Homecoming Celebration Under Way

Homecoming 2011, with the theme, “Marshall University - Through the Decades,” got under way Monday, Oct. 10, with many special activities planned throughout the week.

Nancy Pelphrey, coordinator of alumni programs for the Alumni Association, said the theme represents a celebration of how far the university has come “through the decades.”

Read more.

Marshall to kick off United Way drive Monday

Marshall University will begin its 2011 United Way campaign Monday, Oct. 17, with a kickoff celebration from 11 to 2 p.m. on the Memorial Student Center plaza on the Huntington campus.

The campaign, which is part of the West Virginia State Employee Combined Campaign (WSECC), runs through Friday, Nov. 11.

Read more.

Staff Council Nominations accepted until Oct. 26

The Classified Staff Council is holding an election to fill two vacancies in the EEO Group 60/70 - Skilled Crafts and Service Maintenance. The two staff members elected to EEO 60/70 during this election will finish the remainder of the current term, which will end on June 30, 2013.

Nomination forms will be distributed by mail on Wednesday, Oct. 12. Nomination forms are due in the Staff Council Office no later than 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26. No nominations will be accepted after that date.

Read more.
Miriah Young Named Employee of the Month

Miriah Young, Business Manager in Housing and Residence Life, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for August, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed since 2007, she was nominated by John F. Yaun, Director of Housing and Residence Life.

Read more.

Other Coming Events

Hispanic Heritage Month continues with recital Oct. 13

Two world-renowned artists will be on stage at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Oct. 13, in a cabaret event that begins at 7:30 p.m. The stage of the Keith-Albee will become The Global Stage as Marshall University celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with musicians from Paraguay and Argentina. The World Stage is dedicated to honoring the memory of music lovers everywhere.

Read more.

Philosophy professor to give da Vinci lecture Oct. 21

Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah, Laurance S. Rockefeller University professor in the Department of Philosophy at Princeton University, will speak at Marshall at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21. Appiah is the guest speaker at the second annual da Vinci Lecture, sponsored by Marshall's Honors College, the Office of the Provost, MU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi and BrickStreet Insurance. The public lecture, titled "The Honor Code," and discussion will take place in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Read more.

Book signing at Marshall Bookstore planned as part of homecoming 2011 activities

Bob Barnett, Craig T. Greenlee and Carter Taylor Seaton will be at the Marshall Bookstore on Saturday, Oct. 15, for a book signing event associated with homecoming activities.

Read more.

Marshall Artists Series brings two more events, film festival this month

A night of comedy, an evening with West Virginia native and award-winning documentary filmmaker, Morgan Spurlock, and several showings of acclaimed international films will close out October as the Marshall Artists Series continues to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

All three events will take place in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

Read more.

Award-winning Virginia State University Gospel Chorale returns to Marshall

The award-winning Virginia State University Gospel Chorale will perform at Marshall University Monday, Oct. 17, in Smith Recital Hall on the Huntington campus.

Visiting artist to present lecture-recital on contemporary American piano music

Dr. Youmee Kim, assistant professor of piano at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, will be on Marshall University's

Read more.
The 7 p.m. concert is sponsored by Marshall’s Center for African American Students’ Programs. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert is free to the public.

Read more.

Forensic Science News

Marshall faculty provide training on digital forensics to West Virginia arson investigators

Marshall University faculty provided digital forensics training to arson investigators at the West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference sponsored by the West Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Read more.

Forensic Science graduate program and students to host crime scene workshop

Marshall’s forensic science graduate students and faculty will present a crime scene Investigation workshop for high school students from Fairview High School of Ashland, Ky., Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at MU’s crime scene house.

About 55 high school science students are expected to attend the “CSI Huntington” workshop.

Read more.

Profile: John Ball

-a series on Interesting Marshall University people

You simply can’t have a proper train song without the long, lonesome wail of a harmonica. John Ball, a true buff of this unique wind instrument, knows that for sure. Throw in some chug-chug-chugging riffs, listen carefully and that steam-driven locomotive puffing in the distance springs to life.

So why the fascination with this unpretentious instrument that’s small enough to be tucked into a pocket?

Read more.

The next Issue of We Are... Marshall will be distributed Oct. 26, 2011. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by Oct. 24.
Homecoming Celebration Under Way

Homecoming 2011, with the theme, “Marshall University - Through the Decades,” got under way Monday, Oct. 10, with many special activities planned throughout the week.

