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We Are...Marshall, November 9, 2011

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Former Young Thundering Herd star Rick Meckstroth to speak at memorial service honoring 1970 plane crash victims

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The service, conducted by the Student Government Association, starts at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 14, on the Memorial Student Center plaza. The public is invited to attend.

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Marshall University and Enterprise Rent-A-Car kicked off the WeCar program on the Huntington campus Oct. 31.

WeCar by Enterprise is a membership-based, automated car rental option that offers a sustainable and efficient transportation alternative to the Marshall community. Registered members have access to two vehicles.

President Kopp shows off one of the Marshall WeCars, a Ford Fiesta.
Closing ceremony for United Way drive set for Nov. 11

United Way of the River Cities

The 2011 United Way MU Campus Campaign is nearing completion—running through Friday, Nov. 11—but there is still time to make donations and pledges.

On Friday, a closing ceremony will take place in the MSC Lobby from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At that time raffle winners will be selected for a customized Xbox 360 with Kinect along with a crystal buffalo sculpture. In addition, the winners of a pair of MU men’s basketball season tickets and the residence hall fundraising champions will be announced.

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Marshall kicks off International Education Week Sunday, Nov. 13, with the 48th annual International Festival in the Memorial Student Center’s Don Morris Room.

The theme of this year’s International Festival, which takes place from 3 to 6 p.m., is “Living in a Global Society,” which emphasizes the pressing need for universities in the United States to prepare their students to live and work in a globalized environment.

First Honors College da Vinci Faculty Fellows named

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Da Vinci Fellows are Marshall faculty who will teach one course a semester for the Honors College.

Marshall physics professor receives NASA EPSCoR award of nearly $479,000

Physics professor Dr. Thomas Wilson has been awarded $478,709 to conduct research to help improve the propulsion systems NASA uses for deep-space missions.

The three-year award was one of 28 made nationally this summer through the NASA EPSCoR program.
Marshall University gets federal funds to develop Virtual Mine Safety Training Academy

Work is under way to develop a Virtual Mine Safety Training Academy at Marshall University as a result of a $117,000 award from the Brookwood-Sago federal grant program.

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Other Coming Events

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To bring awareness to this issue, CONTACT, in cooperation with the Marshall University Women's Center and the Department of Art and Design, is hosting Unheard Voices, an Interactive art exhibit featuring 20 handcrafted portrait castings and viewer-activated oral histories of people who have experienced sexual assault.

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Last spring, Marshall University's College of Fine Arts (COFA), led by three dedicated students, was able to collect more than 150 laundry baskets filled with essential items for victims of domestic violence - requiring a U-Haul truck for delivery. This year, they hope to surpass that number.

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, they will once again collect donated baskets on Marshall's Huntington campus.

Classified Staff Council to hold elections Dec. 13-14; nominations due Nov. 29

The Classified Staff Council will hold an election Dec. 13-14 to fill two vacancies in the EEO Group 50 - Clerical EEO groups and one vacancy in EEO group 30-Other Professionals. The three staff members elected will finish the remainder of the current term, which ends June 30, 2013.

Marines can earn Master of Arts in Leadership Studies at Marshall

Marshall University is partnering with the United States Marine Corps College of Distance Education and Training (CDET) in Quantico, Va., to provide active duty Marine Corps officers the opportunity to earn a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies.
Three from Marshall win awards in 2011 WV Juried Exhibition

Three artists with Marshall University connections - two faculty members and an M.A. graduate - were among those who won awards in the biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition this year, sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

Profile: Pam Holland

- a series on Interesting Marshall University people

Fortunately for the community and countless nonprofit groups and agencies, college students tend to be generous with their time, burgeoning academic expertise and creativity. And it is to tap into that vast well of talent and energy that Pam Holland, the Director of Clinical Education in the Department of Communication Disorders recently agreed to wear yet another hat, this time as the Director of the Service Learning Program, a program that pairs faculty and students in designated classes with community partners for earned academic credits.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Nov. 30, 2011. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by Nov. 28.
Former Young Thundering Herd star Rick Meckstroth to speak at memorial service honoring 1970 plane crash victims

Rick Meckstroth, a freshman member of Marshall’s 1970 football team and later a three-year starter for the Young Thundering Herd, will be the keynote speaker at the annual memorial service honoring the 75 victims of the 1970 Marshall plane crash.

The service, conducted by the Student Government Association, starts at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 14, on the Memorial Student Center plaza. The public is invited to attend.

The crash on Saturday, Nov. 14, 1970, occurred at about 7:47 p.m. when a DC-9 jetliner, returning Marshall home from its football game at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., clipped some treetops just short of Tri-State Airport and went down. Victims included Marshall football players, coaches, staff and supporters, along with the crew of five.

As a freshman, Meckstroth was ineligible to play for the varsity team in 1970. But he and his fellow freshmen did practice with the varsity squad.

