, cost-effective ways to control stormwater runoff. I want to utilize a commonsense approach to stormwater management. I’m always open to ideas and looking for creative solutions and I have great professors, deans and administrators with great minds giving me not just great ideas, but great solutions.”

Even though his job description reads like a mathematical word problem; there’s no one perfect solution. He and his collaborators work to solve a dilemma that is common among universities across the state and country. Since the campus is like a little city within the city of Huntington, Marshall officials have to figure out how to deal with the water its buildings create. So far, Bailey has utilized the installation of a living “green roof” on the College of Science Building, sunken rain gardens in high water collection areas, and grass swells adjacent to the new soccer stadium. He and his collaborators have applied for grants to expand these practices, install other measures and also have employed a lot of imaginative thinking to deal with the issue.

New construction can make MS4 compliance a little easier. The Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex has been designed to house a green roof as well as underground holding tanks that will give the first inch of water collected during a rainfall a place to pool until it has time to percolate more slowly back into the environment. The roof is designed to be a beautiful spot as well as an outdoor teaching tool, one Bailey hopes to utilize himself in the classes he teaches as an adjunct professor of microbiology.

“That area was formerly a flat parking lot. Just by putting a building there and planning the collection areas underground, we’ve taken 56,000 gallons of rushing water out of play.”

The Indoor Athletic Facility currently under construction will produce 110,000 gallons of water during the first inch of a rainfall. Underground storage tanks will capture that runoff and let it seep slowly into the land as well.

“When you are building new construction, you can plan for your stormwater controls,” he said. “The real challenge is in retrofitting affordably or employing creative solutions into existing infrastructure. We have some rain barrels here and there on campus, but we need to think more long-term than that. And we are.”

He’s awaiting word on a grant from the West Virginia Conservation Agency that will provide funding for him to test several different technologies like permeable pavers, porous concrete, rain tanks and grass pavers. He and his team also are looking for manageable ways to make their own special dirt for rain gardens and landscaping that is more porous and conducive to holding water until it can be absorbed.

His hope?
“I would like Marshall University to be the poster child for what you can do with green infrastructure and a lot of creativity,” Bailey said. “I want to reduce our stormwater runoff contribution, but someday I hope to do it in a way that lets us actually use what we collect in some way.”

His long-term vision?

“I want to involve facets of the entire university community in coming up with solutions. I can see experts in the College of Business helping us do feasibility studies. I can see people from the College of Arts and Media creating beautiful solutions and helping us promote them. Down the line, I want to make the problem open to many great minds from Marshall,” Bailey said.

Photo: Travis Bailey, environmental specialist, points out the first green roof on Marshall University’s Huntington campus. It is located on the Science Building and is one of the many creative weapons in Bailey’s arsenal to curb the rush of stormwater from the university during rain and melting events. The University must meet the strict guidelines of its MS4 permit governing stormwater issued by the Department of the Environmental Protection.

Co-lead counsel from Kitzmiller case to conclude Amicus Curiae Lecture Series

The Amicus Curiae Lecture Series, sponsored by the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, will conclude its 2013-14 series on Tuesday, April 1, when it welcomes Stephen G. Harvey to speak on the topic “Creationism on Trial: Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District: The 21st Century Monkey Trial.”

Harvey served as co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the Kitzmiller case, which was the first in the nation to test whether “intelligent design” can be introduced into the curriculum of public high school science classes. In a sweeping victory for the plaintiffs, U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III, a Republican appointee of President George W. Bush, ruled that the Dover school board in Pennsylvania had violated the First Amendment Establishment Clause’s “wall of separation” between church and state and that intelligent design is clearly religious in nature and is not science.

The Kitzmiller trial is the subject of four books (including one by the great-great-grandson of Charles Darwin) and extensive media coverage both nationally and internationally, including as the subject of a two-hour episode of PBS’s NOVA.
Harvey practices law in Philadelphia and, throughout his career, has had an active pro bono practice, handling cases involving political asylum, the rights of children, religious liberty, science education, organ allocation and free speech. He is a member of the Legal Advisory Committee of the National Center for Science Education. He is a frequent speaker on legal developments and issues, including the topics of religious liberty and public education, which he most recently addressed in a talk last October at the University of New Orleans.

Patricia Proctor, director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, said, “This topic of intelligent design is still the subject of much controversy around the nation and issues related to freedom of religion and public education are of great interest to many people. I am delighted that we have someone to lecture who has litigated the issue and is deeply knowledgeable about the topic from the perspective of U.S. Constitutional law.”

The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. in the Marshall University Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center. It is free and open to the public. The series is supported by a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The Marshall University Trombone Ensemble and other area trombonists will be performing at “Red Socks and Low Brass: A Tribute to John Mead,” beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 6, in Smith Recital Hall on the Huntington campus.