Nancy Pelphrey, coordinator of alumni programs for the Alumni Association, said the theme represents a celebration of how far the university has come “through the decades.”

“As we lead up to the 175th anniversary of the university, we have so much to be proud of,” Pelphrey said. “The changes in the Huntington campus, how it has evolved into the wonderful place it is today … we all look forward each Homecoming to seeing the looks on the faces of those who have not been back for years as they marvel at what Marshall University has become. This year’s homecoming is a celebration of Marshall University, past and present. We thank everyone involved, especially our sponsors.”

All departments on the Huntington campus are invited to decorate their offices using the homecoming theme. Prizes will be awarded when the winners are announced Friday, Oct. 14.

Businesses are also encouraged to show their Thundering Herd pride by decorating their exterior and posting a photo on the Alumni Association Facebook site, www.facebook.com/mualumni. The overall winner will be chosen on the basis of which business receives the most votes or “likes” on the MUAA Facebook page.

Here is a schedule of Homecoming 2011 activities for the rest of the week:

**Wednesday, Oct. 12**

**Car bash**
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - WMUL-FM’s annual Car Bash on Buskirk Field. This year’s car will be a limousine as WMUL celebrates 10 years of car bashing in style.

**Thursday, Oct. 13**

**Parade**
6 p.m. - The annual homecoming parade, sponsored by the Student Government Association, starts in downtown Huntington and ends at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Prizes will be awarded to the top floats and marching bands. Parade participants will begin lining up at 5 p.m. at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

Prizes for the top three floats and top three bands are as follows: $750 for first place; $500 for second place; and $250 for third place.

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence in Fort Rucker, Ala., and a 1982 Marshall graduate, will be the grand marshal.
Parade participants may register online at [www.marshall.edu/sga](http://www.marshall.edu/sga). For more information, contact the SGA at ext.6-6436 or e-mail barrell7@marshall.edu.

Friday, Oct. 14

**Green and White Day**

**Picnic on the Plaza**
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - The Picnic on the Plaza, featuring free food and drinks, is the official kickoff to homecoming. It will take place on the Memorial Student Center plaza and is open to all MU students, faculty, staff and administrators. The picnic is sponsored by the Alumni Association, the Office of Development and Huntington Bank.

Various activities are planned. The Marshall Maniacs will be giving away homecoming t-shirts to the first 100 attendees. Office decoration awards will be judged beginning at 11 a.m., and winners announced. The Huntington Food Bank will be accepting canned goods. Inflatables will be set up on Ruskirk Field and the homecoming court will be introduced. The DAWG 93.7 will broadcast live from the plaza. And, homecoming stuffed bears will be offered to the first 250 students that attend the picnic, compliments of the Student Activities Programming Board.

**Champagne Reception**
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - The MU Alumni Association and Black Alumni Association are co-hosting a Champagne Reception at the Marshall University Foundation Hall, Home of the Erickson Alumni Center. Cost is $25 per person.

**Comedy Central on Campus**
8 p.m. - The future stars of Comedy Central - Nick Vatterott, Sheng Wang, Rory Scovel and Jermaine Fowler perform at the Ketth-Albee Performing Arts Center. Together the four have not only played all over the world, but they have performed alongside stars such as Jay Leno, David Letterman, former Artist Series Performer Daniel Tosh and many more. Call the Marshall Artists Series office at ext. 6-6656 for tickets.

**After party**
10 p.m. to 1 a.m. - Black Alumni Association After Party, Room BE 5 on the lower level of the Memorial Student Center. Cost is $20 per person.

Saturday, Oct. 15

**5k Alum Run**
8 a.m. - The 16th annual Marshall University 5k Alum Run, a popular event for area runners and walkers, takes participants from Marshall's campus into downtown Huntington and back to the campus to finish the 3.1-mile course. The course is nearly 100 percent flat and straight.

Several registration options are being offered. Forms are available at the Marshall Recreation Center and from either the rec center's website at [www.marshallcampusrec.com](http://www.marshallcampusrec.com) or online at [www.tristateracer.com](http://www.tristateracer.com).

The pre-race registration price is $20 and the cost is $25 the day of the race. Cash or check (made payable to MU Campus Rec Club) are accepted. Credit cards also are accepted through the online registration portal.