“We lived on the same floor and we practiced with them every day throughout the season until the crash,” said Meckstroth, a native of Cincinnati. “I became very, very close to some of those guys.”

He became particularly close with four players from Cincinnati - Jack Repasy, Mark Andrews, Bob Harris and Felix Jordan. Repasy, Andrews and Harris died in the crash. Jordan missed the game because of an ankle injury.

“Some people still don’t know the magnitude of that tragedy,” Meckstroth said. “It still touches us. It touches all of us and it always will.”

Meckstroth started at linebacker from 1971 – 40 years ago – through 1973 for Coach Jack Lengyel’s Young Thundering Herd, and was named the team’s most valuable defensive player in 1973. He said he is looking forward to speaking at the memorial service, but admittedly is a little nervous.

“It’s emotional for me,” he said.

Meckstroth has remained in Huntington since earning degrees from Marshall in 1974 and 1978. He co-founded Master Mechanical Insulation, Inc., which he recently sold to Atlantic Plant Services Inc. He is still employed with Atlantic Plant Services.

Ray Harrell Jr., student body president, said it is important to remember the victims each year with the memorial service.

“It is an incredible honor to be charged with the planning of such a memorializing event,” Harrell said. “The 1970 plane crash is a tragic yet inevitable part of the history of our Marshall family, and I feel that our students share my sentiments of reverence for the occasion. It is of utmost importance that we continue to honor the victims and their families and I am hopeful that our annual ceremony continues to do so.”

In addition to Meckstroth and Harrell, other speakers invited to take part in the memorial service include Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, President Stephen J. Kopp and Athletic Director Mike Hamrick.

The service will conclude with the placing of the memorial wreath at the Memorial Fountain. The fountain will be silenced after the laying of the wreath, and remain silent until next spring.
Enterprise partners with Marshall University
to offer car sharing on Huntington campus

Marshall University and Enterprise Rent-A-Car kicked off the WeCar program on the Huntington campus Oct. 31.

WeCar by Enterprise is a membership-based, automated car rental option that offers a sustainable and efficient transportation alternative to the Marshall community. Registered members have access to two vehicles - a Nissan Altima Hybrid and a Ford Fiesta - which are parked near Marshall's Public Safety Building on 5th Avenue.

Matt Turner, MU's Chief of Staff, said participating in the WeCar program should help reduce the number of automobiles on campus while presenting students, faculty and staff with a simple, easy way to get where they need to go. He said Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp discovered the program and wanted to bring it to Marshall as a student service that also reduces the university's environmental footprint.

"The WeCar program gives our students the opportunity to travel off campus whenever they want, without relying on someone else to take them and without the high cost and hassle of keeping their own cars," Turner said. "These cars can be reserved for an hour, a day or even a weekend. Student groups can take advantage of WeCar, as can our International students. It's very convenient, it's inexpensive, it's easy and it always beats having to 'bum a ride.'"

Marshall students 18 and older, faculty and staff are eligible for membership. WeCar offers around-the-clock access to hourly, daily and overnight rentals, and allows members to maintain the benefits of a personal car while only paying for the vehicle when they use it.

The campus car-sharing program is especially popular with students because it provides a solution to car rental age restrictions and to financial concerns associated with having a car on campus.

Members reserve a vehicle online, then access the vehicle using a membership card and return it to the same location. Fuel and basic vehicle physical damage and state required liability protection are included in the standard rate plan.

"With WeCar, MU is providing a low-cost transportation opportunity to students, faculty and staff," said Ryan Johnson, assistant vice president, WeCar and Rideshare for Enterprise. "Our car-sharing program is a convenient, sustainable and totally automated solution to parking and transportation challenges at universities."

http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/Newsletters/2011/110911/nl_110911_2.html
WeCar programs are supported by the extensive Enterprise Rent-A-Car neighborhood network of more than 5,500 rental offices located within 15 miles of 90 percent of the U.S. population. It is a natural extension of the local car rental service Enterprise pioneered and continues to provide.

WeCar operates car-sharing programs on more than 40 college campuses throughout the United States and Canada, as well as corporate and municipal programs throughout the United States.

Marshall students, faculty and staff with a valid driver's license can sign up for the program at www.wecar.com/marshall.

Photos: (Above) Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp tries out one of the new vehicles to be used in the WeCar by Enterprise program. (Below) Marshall student Joshua Botkin, this year's Mr. Marshall, unlocks one of the university's WeCar automobiles using a card programmed with the information necessary to drive the car. Looking on are, from left, Student Body President Ray Harrell Jr., Jim Withers from Enterprise and Sharafina Azman Al Rashid, this year's Ms. Marshall. Photos by Rick Haye.

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Closing ceremony for United Way drive set for Nov. 11

The 2011 United Way MU Campus Campaign is nearing completion--running through Friday, Nov. 11--but there is still time to make donations and pledges.