The concert is in memory of 31-year Marshall low brass professor and trombonist Dr. John Mead, who died in February.

Perhaps best recognized at performances for wearing red socks with his tuxedo, Mead was an accomplished trombonist, holding first chair in five symphonies and performing in numerous brass quintets and ensembles, sometimes accompanying star performers such as Glen Campbell, Bob Hope and Shirley Jones. He even played in ice show orchestras and the Ringling Brothers Circus Band.

Mead wore many other hats besides that of trombonist, including pilot.

Dr. Don Williams, clarinetist and retired chair of the Marshall music department, remembered fondly the impression Mead made on him soon after the two met in 1983. Williams had come from California to interview at Marshall. Following the interview, Mead offered to charter a private airplane to fly Williams to Lexington, Ky., to start off his trip back west.
“John rented a single-engine plane — used to carry caskets — and four of us made the trip to Lexington,” Williams said. “Needless to say, I was impressed. Here was a fine musician and accomplished teacher who was also a pilot.”

Williams was offered and accepted the position at Marshall. The two would remain friends until Mead passed away Feb. 8, 2014, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., following a brief illness. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Joan Tyler Mead, retired dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Marshall.

According to his obituary, Mead was a demanding and inspiring professor whose loyal and close-knit students could be spotted wearing their red socks at concerts.

Marshall University plans to establish a Mead Scholarship for Music in Mead’s memory.

Featuring about 30 trombones, the performance will be under the direction of current low brass professor Dr. Michael Stroeher. Those interested in performing at “Red Socks and Low Brass: A Tribute to John Mead,” can contact Stroeher by phone at 304-696-3109 or by e-mailing stroehrer@marshall.edu.

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Application process begins for Summer Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waivers

Applications are now being accepted for the Marshall University Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waiver program for the summer 2014 terms, according to Dr. David Pittenger, dean of the Graduate College. The program provides tuition assistance for a limited number of Marshall graduate students and Marshall full-time faculty and staff employees.

Applicants must be currently admitted and enrolled in a graduate degree-granting or certificate program at Marshall University. Up to three hours of waiver for graduate coursework will be awarded to qualified applicants. The waiver does not cover online courses.

The awarding of waivers is competitive and is made on the basis of academic achievement and promise, Pittenger said. Students are eligible for one award in three consecutive semesters (i.e., a student who receives an award in summer 2014 is not eligible for another award until summer 2015; a student who receives an award in fall 2014 is not eligible for another award until fall 2015; a student who receives an award in spring 2015 is not eligible for another award until spring 2016). In addition, students are limited to a maximum of four awards beginning with the fall 2013 semester.

Deadline for the applications is Monday, April 21. Applicants who are awarded waivers will be notified by e-mail. Waivers are posted to student accounts within 10 business days of approval.
and registration. Award recipients are responsible for any amount not covered by the waiver and balances must be paid by the tuition/fee due date noted on the Bursar website at www.marshall.edu/bursar.

Applicants must be registered for graduate courses for summer by Friday, April 25, in order to receive a waiver. Pittenger said applicants are encouraged to register for classes at the same time they submit a waiver application. Waivers for students who are not registered by April 25 will be assigned to other qualified applicants.

Applications are available in the Graduate College office (Old Main 113), through a student’s academic department office on the South Charleston campus or online at www.marshall.edu/graduate/forms/tuitionwaiverapplication.pdf. Completed waiver applications may be mailed, emailed, faxed or submitted in person.

For complete information please see: www.marshall.edu/graduate/graduate-scholarship-tuition-waiver/ or contact the Graduate College office at ext.6-6606.

Marshall School of Medicine researchers and students present their findings at national orthopaedics meeting

Researchers with the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine presented their findings at the national Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) meeting in New Orleans earlier this month.

Dr. Maria A. Serrat, assistant professor in the department of anatomy at the school of medicine and a clinical assistant professor in the department of orthopaedics, presented her team’s research model on the effects of temperature on the acceleration of bone growth in mice.

“We developed a model to study how the application of heat on the body’s surface can stimulate bone elongation,” Serrat said. “By validating this model, we are looking at future possible clinical treatments to lengthen bones in children with growth issues or orthopaedic trauma using non-invasive methods.”

Serrat’s team includes Dr. Franklin D. Shuler, a professor in the department of orthopaedics, vice chair of research for the department of orthopaedics, and medical director for the Senior Fracture Program at Cabell Huntington Hospital. He says the opportunity to present on this national platform speaks highly of Marshall’s program.

