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Legendary journalist and talk show host Larry King will be live in Huntington as the Marshall Artists Series continues its 75th anniversary season with a unique performance at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 1, at the historic Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

Read more.

Marshall University Physicians & Surgeons announces promotions

University Physicians & Surgeons (UP&$) and Dr. Robert Nerhood, interim dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, have announced the promotions of several executive leaders. The promotions were effective Jan. 2.

At left, Beth "Buffy" Hammers was promoted to Executive Director.

Read about additional promotions at UP&$.

Scientist receives $60,000 grant to explore link between obesity and cancer
A Marshall University researcher has been awarded a one-year, $60,000 grant from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Foundation.

The grant to Dr. Travis Salisbury, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, will help further his work to better understand the connections between obesity and cancer.

Read more.

Art faculty members’ work on display in ‘OH + 5’

Two members of the Department of Art and Design have been chosen to show their work in an art exhibition in Ohio.

Daniel Kaufmann and Frederick Bartolovic, both assistant professors, are represented in the Dairy Barn Arts Center’s OH + 5 exhibition in Athens, Ohio.

Read more.

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Read more.

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BrickStreet Mutual Insurance Company recently announced a $300,000 gift to Marshall University to benefit MU’s Vision Campaign, Bucks for Brains program, Honors College and Safety Technology program.

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Read more.
Radiology Inc. gift to establish scholarship at med school

Radiology Inc., a Huntington physician group, has pledged a total of $24,000 toward the establishment of a scholarship at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

The gift will be given in increments of $6,000 annually for four years. One entering first-year medical school student who has a demonstrated financial need will be awarded the scholarship, which will be renewed based on continued need and academic performance.

Read more.

Marshall University School of Medicine provides specialty care in Mingo County

Marshall University School of Medicine physicians will begin providing specialty health care later this week at the Larry Joe Harless Community and Health Center in Gilbert as part of a state-wide initiative to deliver health care to the most rural parts of West Virginia.

Dr. Melissa Lester, an interventional cardiologist, is scheduled to begin seeing patients Friday, Feb. 24. Interventional cardiology applies non-surgical techniques to diagnose and treat certain conditions that affect the heart.

Read more.

Newsletter Contest: Where's This?
One winner will be drawn from the correct answers to the question of where or what is in this Marshall-related photograph.

Marshall students, faculty, staff and alumni are eligible.

Send your entries to weargreen@marshall.edu. Entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28. Entries must have the answer and the entering person’s name, affiliation (to Marshall), phone number and mailing address.

*Click to view larger version of the contest photo.*

Win two "We Are . . . Marshall" Kelly green shirts!

Mr. and Ms. Marshall are shown in the Kelly green shirts that will be given to one lucky winner.

**Marshall staff making its dollar HERD through Family Campaign**

The Marshall University Family Campaign has surpassed the halfway mark of its $100,000 goal by raising $72,000 with fewer than six months left in the campaign.

“Employees can support the area of their choice,” said Christine Anderson, assistant vice president for development. “From helping students to caring for our beautiful Huntington campus, each gift makes a difference.”

*Read more.*

**SURE application process under way**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Summer Undergraduate Research Program. This program has been conducted at Marshall since 2005, and is funded through the West Virginia Higher Education Fund.
Experience (SURE) Fellowship.

Virginia Challenge Fund, administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Division of Science and Research.

Read more.

Other Coming Events

Noon social to kick off Women's History Month

The Women's Studies program is inviting everyone to a social at noon on Friday, Feb. 24 in the Shawkey Dining Room to celebrate the kickoff of Women's History Month 2012.

Read more.

Annual Soul Food Feast is Sunday, Feb. 26, at Marshall

The annual Soul Food Feast, a gathering to socialize and experience the soulful taste of traditional African American foods prepared by local chefs, takes place Sunday, Feb. 26, beginning at 2 p.m. in the John Marshall Dining Room on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center, according to Maurice Cooley, director of the Center for African American Students' Programs.

Read more.

Theatre Alliance production of 'Proof' continues this week

The last three performances of David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Proof, will be presented by Marshall Theatre Alliance on February 23-25th at 8 p.m. in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Read more.

BRAIN STORM! features African American trivia

BRAIN STORM!, a team trivia game show based entirely on African American trivia, coming to the Huntington campus Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The production, presented to Marshall by Simplified Entertainment of New York, begins at 7 p.m. in room BE5 of the Memorial Student Center.