On Friday, a closing ceremony will take place in the University Center MSC Lobby from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At that time raffle winners will be selected for a customized Xbox 360 with Kinect along with a crystal buffalo sculpture. In addition, the winners of a pair of MU men's basketball season tickets and the residence hall fundraising champions will be announced.

Raffle tickets for the Xbox and sculpture can still be purchased in the Student Affairs office on the Huntington campus. There will be an online auction for the 2011-2012 Men's Basketball season tickets.

Contributions will go to help the United Way of the River Cities and its funded partners to serve those in need in the community. Donations can be made on a one-time basis or through pledges. The pledge form, which is available online, should be completed and sent to the Bursar's Office at 101 Old Main.

"Economic difficulties have caused the ranks of the unemployed, the hungry, and homeless to swell," said Dr. Robert Bookwalter, dean of the College of Education and chair of this year's United Way committee. "Every contribution helps to make a real difference in the community."

Organizers are urging everyone to heed this year's slogan, "Be 1, Get 1" by being a donor and getting a friend to donate as well.

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International Education Week kicks off Nov. 13 at Marshall

Marshall kicks off International Education Week Sunday, Nov. 13, with the 48th annual International Festival in the Memorial Student Center’s Don Morris Room.

The theme of this year’s International Festival, which takes place from 3 to 6 p.m., is “Living in a Global Society,” which emphasizes the pressing need for universities in the United States to prepare their students to live and work in a globalized environment. The International Festival features exotic foods, traditional music and dance along with displays representing more than 60 countries and cultures. All of this will be provided by Marshall International students and International community individuals and groups. The event is free to the public.

In addition to the International Festival, other events to take place during International Education Week include the Festival of Flags and the Study Abroad Fair.

The annual Festival of Flags takes place throughout November in the lobby of the MSC, the Drinkle Library and other buildings throughout campus featuring a spectacular display of flags from all of the countries where Marshall University draws International students or sends students to study abroad. This semester’s festival features flags from more than 60 countries and regions of the world.

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, Marshall will host the 8th annual MU Study Abroad Expo in the lobby of the Student Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 20 study abroad providers are expected to take part in the fair. MU students and faculty will have the opportunity to discuss the programs directly with the providers, apply for a passport and get assistance with Immunizations.

Dr. Clark M. Egnor, executive director of the Center for International Programs, said the International Education Week events are the perfect opportunity for students, faculty, staff and members of the community to enjoy the International diversity and global opportunities found on the Marshall campus and in the surrounding community.

Ryan Warner, MU’s executive study abroad advisor, said it is a wonderful opportunity for Marshall students to receive information on destinations where they can study abroad. By allowing our students to study internationally with the opportunity to enhance their global knowledge, we are better preparing our students for graduation and enabling them to be active in a growing global society, Warner said.

Marshall has 478 International students from 60 countries. The university also sends about 150 students each year to study abroad. Marshall students can choose from more than 290 sites in 50 countries to study for a summer, semester or year at approximately the same cost as studying at home.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State to promote International awareness and International education skills.

For further details about the International Festival and International Education Week activities, contact the Center for International Programs at ext 6-6265, cip@marshall.edu, or visit the Center for International Programs office in Old Main 320.
First Honors College da Vinci Faculty Fellows named

Dr. Jamie Warner (above), professor of political science, and Dr. Allison Carey (below), assistant professor of English, are the Marshall University Honors College’s first da Vinci Faculty Fellows, Dean Mary Todd has announced.

Da Vinci Fellows are Marshall faculty who will teach one course a semester for the Honors College for each of four semesters. Two of those courses, taught in the fall term, will be interdisciplinary honors seminars. In the spring, the fellows will each offer a section of HON 200, the new second-year seminar on Leadership, Ethics, and Civic Engagement that is required of all sophomores in the Honors College.

The fellowship offers faculty a significant professional development opportunity as well as experience working with honors students. Fellows will receive funding to attend a conference related to interdisciplinary, integrative, or honors education.

The Faculty Fellows program was made possible through a five-year gift from the Jeanine Y. Francis Foundation. The college hopes to attract further funding to support additional fellows.

"The Honors College is thrilled to launch the da Vinci Faculty Fellows program, one designed both to provide a more consistent faculty presence in the college and to recognize faculty interest in working with honors students," Todd said. "We are grateful to the Francis Foundation for the initial funding that enabled us to seek applications from interested faculty for the da Vinci fellowship, and excited to welcome Drs. Warner and Carey as inaugural fellows. Both are exceptional scholars who will model excellence for honors students here at Marshall."

The Honors College, founded in 2010, currently serves 600 Marshall undergraduates. For more information on the college, visit www.marshall.edu/honors.
Marshall physics professor receives NASA EPSCoR award of nearly $479,000

Physics professor Dr. Thomas Wilson has been awarded $478,709 to conduct research to help improve the propulsion systems NASA uses for deep-space missions.