“To have a podium presentation at this high-level meeting truly indicates that the faculty at Marshall are participating in leading-edge musculoskeletal research that has the capability of transforming patient care,” Shuler said.
Along with Serrat and Shuler, the following students participated in the research:

- Justin M. Godby, first-year medical student
- Thomas J. Schlierf, fourth-year medical student
- Laura M. Stanko, second-year medical student
- Holly L. Tamski, biomedical sciences doctoral student

Morgan L. Efaw, former biomedical sciences student at Marshall, also was a member of the team.

Also presenting a poster at the ORS meeting was third-year medical student Alexander H. Slocum Jr., Ph.D. who, along with collaborators from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, showcased their findings, “Enhancing Orthopaedic Joint Lubrication using Synovial Fluid Impregnated Super-Wetting Porous Coatings,” an investigation reviewing ways of improving the use of prosthetic implants.

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‘The Anonymous People’ to be shown April 3 at Marshall University


The film, which focuses on the 23.5 million Americans living in long-term recovery and the emerging public recovery movement, will be shown in Room BE-5 of the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 3.

According to a news release from the filmmakers, the film questions why the United States has criminalized and too often given superficial treatment to a chronic illness – addiction. As a result, addiction now comes with an annual price tag of $350 billion. According to the filmmakers, the American approach has put most of the burden of long-term addiction treatment on anonymous, free, 12-step programs. The culture of anonymity in these programs has protected individuals from stigma, but also has unintentionally perpetuated false perceptions of people with addiction, as the public doesn’t often glimpse the multitude of people living in recovery all around them.

“This film is not your tired old addiction story often seen on reality television or in the news,” film producer Greg Williams said. “There are no needles hanging out of people’s arms, pictures of the brain or fried eggs in a pan. We set out to find the answer to one very fundamental question: Why don’t we treat addiction in this country like any other health issue?”
“The Anonymous People” also shines a light on prominent people who are not very anonymous and are living publicly as people in long-term recovery themselves: award winning actress Kristen Johnston, former NBA star Chris Herren, former Miss USA Tara Conner, former congressman Patrick Kennedy, veteran news anchor Laurie Dhue and many others. They have chosen to “come out” with their recovery in an effort to counter the existing public perception of other people just like them.

Representatives from many area advocacy and treatment programs will discuss the local recovery movement and treatment options.

The following sponsors will have representatives attending the film to answer questions:

1-800-GAMBLER, Rx Drug Abuse Solution, Prestera Center, The Healing Place, Marshall University Student Health Education Programs, HER Place, Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership, FIRST CHOICE Services and ATARI (Appalachian Technology Assisted Recovery Innovations).

Refreshments will be provided.

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Psychology department to offer group sessions for parents, couples

The psychology department is offering two support/therapy groups beginning this month.

One of the groups, which is for parents of school-aged children who have been diagnosed with a specific learning disability or Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), began Wednesday, March 18.

Sessions will be led by Higher Education for Learning Problems (H.E.L.P.) center staff members Elijah Wise, M.A., and Meg Stone, M.A., who will lead discussions on issues ranging from the basics of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), steps for pursuing and completing psycho-education testing, finding community resources and navigating the range of treatment options from behavior plans and medications.

The group is meeting once a week for eight weeks.

Another group, which is for couples, will focus on preventative strategies.

“We’re looking for couples who are taking the ‘next step’ in their relationship,” said Cory Wilks, one of the group leaders. “Whether you’re newly married or planning on getting married, newly moved in together or planning on moving in together, newly engaged or planning on being
engaged, or if you’re experiencing other types of ‘growing pains’ most relationships go through, this group can help with the adjustment.”

Kellee Boster, the other group leader, said, “Prevention is the best treatment, so by focusing on preventing problems from occurring in the first place, couples will be able to enjoy their relationships more rather than focusing on relationship problems.”

The scheduling of the once-a-week meetings will be determined based on the availability of those interested in joining. Those interested in participating should send an e-mail as soon as possible to wilksc@marshall.edu.

Countdown to Commencement attracts record 703 prospective graduates

The Countdown to Commencement, an annual two-day event designed to assist those participating in commencement, attracted a record number of tentative graduates to this year’s event, which took place March 11-12 in the Memorial Student Center.

Registrar Roberta Ferguson called this year’s Countdown to Commencement ceremony “our most successful event ever.” She said 395 tentative graduates attended the March 11 event, and 308 attended March 12, bringing the overall total to 703. Marshall has been conducting Countdown to Commencement since 2007.

“Graduation is the culmination of the efforts and sacrifices of our students and their families,” Ferguson said. “I am so thankful that we share a deep commitment to make commencement and related activities memorable for our graduates and their families.”

Marshall will have two commencement ceremonies on May 10. The associate and bachelor’s degree ceremony starts at 9 a.m., with the ceremony for master’s and doctoral degree candidates beginning at 2 p.m.