Read more.

REMINDER: Cleopatra latest subject for Body Shots presentation at Marshall

Body Shots VI: Cleopatra will be presented at the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre located inside the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1.

Read full article from last issue.

Faculty Achievement

Dr. Suzie Konz, Assistant professor of Kinesiology, was invited to work the NFL combines as an Athletic Trainer at...
Biomechanist.

Read more.

Area high school seniors and juniors at Marshall for Engineering Career Day

The Huntington post of the Society of America Military Engineers will host Engineering Career Day (ECD) for approximately 140 high school seniors and juniors from the tri-state area on Thursday, Feb. 23, on the Huntington campus. ECD also will attract about 100 teachers, industry leaders, engineering professionals and military officers. Congressman Nick J. Rahall, D-W.Va., will give the keynote speech during lunch, which begins at noon.

Profile: Le'Kesha Glover

- a series on interesting Marshall University people

She's a bubbly optimist, a one-woman cheering squad for the work she loves. She's intent on making a difference in the live of the students—her big kids, as she affectionately calls them—who live in the campus residence halls.

Le'Kesha Glover's current title is Associate Director of Residence Life, but name any position in that department and she’s filled it at one time or another.

Read more.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed March 7, 2012. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by March 5.

This newsletter also may be read online at www.marshall.edu/ucomm/Newsletters/2012/nl_022212.html

Unauthorized mass e-mail is a violation of the University Acceptable Use Policy. This e-mail has been forwarded at the request of University Communications, 304-746-1971.
Larry King to appear in Huntington March 1

Described as the “Muhammad Ali of the broadcast interview,” Larry King has recorded some 50,000 interviews throughout his half century in broadcasting, including exclusive sit-downs with every U.S. president since Gerald Ford. Although the CNN anchor hung up his nightly suspenders in December 2010 – ending “Larry King Live,” after 25 years – that journalistic fire has not died out.

Now the legendary journalist and talk show host will be live in Huntington as the Marshall Artists Series continues its 75th anniversary season with a unique performance at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 1, at the historic Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

Spiced with comedy and clips from his 25-year-run on CNN, the “Larry King: Standing Up” tour will be his first stage performances since completing “Larry King Live.” The Huntington date is one of only 12 dates in the U.S. and Canada and also includes such large cities as Baltimore, Md., Tucson, Az., and Vancouver, B.C.

At the end of the night, audience members will get the rare opportunity to turn the tables and have their very own Q&A session with King, who has been dubbed “the most remarkable talk-show host on TV ever” by TV Guide.

In addition to his journalistic pursuits, King has also made cameo appearances in more than 20 movies, including “Ghostbusters,” “Primary Colors,” “America’s Sweethearts” “Shrek 2” and the 2004 remake of “The Stepford Wives.” King has appeared in television series such as “Law and Order,” “Boston Legal,” “The Practice,” “Murphy Brown” and “Frasier.”

In 1988 King founded the Larry King Cardiac Foundation, which has raised more than $15 million and provided life-saving cardiac procedures for more than 1500 people and provided 100,000 heart screenings for needy children and adults. King also established a $1 million Journalism scholarship at George Washington University’s School of Media and Public Affairs for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Tickets can be purchased at the Artists Series box office located in the Joan C. Edwards performing Arts Center. Box office hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For ticket information, call ext. 5-6656.
Marshall University Physicians & Surgeons announces promotions

University Physicians & Surgeons (UP&S) and Dr. Robert Netrow, interim dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, have announced the promotions of several executive leaders. The promotions were effective Jan. 2.

- Beth "Buffy" Hammers, Executive Director. Hammers has more than 20 years of experience with UP&S, having held numerous positions from graduate student to director of compliance & risk management and chief operating officer. She is a two-time Marshall University graduate, having completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. As executive director Hammers will serve as the chief administrative officer for both the School of Medicine and UP&S. The following members of the executive team will assist her:
  - Joshua Dorsey, Chief Operating Officer. Dorsey most recently served as department administrator for Orthopaedics. He has a bachelor's degree in Health Services Management from the University of Kentucky and a master's in Health Administration from the Ohio State University. As chief operating officer, Dorsey will manage daily operations of UP&S and the School of Medicine including all facilities, clinic operations, human resources, purchasing and related operational functions.
  - Michael McCarthy, Chief Information Officer. McCarthy will continue in his role as CIO for both the School of Medicine and UP&S, coordinating all information technology support, including network and communications support systems and hardware and software applications support. McCarthy is a 20-plus-year veteran with Marshall and is a two-time Marshall graduate with both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. He was a Yeager Scholar as an undergraduate.
  - John M. "Matt" Straub, Chief Financial Officer. Straub most recently served as director of patient accounting and revenue management and as surgery department administrator. He holds two degrees from Marshall University, both a bachelor's and a master's in business administration. He also is a certified public accountant. Straub will lead the financial accounting, reporting, budgeting and all associated activities for both the School of Medicine and UP&S.