The three-year award was one of 28 made nationally this summer through the NASA EPSCoR program. Wilson submitted the proposal through the NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium. His project is titled “Coherent Terahertz Acoustic Phonons: A Novel Diagnostic for Erosion in Hall Thruster Discharge Chamber Walls.”

According to Wilson, NASA uses a special type of propulsion - electromagnetic (Hall) thrusters - for deep-space missions. These missions may last for many years as spacecraft move around the solar system; however, the wall structure of the thrusters is subject to erosion over time. The goal of his research is to better understand this erosion process and potentially improve the future design of these propulsion systems.

“The proposed work aims to significantly advance our fundamental knowledge base for these erosion processes and has the potential to lay the groundwork for intelligent selection and design of materials with improved erosion resistance that would increase thruster operational lifetime,” Wilson said.

He said the findings may eventually bring cost savings to NASA in thruster testing and design.

Wilson's collaborators include physicists and electrical engineers at NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) in Cleveland; at the universities of Michigan, Rice and Stuttgart; and at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Marshall physics students also will collaborate on the project. The award provides research stipends for MU undergraduate physics majors. Hall thruster testing, research and development at GRC started in the 1990s, and Wilson hopes to take his undergraduate research assistants to the center to participate in the research project.

In addition, Wilson says his GRC collaboration should allow Marshall students pursuing master's degrees in physical science to compete successfully for NASA Graduate Student Researchers Program fellowships, which are awarded for one year as training grants in the amount of $30,000.
Marshall University gets federal funds to develop Virtual Mine Safety Training Academy

Work is under way to develop a Virtual Mine Safety Training Academy at Marshall University as a result of a $117,000 award from the Brookwood-Sago federal grant program.

The grant program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration, was named in remembrance of the 12 men who died in an explosion at the Sago Mine in Tallmansville, W.Va., in 2006, and the 13 men who died in two explosions at the Jim Walter Resources Inc. No. 5 Mine in Brookwood, Ala., in 2001. The program was established through a provision in the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, which West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin and Congressman Nick J. Rahall II, both Democrats, helped introduce and win passage.

Marshall’s Center for Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) will develop the innovative training academy, which will be a comprehensive mine safety training tool with a Web-based, simulated environment that will include an underground room-and-pillar coal mine, according to Dr. Tony Szwilski, director of CEGAS.

Szwilski brings significant mining experience with him to the project, and expertise in virtual technology for the academy will be provided by Jack Smith and other members of the CEGAS team, including undergraduate students from the College of Information Technology and Engineering and College of Science.

“As we have witnessed from mining tragedies such as the Upper Big Branch mine disaster, all participating entities in an emergency response at a mine—including the mining company, and federal and state officials—must collaborate, coordinate and perform extremely well to best serve potentially trapped or isolated miners and their families,” Szwilski said. “Our Virtual Mine Safety Training Academy will be a vital resource. Access to effective and quality mine emergency response training is critical.”

The academy will provide easy access from any geographical location through the Internet to training resources housed in a virtual campus-like environment. The initial emphasis will be on mine emergency response and preparedness. The academy’s platform also will house an underground coal mine, and will use a UNITY game-engine to create a unique multi-trainee and interaction site providing valuable mine emergency response exercises such as communications and decision-making in dangerous and stressful environments.

The academy will essentially be the continuation of the work that CEGAS has carried out over the past five years to build interactive programs and provide a semi-immersive environment through Marshall’s engineering Visualization Lab to demonstrate a realistic virtual underground coal mine.

In total, the Brookwood-Sago grant program has made eight awards nationally for a total of $1 million in federal funding to train miners and mine rescue teams to prepare for emergencies and prevent accidents. The initial award announcement was made by Sen. Rockefeller, Sen. Joe Manchin and Congressman Nick J. Rahall.

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Return to newsletter front page.
Unheard Voices Exhibition open through Saturday at Gallery 842

While many people may think sexual assault is not a problem in the community, the staff at CONTACT Rape Crisis Center knows otherwise. In 2010, CONTACT's victim advocates served 275 victims of sexual assault and another 65 friends and family members of the victims, for a total of 890.5 hours of services.

To bring awareness to this issue, CONTACT, in cooperation with the Marshall University Women's Center and the Department of Art and Design, is hosting Unheard Voices, an interactive art exhibit featuring 20 handcrafted portrait castings and viewer-activated oral histories of people who have experienced sexual assault. The exhibit will also feature local artwork in a variety of media, all focused around the subject of sexual assault.

Students from the art department also will be exhibiting art pieces that relate to sexual violence awareness.

Sharon Pressman, executive director at CONTACT, said, "This is an event to create an awareness of what happens to victims of sexual assault and stalking and to let the community know what resources are available if they need help or services."

This exhibit is a return visit, Pressman said. CONTACT and the College of Fine Arts hosted Unheard Voices 15 years ago. The exhibit is owned by the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services.

Natalie Larsen, assistant professor in the Department of Art and Design, said the exhibit is important because it creates a discourse on the realities of sexual assault.