**Tours of campus**
10 a.m. - Anyone interested in a walking tour of the Huntington campus may call the alumni office at ext. 6-2901 and arrangements will be made to have a member of the Student Ambassador Association provide a guided tour.

**Book signings**
Hosted by the Marshall Bookstore
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Craig Greenlee, November Ever After
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Carter Taylor Seaton, Amo, Amas, Amat ... An Unconventional Love Story
Noon to 2 p.m. - Bob Barnett, Growing Up In The Last Small Town · A West Virginia Memoir

**Tailgate blast**
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - The MU Alumni Association, the Black Alumni Association and Parents and Family Weekend celebrate homecoming at 18th Street and 5th Avenue - beside Harless Dining Hall - with a tailgate blast. Cost is $20 per person.

**Football game**
3 p.m. - Marshall plays host to Rice University In a Conference USA battle at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Shortly before kickoff, Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield will give the Oath of Enlistment to approximately 40 new recruits from West Virginia who chose to enlist in the Army.

Following the oath ceremony, the Army Golden Knights Parachute Team is scheduled to jump into the stadium and deliver the game ball. The Golden Knights perform at events around the country and have been in existence since 1959.

**Step show**
Immediately following the football game - Step Show, Ketth-Albee Performing Arts Center.

**Homecoming dance**
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. - Black Alumni Association homecoming dance, Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room. Cost is $40 per person.

Homecoming is sponsored by Bank of America, Liberty Mutual, Pepsi, Huntington Bank, the Student Activities Programming Board, the Student Government Association, the Office of Student Affairs and the Black Alumni Association.

Like One like. Sign up to see what your friends like.

Return to newsletter front page.
Marshall to kick off United Way drive Monday

Marshall University will begin its 2011 United Way campaign Monday, Oct. 17, with a kickoff celebration from 11 to 2 p.m. on the Memorial Student Center plaza on the Huntington campus.

The campaign, which is part of the West Virginia State Employee Combined Campaign (WVSECC), runs through Friday, Nov. 11.

The theme of this year’s campaign, conducted in conjunction with United Way of the River Cities, is Be 1, Get 1. The United Way is asking for each person who contributes to get another person to contribute.

Activities are still being planned for the four-week campaign. The kickoff will feature food, games and prizes. Prizes to be awarded throughout the campaign include autographed athletic items, two season tickets for Marshall men’s basketball, free use of an administrator’s parking spot for a week, and an Xbox 360 with Kinect, courtesy of a Student Activities Programming Board (SAPB) raffle.

United Way packets, including pledge cards, will be hand delivered by student volunteers to every employee on the Huntington campus the week of Oct. 17. Those who choose to donate may target their contribution to a specific agency listed in the WVSECC brochure. The United Way of the River Cities, Inc., has 28 partner agencies. In addition to annual pledges and payroll deductions, Marshall University employees may contribute by participating in numerous fund-raising activities planned during the campaign. An updated schedule of campaign activities will be available soon.

One of the most popular special activities is the opportunity for Marshall employees to wear jeans to work. Participants will be “permitted” to wear jeans to work on selected days, depending on which day they choose and how much they donate to the campaign. Jeans days are Oct. 18, 20, 22 and 27, and Nov. 1, 3, 8 and 10.

Cost for the “I’m Wearing jeans for United Way” stickers is $3 for one, $5 for two or $20 for eight. They may be purchased in the following locations:

Old Main basement, mailroom (Leonard Lovely, 696-6544)
Old Main 207, Human Resources (Stephanie Gray, 696-2593)
Memorial Student Center 2W6 (Eleanor Beckett, 696-6472)
Holderby Hall 109 (Sharon Booth, 696-2569)
Gudickson Hall 112 (Cammy Holley, 696-5459)
Sorrell Building, Physical Plant (Anita Hill, 696-2989)
Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center 301Q (Anita Mathis, 696-7322)
MU Medical Center, dean’s office 3408 (Wanda Webb, 691-1700)

For more information on the United Way campaign, call Bookwalter at 304-696-6703.
Staff Council Nominations accepted until Oct. 26

The Classified Staff Council is holding an election to fill two vacancies in the EEO Group 60/70: Skilled Crafts and Service Maintenance. The two staff members elected to EEO 60/70 during this election will finish the remainder of the current term, which will end on June 30, 2013.