University Physicians and Surgeons is a multi-specialty group practice with more than 200 medical providers. With more than a dozen facilities, including the Marshall University Medical Center on the campus of Cabell Huntington Hospital, the physicians and staff of UP&S are committed to excellence — excellence in medical education and excellence in patient care.
Scientist receives $60,000 grant to explore link between obesity and cancer

A Marshall University researcher has been awarded a one-year, $60,000 grant from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Foundation. The grant to Dr. Travis Salisbury, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, will help further his work to better understand the connections between obesity and cancer.

According to Salisbury, epidemiological reports have shown that obesity increases human risk for several types of cancers but scientists are not really sure why. His lab is exploring one possibility.

“Our data shows that adipocytes, or fat cells, secrete factors that stimulate human breast cancer cells to grow rapidly,” said Salisbury. “We have discovered that blocking the activity of a specific receptor—the aryl hydrocarbon receptor or AHR—in the cancer cells reduces their capacity for growth in an adipocyte-rich environment.”

He said the study funded through the grant will focus on this link between adipocyte-supported cancer growth and the AHR.

“For several decades, AHR has been studied for its roles in toxicology; however, our recent work suggests that this receptor could be a new therapeutic target for treating cancer in the context of obesity,” he said. “It is quite exciting to think that our findings will provide not only a better understanding of the relationship between obesity and increased cancer risk, but may also suggest future treatments for cancer.”

For more information, contact Salisbury at salisburyt@marshall.edu or ext.6-7314.
Art faculty members' work on display in 'OH + 5'

Two members of the Department of Art and Design have been chosen to show their work in an art exhibition in Ohio.

Daniel Kaufmann and Frederick Bartolovic, both assistant professors, are represented in the Dairy Barn Arts Center's OH + 5 exhibition in Athens, Ohio.

"As an artist, I think it is important to stay active and show your work as much as possible," Kaufmann said.

Bartolovic said since he just started teaching at Marshall last fall, he had been trying to find more places to exhibit his work.

"I have been trying to find the more prestigious venues locally to exhibit and sell my artwork," Bartolovic said. "The Dairy Barn is definitely one of them, hosting juried shows regularly for all different kinds of work."

According to the show's website, OH + 5 is a biennial juried art exhibition that includes all art media. It features artists from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Bartolovic said there were about 250 entries submitted to the show, and only 63 pieces were accepted. There were three people on the jury panel.

"The piece I submitted was a piece titled 'Divided,' created in 2010," Bartolovic said. "It is a sculptural wall hanging from a series of work which attempts to visually discuss ideas of order versus chaos. In this particular piece, chaos seems to be crowding in on order and structure."

Kaufmann said he presented a series of photographs that document the Superfund site around West Virginia.

"I am very happy to be part of the exhibition," Kaufmann said. "The show as a whole showed a wide range of very strong and interesting work."

The exhibit started Jan. 13 and ends March 10.

Photo: "Divided," by Frederick Bartolovic, is on display in the OH + 5 exhibition in Athens, Ohio.
Cancer researchers to lead sessions at upcoming biosciences conferences

Marshall University cancer researchers Dr. Pier Paolo Claudio and Dr. Piyali Dasgupta were invited to lead sessions at two international conferences.

Claudio, who is an associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, led a session, "Cancer Biology and Therapy," as part of the World Molecular & Cell Biology Online Conference, which took place Feb. 16 through 18.

The conference featured more than 60 professors and researchers giving oral presentations during 14 sessions spread over three days.

Claudio, who directs a laboratory in the new Charles H. McKown, M.D., Translational Genomic Research Institute at the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, also gave a talk, "Developing an Effective Targeted Gene Therapy System for Prostate Cancer with the Potential to Translate from the Laboratory to the Clinic," during the program.