"Unheard Voices is a unique exhibition that viewers/listeners are not likely to forget," Larsen said. "We all hear statistics about sexual assault, and statistics are important, but this exhibition puts a face and a story behind those numbers."

The exhibit began with an opening last Friday and will run until Saturday, Nov. 12. Gallery hours are noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
MU Chorus to perform ‘Bluegrass Mass’

The Marshall University Chorus will present The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass, at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, in Smith Recital Hall. The performance will feature well-known bluegrass performer Don Rigsby and Friends.

Robert Wray, assistant professor of choral music education and director of the chorus, said the work fuses the solemnity of the classically based mass with the energy and excitement of bluegrass music.

Wray emphasized the unique opportunity this performance will offer.

"Audience members will hear bluegrass and choral music in a completely different way in this piece," Wray said. "We are challenging two potentially different sects of music enthusiasts to come and enjoy the unique marriage of these two very different musical styles."

For students, it's an opportunity to perform with a professional ensemble in a genre that may not be familiar.

"Don Rigsby used to teach at Morehead State and we have an established relationship with them," Wray said. "One of my students, Jordan Henry, actually recommended Mr. Rigsby, so I did a little research and he seemed like a good fit for this endeavor."

The event is free and open to the public.
Chamber Choir to perform Nov. 13

The Marshall University Chamber Choir, under the direction of Dr. David Castleberry, will present a free concert at 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, in Smith Recital Hall on Marshall’s Huntington campus.

Chamber Choir director Dr. David Castleberry said the concert will feature works ranging from renaissance pieces by Josquin des Prez and Claudio Monteverdi to present-day settings by Stephen Chatman and Gene Puerling.

The Chamber Choir is a select 40-voice ensemble that has been heard widely through concert tours, recordings and on West Virginia Public Broadcasting. This coming spring, the Chamber Choir will travel to France for a 12-day concert tour that includes a performance by invitation for a Sunday morning Mass at Paris’s famed Notre Dame Cathedral.

“We are delighted to offer a preview of our tour repertoire here at Smith Recital Hall and a sampling of the wide range of choral literature this choir performs,” Castleberry said.

For further information, call the Marshall Department of Music at 304-696-3117.
Marshall to showcase student work at GIS Day Nov. 16

Marshall is joining 40 other states and more than 80 countries around the world in celebrating GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Day on November 16 by sponsoring a series of activities scheduled for the Memorial Student Center.

The event is sponsored by the Integrated Science Technology and Geography Departments under the direction of organizers Dr. Min Kook Kim (IST) and Dr. James Leonard (Geography). According to Leonard, "GIS Day is a way to showcase student work in GIS technologies and provide information about learning and research opportunities available at Marshall University."

GIS Day provides an international forum for users of geographic information systems technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in society. The event is open to all Marshall students to learn, present GIS, or participate in the day's activities. Students and teachers from a local high school plan to attend and take part, as well.

Marshall will begin its celebration at 10 a.m. with a display of posters representing students' GIS work. Other activities scheduled throughout the day include GPS contest 1 at 10:30 a.m.; an overview of activities, such as research and courses, by the IST and Geography departments at 1 p.m.; GPS contest 2 at 1:30 p.m.; poster awards at 2:30 p.m.

The GIS software represents features on earth such as buildings, cities, roads, rivers and states on a computer. Users can combine these layers to explore relationships and trends and to conduct analyses that can be represented as maps. In essence, GIS can answer not only "where" but "why" and "what if". GIS is often used to visualize, question, analyze, and understand data about the world and human activity.

The National Geographic Society has sponsored Geography Awareness Week since 1987 to promote geographic literacy in schools, communities, and organizations, with a focus on the education of children. GIS Day is held on the Wednesday during Geography Awareness week. Other sponsors of GIS Day include the Association of American Geographers, University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, the U. S. Geological Survey, the Library of Congress, Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard, and Esri.
Nov. 16 collection date set for 'Baskets for Branches'

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On Wednesday, Nov. 16, they will once again collect donated baskets on Marshall’s Huntington campus.

"Baskets for Branches" benefits the Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, which served more than 2,000 women, men and children in 2010 in Cabell, Putnam, Wayne, Mason and Lincoln counties. The facility serves clients as a safe haven against further abuse, whether physical or emotional, for them and their children. In addition to providing housing, Branches offers legal assistance, counseling and case management to ready its clients to become independent.

Marshall students Lindsay DiFatta (music education), Nikhil Gilliam (art and design) and Nathan Mohebbi (theatre) will serve as student representatives of the Baskets for Branches committee. DiFatta and Gilliam are part of the original student committee that came up with the idea. Mohebbi represents the newly re-established Marshall chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the honorary service fraternity for theatre.

"A campaign like Baskets for Branches is important because so many people look the other way at domestic violence," DiFatta said. "It's so common. You always hear about it on the news and people have been desensitized to this huge problem. We wanted to put the issue back in the front of people's minds and then provide them with a way to help someone affected by it."