Nomination forms will be distributed by mail on Wednesday, Oct. 12. Nomination forms are due in the Staff Council Office no later than 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26. No nominations will be accepted after that date.

All employees of the EEO 60/70 group are permitted to nominate up to two eligible people from EEO 60/70 for these positions, including themselves. For questions of eligibility, consult the Classified Employees By-Laws, Bylaw VI, Section 4, which is online at www.marshall.edu/staff-council/Constitution.htm.

The following EEO 60/70 current representatives remain on Council and are not eligible for nomination in this election: Joe Wortham, Jack Ferrell, and Dwayne McCallister.

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

Electronic voting will be available from Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 6 a.m. through Wednesday, Nov. 9 at midnight. All voting will be electronic.

If there are questions regarding the election, contact Joe Wortham, Election Committee Chair at wortham@marshall.edu or ext. 65402; or Katie Counts in the Staff Council Office at aster@gmail.com or ext. 62222.
Miriah Young Named Employee of the Month

Miriah Young, Business Manager in Housing and Residence Life, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for August, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed since 2007, she was nominated by John F. Yaun, Director of Housing and Residence Life.

In his nomination Yaun notes that he has worked with Young for over two years and “I have come to know Miriah as dedicated, hardworking, intelligent, an individual committed to her responsibilities, her colleagues, and the numerous students we serve on a daily basis.”

In her role as assistant to the Housing Assignments Coordinator and her current role as Business Manager, Young “...displays role modeling, a commitment to students, customer service, professionalism, and going above and beyond in everything she does.” Yaun writes. “She has developed as an effective and capable business manager and leader at Marshall who is able to handle numerous complex tasks simultaneously with efficiency and effectiveness. She is very detailed, completes projects in a professional manner and is committed to the success of HRL. Miriah has the ability to examine issues from all angles and explore alternatives.”

And, the nomination continues, “She maintains all departmental budget items and still assists the Housing Assignments area when they need assistance. She also checks in with other staff to see if they need anything, going above and beyond to help others succeed. She has a positive and willing attitude to do whatever you ask of her. She is at work early every day and is always making suggestions for how we as a department can improve.”

Young has a great rapport with parents, students and colleagues, Yaun says. “She is someone who is proactive and takes the initiative to make things happen and address issues as they arise and/or before they become an issue. Miriah is a well-respected member of the Marshall Community and is respected and looked up to by her peers. Her commitment in all aspects of her work with students and staff is an asset to our department.”

Young was presented with a plaque and a check for $100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

Photo: Miriah Young (left) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.
Hispanic Heritage Month continues with recital Oct. 13

Two world renowned artists will be on stage at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Oct. 13, in a cabaret event that begins at 7:30 p.m.

The stage of the Keith-Albee will become The Global Stage as Marshall University celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with musicians from Paraguay and Argentina. The World Stage is dedicated to honoring the memory of music lovers everywhere.

The evening's artists include world-renowned guitarists, Berta Rojas and Quique Sinesi. Renowned for her flawless technique and innate musicality, Rojas ranks among today's foremost classical guitarists. She has been praised as "guitarist extraordinaire" by the Washington Post, and by Classical Guitar magazine as an "Ambassador of the classical guitar."

A recent visitor to Huntington as a member of Pablo Ziegler's Trio last year, Sinesi, an Argentina native, is considered one of the most important guitarists in Argentina for his personal style. His music is based in elements of Tango and folklore from his country, incorporating elements of jazz, improvisation, classic and world music using seven-stringed Spanish guitar, piccolo and charango.

Seating for this event will be at tables, surrounding the two guitarists on the stage. Tables are being sold for groups of four or as individual seats. Each ticket includes a drink and an appetizer; tables will have enough food and beverage for all four seats.

This year The Marshall Artists Series is celebrating its 75th anniversary. More Information about the show lineup can be found at www.marshallartists.org.

Tickets for WORLD MUSIC CABARET are on sale now at the ticket office in the Jamie Jazz Center, or by calling ext. 6-6556. Patrons can also visit the website for ticket information. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5:00 p.m.

Another performance celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month takes place Sunday, Oct. 23, when MU faculty members Julio Alves, guitar, and Dr. Wendell Dobbs, flute, will perform Latin American music as part of the Marshall University Guitar Festival. The event takes place in Smith Recital Hall beginning at 8 p.m.
Philosophy professor to give da Vinci Lecture Oct. 21

Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah, Laurence S. Rockefeller University professor in the Department of Philosophy at Princeton University, will speak at Marshall at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21.