Research in Claudio’s lab focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms governing the development of cancers to help develop new strategies for treatment.

Dasgupta, an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology, will co-chair a minisymposium titled “Modeling Cancer: Biological and Therapeutic Implications” at the Experimental Biology Conference to be held in San Diego in April.

The annual conference draws more than 14,000 scientists and exhibitors from universities, government agencies, private corporations and non-profit organizations.

Dasgupta’s research examines how the components of tobacco can promote the progression of lung cancer. In 2011, she was recognized with the university’s “John and Frances Rucker Graduate Advisor Award.”
BrickStreet Insurance announces gift of $300,000 to Marshall University

BrickStreet Mutual Insurance Company recently announced a $300,000 gift to Marshall University to benefit MU's Vision Campaign, Bucks for Brains program, Honors College and Safety Technology program.

The announcement came Wednesday, Jan. 18, during a check presentation in the Charleston office of Greg Burton, president and CEO of BrickStreet.

"BrickStreet is proud to support the quality programs offered by Marshall University," Burton said. "Many of our employees are graduates of Marshall and we are passionate about supporting our local community. Our donation will be used to help fund the Vision Campaign, Bucks for Brains, the Honors College and safety technology Initiatives. These programs are designed to help students succeed and excel in their academic careers. This in turn helps Marshall University prepare the next generation of West Virginia's leaders. BrickStreet is honored to be part of preparing the leaders of tomorrow."

"We deeply appreciate BrickStreet and their generous contribution to Marshall University," said Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp. "This latest gift provides support for both academics and athletics, as well as endowment-based research at Marshall (the Bucks for Brains program). We proudly recognize the importance of our partnership with BrickStreet, and gratefully acknowledge the difference they are making at Marshall toward helping us fulfill the promise of a better future."

Burton said the safety technology initiatives are very important to BrickStreet and its policyholders.

"We are committed to supporting new technologies that will make our workforce safer," Burton said. "Employees are the foundation of the businesses that BrickStreet represents, so sponsoring programs that help keep them safe is a natural tie-in for us."

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Photo: From left, Lance West, Vice President for Development at Marshall University; Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation; Greg Burton, president and CEO of BrickStreet Mutual Insurance; Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp, and David Casto, BrickStreet business director, display an oversized check for $300,000 presented by BrickStreet to the Marshall University Foundation Jan. 18 in the BrickStreet office in Charleston.
Radiology Inc. gift to establish scholarship at med school

Radiology Inc., a Huntington physician group, has pledged a total of $24,000 toward the establishment of a scholarship at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

The gift will be given in increments of $6,000 annually for four years. One entering first-year medical school student who has a demonstrated financial need will be awarded the scholarship, which will be renewed based on continued need and academic performance.

"Radiology Inc. is pleased to expand its support of the School of Medicine and its students through this scholarship," said Dr. Peter Chirico, Vice President of Radiology Inc. and chairman of the SOM's Department of Radiology.

Linda Holmes, the medical school's director of development and alumni affairs, praised Dr. Chirico and his group for their commitment to medical education at Marshall University.

"The importance of scholarship support from partners like Radiology Inc. is essential for our medical students," Holmes said. "We are very appreciative of their generous gift and past support."

The scholarship will be awarded beginning Fall 2012.

For more information, contact Linda Holmes at (304) 691-1711.
Marshall University School of Medicine provides specialty care in Mingo County

Marshall University School of Medicine physicians will begin providing specialty health care later this week at the Larry Joe Harless Community and Health Center in Gilbert as part of a state-wide initiative to deliver health care to the most rural parts of West Virginia.

Dr. Melissa Lester, an interventional cardiologist, is scheduled to begin seeing patients Friday, Feb. 24. Interventional cardiology applies non-surgical techniques to diagnose and treat certain conditions that affect the heart.

Lester is a southern West Virginia native who graduated from the Pikeville School of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed an Internal medicine residency at Charleston Area Medical Center followed by a cardiology fellowship at Marshall and also an interventional cardiology fellowship at the University of Louisville.

In addition to Lester’s monthly visits, the School of Medicine will also send an endocrinologist every month. Endocrinologists are specialists in the treatment of diseases like diabetes as well as gland issues including the thyroid.

“We are such a rural community and it’s difficult for our residents, particularly our elderly, to get to the larger cities to see a specialist,” said Cheryl Mitchem, executive director of the Harless Center. “This is an exciting time for our center and our region.”