The shelter's needs are great: personal items such as underwear, pajamas, toothbrushes and hairbrushes; pillows, books, toys and even paper goods such as toilet paper and paper plates and cups are often in short supply. Adults who are rebuilding their lives also need products that will boost their self-esteem and confidence as they search for jobs or confront their abusers in court. Thus, even make-up, hair care products and professional-looking clothes are important needs.

Byron Clercx, chair of the Department of Art and Design, noted the deep meaning behind the baskets.

"Students, staff, faculty and friends fill laundry baskets with basic necessities to help women escaping from domestic abuse environments care for themselves, and any children with them, during an unimaginably difficult transition often without money or other means of support," Clercx said. "While seemingly composed of small things - toothpaste, shampoo, a hairbrush - this 'survival kit' is greater than the sum of its parts. These acts of human kindness demonstrate sound character and provide comfort, restore dignity and rebuild courage. These fundamentals are at the core of the COFA and Marshall experience."

Jaye Ike, special projects coordinator for COFA, said she is always overwhelmed by the amount of support this project receives, and hopes that it grows even larger this year.

"The College of Fine Arts invites everyone to join us in this collection drive," Ike said. "Last year, we were fortunate to..."
have the help of organizations getting involved. Local businesses, doctor’s offices, the residence halls and Greek organizations at Marshall - several groups worked together to collect items at their locations."

Jennifer Borda, executive director of Branches, said the staff looks forward to this event each year.

“We felt so fortunate last year to be able to provide extra household necessities to our clients because of Baskets for Branches,” Borda said. “We are always so humbled by the success of the College of Fine Arts’ event. We are so excited to be a part of this great event again this year.”

For more information, or a list of suggested donations, contact Ike by phone at 304-696-3296 or by e-mail at jaye.ike@marshall.edu.

Photo: Marshall University students Nikki Gilliam (left) and Lindsay DiFatta (center), with Marshall staff member Jaye Ike, pose with a collection of baskets donated to the Branches domestic violence shelter. Another collection of baskets will take place Nov. 16.
Classified Staff Council to hold elections Dec. 13-14; nominations due Nov. 29

The Classified Staff Council will hold an election Dec. 13-14 to fill two vacancies in the EEO Group 50 - Clerical EEO groups and one vacancy in EEO group 30 - Other Professionals. The three staff members elected will finish the remainder of the current term, which ends June 30, 2013.

Current EEO Group 50 representatives Bernice Bullock, Leonard Lovely and Khr Standifur and EEO Group 30 representatives Barry Dickenson, Carol Hurula, Jennifer Jimison and Jan Parker, remain on the council and are not eligible for nomination in this election.

Staff Council is composed of 25 members, with five members chosen from each of the five EEO groups.

Nomination forms will be distributed by mail on Wednesday, Nov. 9. Nomination forms are due in the Staff Council Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov 29. No nominations will be accepted after that date.

All employees of the EEO 50 group are permitted to nominate up to two eligible people from EEO 50 for these positions, including themselves; employees in EEO Group 30 can nominate only one eligible person, including themselves. For questions or for further information, consult the Classified Employees By-Laws, Bylaw VI, Section 4 for questions on eligibility: www.marshall.edu/staff-council/Constitution.htm.

Electronic voting will be available from Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 a.m. through Wednesday, Dec. 14 at midnight. All voting will be electronic. There will be no paper ballot voting. Detailed instructions on electronic voting can be found on the Staff Council website: at www.marshall.edu/staff-council/Forms.htm.

For any questions regarding the election, contact Joe Wortham, Election Committee Chair, by e-mail at wortham@marshall.edu or by phone at ext. 6-5402; or Katie Counts in the Staff Council Office by e-mail at easter@marshall.edu or by phone at ext. 6-2222.
Marines can earn Master of Arts in Leadership Studies at Marshall

Marshall University is partnering with the United States Marine Corps College of Distance Education and Training (CDET) in Quantico, Va., to provide active duty Marine Corps officers the opportunity to earn a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies.

President Stephen J. Kopp and John Hemleben, Dean of Academics with the CDET, have signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the arrangement during a ceremony in Corbly Hall on Marshall’s Huntington campus.

Kelly Sweetman, director of military & veterans affairs at Marshall, said approximately 22,000 active duty Marines worldwide are eligible for this program, which requires participants to take six online classes through Marshall.

“This is something that we are excited about at Marshall because it allows us to bring our education to our active duty service members regardless of where they are in the world,” Sweetman said. “We currently have officers deployed to Afghanistan in our master’s program as well as officers right down the road here in Huntington.

“Having the program online and a great team of professionals back in Charleston teaching and ensuring our Marines are getting a first-class educational experience without restrictions is something we are both very proud of and honored to do. Our service members deserve the best and we are constantly striving to make sure they get it through working with Marshall.”