Appiah is the guest speaker at the second annual da Vinci Lecture, sponsored by Marshall's Honors College, the Office of the Provost, MU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi and BrickStreet Insurance. The public lecture, titled "The Honor Code," and discussion will take place in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen, is Appiah's latest book. Dwight Garner of the New York Times said the book is "plaintive and elegant ... Mr. Appiah brings, to the ticky feast that is his book, a carving knife sharp enough to slice tangled issues of social class thinly."

Appiah has been called the postmodern Socrates who believes one should "go where the question takes you." He specializes in moral and political philosophy, African and African American studies, and issues of personal and political identity, multiculturalism and nationalism.

"We are thrilled to have a scholar of Professor Appiah's stature as the 2011 da Vinci lecturer," said Dr. Mary Todd, dean of the Honors College. "A true public Intellectual, his work on the ethics of Identity invites serious conversation about how we as individuals construct ourselves and in turn relate to others."

Appiah has taught philosophy and African American studies at the University of Ghana, Drexel, Cornell, Yale, Harvard and Princeton, and lectured at many other institutions in the United States.

Elected to both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Appiah presently is Chairman of the Board of the American Council of Learned Societies.

In 2009, Forbes Magazine included him on a list of the world's seven most powerful thinkers as defined by lasting influence on others and impact on public discourse.
Book signing at Marshall Bookstore planned as part of homecoming 2011 activities

Bob Barnett, Craig T. Greenlee and Carter Taylor Seaton will be at the Marshall Bookstore on Saturday, Oct. 15, for a book signing event associated with homecoming activities.

Barnett, a retired Marshall University College of Education professor, will sign copies of his book, Growing Up in the Last Small Town: A West Virginia Memoir. Heralded by one reviewer as "a regional gem," Barnett's book weaves the story of a child growing up in Appalachia during the 1950s and '60s. Barnett will sign copies of his book from noon until 2 p.m.

November Ever After, by Greenlee, chronicles the author's experience with the 1970 Marshall plane crash. Greenlee, who has a bachelor's and a master's degree in journalism from Marshall, was a member of the Thundering Herd football team, but left the team for personal reasons about a year before the tragedy. Following the crash, he then rejoined the team and played for the Young Thundering Herd. Greenlee will be signing copies of November Ever After from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Seaton, a West Virginia native, will sign copies of her new book, Amo, Amas, Amat: An Unconventional Love Story, from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The work of fiction tells the story of a young woman who falls in love with a gay man and their journey through love, deception and discovery. This is Seaton's second book.

For more information on the book signing, contact Debbie Dorsey at ext. 6-2460.
Marshall Artists Series brings two more events, film festival this month

A night of comedy, an evening with West Virginia native and award-winning documentary film-maker, Morgan Spurlock, and several showings of acclaimed international films will close out October as the Marshall Artists Series continues to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

All three events will take place in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

Just in time for Homecoming, the 5th Comedy Central on Campus brings four of its future stars to Huntington. The next big names in stand-up comedy can be seen Friday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m.

Morgan Spurlock kicks off the Fall International Film Festival on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m. when he hosts a one-time screening of his recent Sundance Film Festival hit, *Pom Wonderful Presents the Greatest Movie Ever Sold*. Spurlock set out to “make a film all about product placement, marketing and advertising, where the entire film is funded by product placement, marketing and advertising.” In the film, he uses humor and persistence as he dives into the hidden but influential world of brand marketing on his quest to make a completely sponsored film about sponsorship.

The film examines the increased proliferation of branding and product placement in every aspect of our lives. After the screening, audience members will also have the opportunity to participate in a discussion with Spurlock himself.

The Fall International Film Festival runs Oct. 17 to 23. Featured films include: *In a Better World* (Denmark): A physician works in a Kenyan hospital where he routinely treats female victims of a psychotic thug known as Big Man; *Bluffalo Mexico*: a love story between a father and his children as the father struggles to reconcile fatherhood, love and mortality amidst the dangerous underworld of modern Barcelona; *Buck* (USA): a documentary that tells the true story of Buck Brannaman, the perceptive cowboy whose remarkable ability to communicate with horses inspired the novel and later the movie, *The Horse Whisperer*; *Mother* (South Korea): a woman devoted to her son struggles to keep him from spending his life in prison; *Potiche* (France): set in a bourgeois province in 1977, the film tells the story of a submissive wife of a rich industrialist who runs his umbrella factory with an iron hand and turns out to be just as nasty and tyrannical with his workers as he is with his mistress, children and wife; and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest* (Sweden), follows the punky protagonist Lisbeth Salander as she fights to prove that she is innocent of committing multiple murders.