The Harless Health Center is a collaborative partnership that includes West Virginia University School of Medicine, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Marshall University School of Medicine, the town of Gilbert, and the Harless Center to provide health services to the region.

“The School of Medicine at Marshall University is committed to providing health care in the most rural areas of our state. It’s part of our mission,” said Jennifer Plymale, Director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health. “In addition to the medical care we will be providing area residents, this location will also provide an opportunity for our Internal medicine residents to experience rural medicine.”

The U.S. Department of Health Resources and Service Administration awarded the center nearly $3 million in 2010 to help renovate the community center to create the health care clinic. The funding request was spearheaded by the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd.
Marshall staff making its dollar HERD through Family Campaign

The Marshall University Family Campaign has surpassed the halfway mark of its $100,000 goal by raising $72,000 with fewer than six months left in the campaign.

"Employees can support the area of their choice," said Christine Anderson, assistant vice president for development. "From helping students to caring for our beautiful Huntington campus, each gift makes a difference."

The Marshall University Foundation Inc., which is the fundraising arm for the university, currently has 75 percent of its own employees who are donors to the family campaign.

"Each gift reflects a sincere belief in the work being done at Marshall. It's a vote of confidence in the university and its future," Anderson said.

All gifts are tax deductible as permitted by law and also qualify a donor for the benefits of the Marshall University Alumni Association.

For more information, visit http://www.marshall.edu/foundation/family.php, call ext.6-6214, or contact Tracy Straub, program director, scholarships and donor relations, in the office of development by phone at ext.6-6781 or by e-mail at StraubT@marshall.edu.
SURE application process under way

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Fellowship. This program has been conducted at Marshall since 2005, and is funded through the West Virginia Challenge Fund, administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Division of Science and Research. The SURE program is designed specifically to enable West Virginia undergraduate students with a history of research to work at Marshall. Each student will receive a stipend of $4,000 plus support for travel.

SURE supports undergraduate researchers over a 10-week period. This year's program runs from May 14 through July 27. The SURE program is now accepting applications through February 24 at 5 p.m. Application forms are available at the SURE website: www.marshall.edu/SURE.

"Anyone who is a students' projects are available on the SURE Web site.

For additional information, contact Norton ext. 6-6627, or by e-mail at Norton@Marshall.edu. Detailed summaries of past SURE students' projects are available on the SURE Web site.
Noon social to kick off Women's History Month

The Women's Studies program is inviting everyone to a social at noon on Friday, Feb. 24, in the Shawkey dining hall to celebrate the kickoff of Women's History Month 2012.

Dr. Greta Rensenbrink, director of Women's Studies and an associate professor of History, will discuss future events and the Women's Studies program. "This is an opportunity to learn about upcoming events that will be honoring women over the decades," she said.

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served during the social. For more information about Women's History Month or the Women's Studies Program, call ext. 5-2955.
Theatre Alliance production of ‘Proof’ continues this week

The last three performances of David Auburn’s Pulitzer prize-winning play, Proof, will be presented by Marshall Theatre Alliance on February 23-25th at 8 p.m. in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

As the drama unfolds, the discovery of a groundbreaking mathematical formula sets off a compelling mystery about the line between genius and mental illness. Dutiful daughter Catherine has sacrificed her education in order to care for her aging father, a brilliant but unstable mathematician. Gifted and highly emotional, the arrival of an unexpected visitor forces her to confront a troubling question: how much of her father’s madness or genius will she inherit?

The play does contain adult language.

Tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for Marshall faculty/staff and seniors. Marshall students are admitted with a valid I.D. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at ext. 6-2787 Monday-Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.
Annual Soul Food Feast is Sunday, Feb. 26, at Marshall

The annual Soul Food Feast, a gathering to socialize and experience the soulful taste of traditional African American foods prepared by local chefs, takes place Sunday, Feb. 26, beginning at 2 p.m. in the John Marshall Dining Room on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center, according to Maurice Cooley, director of the Center for African American Students' Programs.

"It is a joyful time to celebrate the spirit of love while enjoying the company and conversation with family, friends, faculty, students and others from throughout the community, enhanced by some of the most appetizing and traditional African American dishes," Cooley said.

The buffet will include chitterlings, crispy fried chicken, barbequed ribs, macaroni and cheese, collard greens, candied yams, potato salad, beverages and an assortment of tasty desserts.