Through the program, officers can take six classes online through the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development in Charleston. The additional transfer credits, equal to four classes, are earned through the Marine Corps Command and Staff College (CSC) distance education program or the Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS), qualifying them to graduate with a master’s in leadership. They can take the MU classes before or after the CSC or EWS.

Sweetman said Marshall joins the Universities of Oklahoma, Maryland and Indiana to have such an agreement with the Marines. At this time several Marines are already signed up and have begun taking classes at Marshall with very positive feedback getting back to the Marine Corps CDET Assistant Dean Dennis Haskin who oversees these arrangements.

Haskin said he has been “very pleased with the military friendly staff assisting the Marine students at Marshall” and said he feels “this will be a very positive and long-lasting relationship with ‘The Thundering Herd!’”

For more information, contact Sweetman at ext. 65278.
Photos: (Above) John Hemleben, Dean of Academics with the United States Marine Corps College of Distance Education and Training in Quantico, Va., and Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp sign a memorandum of understanding Oct. 29 during a ceremony in Corbly Hall on Marshall's Huntington campus. Marshall and the Marines are partnering to provide active duty Marine Corps officers the opportunity to earn a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies. (Below) John Hemleben, left, and Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp shake hands after signing a memorandum of understanding Oct. 29 in Corbly Hall. Behind them are, from left, Capt. Ben Labowitch, Capt. Christopher Nekvinda, 1st Sgt. Nathaniel Glover, Staff Sgt. Donald Snyder and Chief Warrant Officer Patrick Johnson.

Photos by Liu Yang.

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Three from Marshall win awards in 2011 WV Juried Exhibition

Three artists with Marshall University connections - two faculty members and an M.A. graduate - were among those who won awards in the biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition this year, sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

West Virginia artists were presented with 18 awards totaling $33,000 in a ceremony earlier this month at Oglebay Institute’s Stifel Fine Arts Center in Wheeling. The exhibit features 72 works in the areas of painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, photography, mixed media and crafts by 60 artists from 23 West Virginia counties.

Daniel Kaufmann, assistant professor of photography in Marshall’s College of Fine Arts, received a Governor’s Award for Rooms 13.

“It is so rewarding to have work selected for the West Virginia Juried Exhibition,” Kaufmann said. “I am flattered my work was selected to receive the Governor’s Award ... it is meaningful that our students see that we are actively participating in the field.”

Graphic design professor Mary Grassell won an Award of Excellence for her wood block print titled The Lace Stretchers, which depicts the artist and her sister helping their mother stretch lace curtains.

“The award was a surprise because it seems that printmakers are sometimes overlooked in juried competitions,” Grassell said, “but I am happy to have this award. The print is meaningful to me, and I am glad it was meaningful to others.”

Filter Feeders, a piece by recent M.A. graduate Nik Botkin, received the Merit Award, which had a $500 prize attached.

“It was an honor to be even invited to participate in the 2011 West Virginia Juried Exhibition,” Botkin said. “When I found out I had received an award for my art I felt truly privileged to be recognized in such a prestigious event for doing something I love.

The exhibition will remain on display through Jan. 2 at the Stifel Fine Arts Center.

Photos: Two of the works that won awards at this year’s West Virginia Juried Exhibition: The Lace Stretchers by Mary Grassell (above) and Filter Feeders by Nik Botkin. Photos courtesy Marshall University College of Fine Arts.
Profile: Pam Holland

Fortunately for the community and countless nonprofit groups and agencies, college students tend to be generous with their time, burgeoning academic expertise and creativity. And it is to tap into that vast well of talent and energy that Pam Holland, the Director of Clinical Education in the Department of Communication Disorders recently agreed to wear yet another hat, this time as the Director of the Service Learning Program, a program that pairs faculty and students in designated classes with community partners for earned academic credits.

It’s a winning scenario for faculty, students and partners, Holland believes, but first you have to overcome some initial trepidation from first-time students in the courses. “Often during the first week of classes when I talk with students about the requirements of service component of the class I’m met with fear and anxiety. But that very quickly changes,” she says. “On Assessment Day In the spring one central theme that emerged from students across campus is that they learn more by ‘real life’ experiences; they learn by doing.”

That’s why Holland and her predecessors have been on a mission to expand the number of service learning classes throughout the university. She’s convinced the concept can be integrated into virtually all courses, no matter their content. It’s not a new concept, she says, but the results have been enormously rewarding since Marshall launched the program in 2003. “Sheri Smith, the Director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning was the founding director of the Service Learning Program and then Kim DeTardo-Bora took over in 2007. I was asked by both to assume the position this past June when Dr. Detardo-Bora became the Graduate Advisor in the Criminal Justice Department.”

According to National Commission on Service Learning, SL is “a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities (which often involves reflection).” The stated purpose of the Service Learning Program is to provide an opportunity for a community to shape students’ values and prepare them to be engaged citizens. The community benefits through the thousands of hours of service to people in need, nonprofit agencies, private sector companies, and non-governmental as well as governmental agencies. And just as important, it allows Marshall to establish a partnership with the community by providing a sustainable source of assistance for years to come.