“We were pleased with the number of parents who attended with prospective graduates,” Ferguson said. “All in all, it was a highly successful event.”
Indoor Triathlon raises funds for foster kids through NECCO

The Recreation Center’s Indoor Triathlon held last month to benefit NECCO, a program that serves foster children in the Tri-State area, raised $2,000 for NECCO and $500 for Student Development at the Rec Center.

NECCO uses donations to provide children in the program with theme park tickets, gymnastic classes, sports equipment and other activities that grant normal childhood experiences. Student Development funds are used towards students interested in a future in the field of fitness and recreation.

The race brought in 127 participants and consisted of each competitor swimming 300 yards, biking eight miles on a spinning bike and running two miles on a treadmill. Overall winners of the triathlon were Kayla Edwards and Nick Nance.

“The money goes towards expenses that all kids incur such as baseball uniforms, prom gowns, summer camp fees, expensive birthday and Christmas presents,” said Stephanie Vlahos, race co-director and a NECCO employee. “Many of the foster kids come to NECCO with a plastic bag filled with their belongings. The state provides funding for necessities, but it doesn’t cover everything. This fund allows us to insure that foster kids are awarded the same privileges as all kids in the community.”

Chamber Choir returns from tour to perform in Huntington
March 30

Fresh off a seven-concert tour, the Marshall University Chamber Choir returns home for a one-time performance beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3000 Washington Blvd, in Huntington.

The free concert features the same compositions from the recent tour that spanned across West Virginia, Maryland, D.C. and Virginia in just five days. Under the direction of Dr. David Castleberry, College of Arts and Media associate dean and director of choral activities, this select ensemble will perform works from the past five centuries, with music from 16th century compositions by Monteverdi, Gibbons and Hassler, to a newly written work, “David’s Lamentations,” by student composer Sean Price.

“We intend for this concert to showcase music that appeals to all tastes,” said Castleberry.

The program’s centerpiece is by Benjamin Britten, a central figure of 20th century British classical music. Titled “Hymn to St. Cecilia,” the piece had special meaning for Britten and his
audience: Britten was born on St. Cecilia Day, a holiday of the Roman Catholic Church in honor of the patron saint of musicians.

Last fall, the music world celebrated the 100th anniversary of Britten’s birth, which Castleberry said motivated the choir to feature his work.

“‘Hymn to St. Cecilia’ presents demands that would challenge even the best professional choirs, but our singers have really risen to the task,” said Castleberry. “Our chorus enjoys the music and sings it with confidence and authority.”

The latter portion of the concert features a variety of American and international works, including folk song settings by Stephen Paulus and Aaron Copland.

The Chamber Choir has been heard on West Virginia Public Radio, West Virginia Public Television, CD recordings and in numerous tours, including a 2012 tour in France that featured a performance at Paris’ famed Notre-Dame Cathedral.

For more information about the Marshall University Chamber Choir, visit www.marshall.edu/somt or e-mail Castleberry at castlebe@marshall.edu.

Eleventh annual Empty Bowls event to feature 1,500 bowls

The 11th annual Empty Bowls, a fundraiser that benefits the Huntington Area Food Bank, is set for Friday, April 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church at 1015 5th Ave., Huntington.

Marshall University ceramics students have made almost 1,200 bowls for Empty Bowls 2014, according to Frederick Bartolovic, ceramics faculty member. Additionally, area potters will provide an estimated 300 bowls.

For $15, guests of the event will have the opportunity to receive a handmade ceramic bowl and a modest soup lunch meant to serve as a reminder of those in our area who go hungry. In addition, guests may purchase up to 7 additional bowls as available. All proceeds from the event will go to the food bank.

Several hundred bowls will be released at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. to try to ensure that everyone will have the opportunity to get one. Bowls at events past have sold out in as little as 75 minutes.
Erin Highlander, director of development for the food bank, said she has high expectations for this year’s event.

“We can provide more than 100 meals for each bowl sold this year,” Highlander said. “That means a lot to the 113,500 food-insecure individuals in our community.”

B’nai Sholom Congregation, Christian Associates and Marshall University ceramic students work together to host the event. The cooperative effort is designed to raise awareness of the hunger issue in the Tri-State region.

The Huntington Area Food Bank is a non-profit organization that serves as the hub in a network of food donors and 200 organizations that serve hungry people in 17 counties in western West Virginia, eastern Kentucky and southeastern Ohio. HAFB provides goods to food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, senior citizen programs, veterans’ programs and residential programs that directly serve the needs of hungry people.

For more information about Empty Bowls, visit www.marshall.edu/emptybowls or e-mail Beth Caruthers at beth.caruthers@marshall.edu.

The next issue of We Are…Marshall will be distributed April 2, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, March 31.