Tickets for the event, which is open to the public, are $12 for adults and $6 for students of all ages. Tickets are available at the door, but also may be purchased in advance at the Center's office, which is located in room 1W25 in the Memorial Student Center.

For more information, contact the Center for African American Students' Programs at ext. 6-6705 or Cooley by e-mail at cooley@marshall.edu.
BRAIN STORM! game show features African American trivia

BRAIN STORM!, a team trivia game show based entirely on African American trivia, is coming to the Huntington campus Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The production, presented to Marshall by Simplified Entertainment of New York, begins at 7 p.m. in room BES of the Memorial Student Center. It is sponsored by Marshall's Center for African American Students' Programs and helps promote February as African American History Month.

During the trivia game show, the entire audience plays at the same time. A 10-foot video screen displays the questions for all to see. A flashy stage display with an energetic host keeps the action going while the audience uses remote control handsets.

Participants "brainstorm" it out for the best answer. Categories include politics, medicine, drama, television, music, sports and others. Students and community groups are encouraged to form their own teams of four to eight participants.

Church groups, friendship groups, clubs, fraternities, sororities, class groups, student organizations and residence halls are examples of possible participants. It is free to play, and the winning teams receive cash prizes.

For more information, persons visit the Center for African American Students' Programs in room 1W25 of the Memorial Student Center or call Director Maurice Cooley at 304-696-5430.
Faculty Achievement

Dr. Suzie Konz, Assistant professor of Kinesiology, was invited to work the NFL combines as an Athletic Trainer and Biomechanist. Her specialized training in sports medicine and biomechanics has made her a highly sought after professional in the world of sport. She also is a consulting biomechanist for the USA Track and Field Hammer Throw and Big Ten Softball. This latest invitation to assist with isokinetic testing at the NFL combines makes her among the few women in NFL ranks.
Area high school seniors and juniors at Marshall for Engineering Career Day

The Huntington post of the Society of American Military Engineers will host Engineering Career Day (ECD) for approximately 140 high school seniors and juniors from the tri-state area on Thursday, Feb. 23, on the Huntington campus.

ECD also will attract about 100 teachers, industry leaders, engineering professionals and military officers. Congressman Nick J. Rahall, D-W.Va., will give the keynote speech during lunch, which begins at noon.

Dr. Jeff Huffman, an assistant professor of engineering and faculty adviser for the student chapter of SAME-ASCE (a dual chapter involved with both the Society of American Military Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers), said a select audience of students will attend the event. "This a great opportunity for high school students to learn about careers in engineering and Marshall University's engineering program," Huffman said.

ECD is part of National Engineers Week, which takes place Feb. 19-25. All ECD events will the Memorial Student Center.
Profile: Le'Kesha Glover

She’s a bubbly optimist, a one-woman cheering squad for the work she loves. She’s intent on making a difference in the lives of the students—her big kids, as she affectionately calls them—who live in the campus residence halls.

Le'Kesha Glover’s current title is Associate Director of Residence Life, but name any position in that department and she’s filled it at one time or another, literally starting on the ground floor and working her way up. Residence Life has been the focus of her entire professional career, one that began in 1998 when, looking for a way to earn extra money, she took a job with the student security program working the front desk, checking people in and out of the building. “I really liked being on the desk. You get to meet people who are coming and going and the staff as well. I gave it a try and then doors opened at the right time to work my way up.”

The rest is history. In the years that followed, she was both a student security supervisor and coordinator, resident advisor, (and for a mere three weeks, resident director—she was quickly promoted into another position), Residence Life Specialist, Interim Supervisor for residence halls, Assistant Director of Residence Life. Last fall, her position was renamed to Associate Director of Residence Life. All the while, she was completing two Marshall degrees, a B.A in Elementary Education and a M.A. in Secondary Education. In short, she came to Residence Life as a fluke and never left.

“Residence Life is a lifestyle more than a job,” she maintains. “It entails so much, it’s like thinking about your own life; it isn’t made up of just one thing ... The most important, of course, are the residents, because we interact with them every day. There is such a broad spectrum of things that affect their lives while living on campus. Most Important, of course, is security. That’s our goal, making sure students are safe. Then there are the living environment in terms of what the rooms and the buildings look like; the academic side, making sure they are doing well since they are here to get an education; the social aspects, getting them to interact with others; and the diversity of experiences they may not have in the classroom. We work with the whole person socially, emotionally, academically. Anything that person might need while they’re on campus, that’s what we’re here to provide.”