But there is a distinction between volunteerism and service learning experiences, Holland explains. Working at a blood drive, signing people in at races, passing out flyers for various events, participating in work days, collecting items for designated drives, all are examples of dedicated volunteers working for worthwhile causes, which she applauds. The difference is that service learning activities integrate rigorous academic standards and discipline-specific experience while providing much-needed assistance. There’s a clear academic objective to them, she stresses.

“Actually we try avoid using the term “volunteer” because what we’re doing is teaching students a way to learn through hands-on experience,” Holland says. For example, “Students could be doing marketing—learning how to create flyers, to mount a public relations campaign. It could be nursing students taking blood during a drive, speech pathology majors working with children in after school programs, criminal justice students helping at-risk students to stay in school. In fact, it can be any real-life situation where a student is learning about [his or her] future profession or developing a lifelong skill related to any discipline.”

Perhaps the whole concept was best summed up by a student who told Holland she was glad she had been “voluntold.”

Holland is hopeful that more faculty can be recruited to offer additional service learning classes. To that end, last year she and fellow faculty member Dr. Kim Detardo-Bora received a $5,000 Hedrick Innovative Teaching Grant, which is
funding an advanced learning workshop on Nov. 11 and which will also provide a stipend to participating faculty members. Holland sees it a way to encourage more faculty to take part, because "once they get into the program, they tend to stay."

"We were looking for an incentive for them to revise course syllabi, investigate community partners and edit their assignments to encompass the rigorous academic components SL requires. The students in SL courses tend to be more engaged and they make a real connection with the course content. Once faculty teach a SL class, they're sold!"

And although many faculty members and their students are already engaged in various forms of volunteerism and serving the community, not all service projects in the university operate through the SL program. There are some distinct advantages for those taking part in SL courses, Holland believes.

"The SL Program is the parent program for students and faculty and how they are involved in the community. There can be glitches—sometimes things don't go exactly as planned. We like to be the troubleshooter for that agency. We can mend problems and that frees up faculty members' time." For example, the graduate student in the Service Learning Program can assist the faculty member by making community site visits, taking pictures of the students in action and provide additional assistance as a faculty or community partner requests.

And there are innumerable advantages for participating students and the community partners she adds. "We help the agencies, many of which are currently struggling financially." To have a committed student learn about a discipline when a grade is involved, that's an added commitment ... so the agencies reap the benefit of the work and effort students put forth on their behalf.

Sometimes the relationships and projects are so successful that students voluntarily continue to work with them after the class is over. There have been cases where agencies have hired students on as employees. And sometimes the classes lead participants to unexpected locales. Last spring, for example, as an alternate spring break, a group of graduate students traveled to Jamaica to provide speech therapy for children living in orphanages.

Holland's own background is deeply rooted in the helping professions. Although the Ceredo-Kenova native originally received a scholarship to West Virginia University, she chose Marshall Instead, a choice she's never regretted. After receiving a B.A. and a M.A. in Communication Disorders, Holland worked as a speech language pathologist in the Kanawha County Schools, at the Gelger Easter Seal Speech and Hearing Center, at Preferred Home Health and at King's Daughter's Medical Center in Ashland, Ky. She was Instrumental in a pilot program that helped establish and expand the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Disorders program at Marshall. As a full-time faculty member in Communication Disorders, Holland specializes in the pediatric population, providing services to children with speech, language and feeding disorders. She has been actively involved in the state's Birth to Three program, a federally funded program that provides services to children in that age group who are developmentally behind their peers.

"While my passion is working with children with communication and swallowing disorders, the Marshall Speech and Hearing Center provides services for a person of any age who has a communication disorder. And after a patient 'ages out' of a program such as the Birth to Three, they can still come to Marshall for further services," she stresses.

The active Holland family are homebodies at heart, she says, but she and her husband, J.T., maintain a full calendar attending events involving children Dylan, 14, and Lauren, 4. "The kids keep us busy and they're our main priority on weekends. We all love movies and we travel when we can. The whole family enjoys going to special Marshall games such as Homecoming but otherwise we fit our schedules around the kids' church, tennis, ballet and dance activities."

And it's not easy, but sometimes she does manage to work in some personal time for some of her favorite off-duty interests—reading, exercising and "of course, shopping," she says laughing.

She points out that this year eight SL classes are offered and she's excited about the required freshman seminar course. It's a perfect forum to introduce service learning to students, she believes. There are community agencies that students can choose to work with, and there's an added benefit to introducing incoming students to the service concept.

"The students want to be connected to the community," she says enthusiastically. "They tend to stay at Marshall if they feel that connection. This is a great forum to offer these kind of opportunities. Students put forth a great deal of energy and effort and the agencies reap the benefits."