There are 10 residence halls on campus— they’re no longer called dorms— and eight of them are under her direct supervision. She collaborates with the First Year Residence Hall staff for the other two. And when you work in Housing and Residence Life you live by semesters, not seasons, years or months, Glover points out. “I live by spring, summer and fall semesters. That makes the year go by so quickly. I have to work my personal life around my work calendar.”

Glover is part of an expansive family that cherishes family traditions and time spent together. Her parents, Lisa Taylor...
and Billy Glover, and two brothers live in Parkersburg where her mother is associate pastor of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, while her sisters live in Florida. There are enough spouses, nieces and nephews to now number 25 when the family sits for their traditional Christmas photo.

“We get together during major holidays and there are lots of traditions we keep. We stay in close touch though we’re scattered now,” she says. “We’re all avid football fans and although we follow different teams, it brings together, I love the Marshall teams and support them whether they win or lose. I value family; we support one another. I’m hoping to make it to my father’s annual family reunion which will be in Baltimore this year.”

And she’s hoping to take another cruise, although she admits that initially she was a reluctant sailor. “I like to travel and I’ve found that now I love cruises, but at first I was apprehensive about going until friends talked me into it,” she explains. “I don’t seek out adventure but once it’s presented to me I can be easily convinced. I’m always a little apprehensive about trying new things, whether it be travel to new places or trying a new food, but once I do it I normally enjoy it and want to do it all the time. Friends pushed me to get outside my comfort zone and get into the Caribbean water and that was a scary but rewarding step for me. I loved exploring a different culture, meeting the island residents, trying new foods. Now I’m trying to make time to take another cruise.”

And closer to home, there’s her own cherished family. She’s a doting pet parent to the lively Lab mix Nola and playful cat Khloe. Right now they’re sharing their home with Cleo, a teacup Yorkie that’s she’s keeping for a friend. And once or twice a week she works at Lane Bryant, “That’s to feed my shopping habit,” she laughs.

Sometimes people ask if she’s ever regretted not going into teaching, a field for which she was trained and in which she has two degrees. (Actually she loved teaching and was so good at it she was named the Student Teacher of the Year when she did her student teaching at Spring Hill Elementary School in Huntington and Milton Middle School.) She has a simple explanation. “I loved every moment I spent in the classroom and every moment working with students. But I feel I’m doing the same thing now but with bigger kids. I am just teaching in a bigger classroom with bigger kids. Not a day goes by that I don’t ask myself if I’ve made a difference. Everybody has moments when they second-guess themselves about whether they’ve made the right decision. But when I see someone leave a hall and they’re successful, I feel I might have had a little piece of doing that. I might not have done anything personally but I was in charge of others whom had influence on them. And some of the residents keep in touch. That means a lot to us.”

Right now, part of her considerable energy is focused on the upcoming Women of Color luncheon March 6 and she positively brims with enthusiasm while talking about it. She’s a member of the planning committee and they’re all excited about the event. “Our goal is to explore the achievements of women of color and to make people aware in both the Marshall and Huntington communities of what women of color are doing for women, students and people in general. I consider myself to be a very positive person and this program I feel it’s a way to celebrate the lives of women who provide positive experiences and the actions of women who are making a difference. We will have a keynote speaker and we want to charge all those in attendance to make a difference as well. We don’t want it to be just a one-day celebration. It should be something we all commit to do every single day, making a difference in the lives of people we encounter. If we charge one person to do that and they inspire someone else, this creates a positive environment for our young women, actually people, to look up to.”

Overall, Glover says, “I have one of the most rewarding jobs on the college campus. I get to challenge students academically, help them develop socially … and I enjoy working with my student and professional staff. I never realized how much the RA and RD positions were preparing me for my future. These job really lend themselves to so many career paths … they can work for anybody. I always encourage students to give them a try. It’s where I found my fit.”

She’s reflective about the people in her life, and it’s important to her that she keeps up relationships with family, friends and coworkers. And her passion for her job, which she considers a perfect fit, hasn’t gone unnoticed. In 2007 she received yet another accolade when she was named MU’s Employee of the Month. “I’ve been truly blessed with being here and by the people in my life, especially my mother, who is my role model. I have a very full life. I feel … my job is not so much a job but rather an extension of my life. Not a lot of people can say that. I get paid to live my life.”