For show times for these films and for more information on these films and other upcoming Artist Series events, go to www.marshallartistsseries.org. For ticket information call ext. 6-6656.
Award-winning Virginia State University Gospel Chorale returns to Marshall

The award-winning Virginia State University Gospel Chorale will perform at Marshall University Monday, Oct. 17, in Smith Recital Hall on the Huntington campus.

The 7 p.m. concert is sponsored by Marshall's Center for African American Students' Programs. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert is free to the public.

"After such a strong performance last semester at Marshall, it was clearly evident that such a powerful and internationally recognized group must certainly be invited for an encore performance," said Maurice Cooley, director of the Center for African American Students' Programs. "This will be an extraordinary evening, appealing to all ages, and one of the best choral performances of the year mixed with gospel, the blues, jazz, dance and more."

The chorale has toured in the U.S. Virgin Islands, North and South Italy, Paris and Hungary for the Pope's Vatican Christmas Concert. It has performed with a host of international artists, such as blues legend B.B. King, jazz artist Dee Dee Bridgewater, Rhythm & Blues artist Solomon Burke and pop artist Michael Bolton.

The chorale has 105 members.

For more information, contact Cooley at 304-696-5430.
Visiting artist to present lecture-recital on contemporary
American piano music

Dr. Youmee Kim, assistant professor of piano at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, will be on
Marshall University’s Huntington campus Thursday, Oct. 20, to present a lecture-recital
titled “Contemporary American Piano Music.” The event will take place at 2 p.m. in Smith
Recital Hall on the Huntington campus, and is free and open to the public.

Born in Korea, Kim received her Bachelor of Music degree from Ewha Woman’s University
there. She also holds a Master of Music and Performer Diploma from Indiana University
and a Doctor of Musical Arts from The Ohio State University. She has won numerous awards,
Including the Women In Music Competition and the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs
Scholarship. She has performed extensively in Korea and North America, and has been
featured by the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in Canada.

A specialist in 20th century American piano music, Kim has authored An Analysis and Performance Guide to Benjamin
Lees’ Odyssey I and II” (published by VDM In Verlag, Germany), and published articles for “International Piano Music.” An
active member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), she serves as vice chair of the Southeast District of
the Ohio MTNA.
Marshall University faculty provide training on digital forensics to West Virginia arson investigators

Marshall University faculty provided digital forensics training to arson investigators at the West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference sponsored by the West Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Dr. Terry W. Fenger, director of the Forensic Science Center; John Sammons, assistant professor in the Integrated Science and Technology Department; and Margaret Phipps Brown, professor of Criminal Justice, were featured speakers on Monday, Oct. 3, at the two-day conference in Beckley. Continuing education credits were available to eligible participants.

Fenger discussed the identification of digital evidence and data recovery from destroyed or damaged digital evidence, and provided an overview of digital forensic capacities within West Virginia. Sammons, who also is director of the Appalachian Institute of Digital Evidence, covered investigative procedures in analyzing digital evidence. Brown addressed search and seizure laws that govern digital evidence. She is an assistant prosecuting attorney in the Cabell County Prosecutor’s Office.

The instructors collaborate as part of an agenda to increase awareness about digital forensics and digital forensic evidence and its impact on the criminal justice system, Fenger said. Continuing education and informational presentations are provided routinely to stakeholders including arson and criminal investigators, law enforcement, attorneys and judges.

Forensic Science Graduate Program and student organization to host crime scene investigation workshop

Marshall's forensic science graduate students and faculty will present a crime scene investigation workshop for high school students from Fairview High School of Ashland, Ky., Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at MU's crime scene house.

About 55 high school science students are expected to attend the "CSI Huntington" workshop. They will participate in lectures, demonstrations and hands-on experiments in areas of DNA analysis, firearms identification, fingerprint analysis, blood pattern analysis and digital forensics. They will also tour the Forensic Science Center's accredited forensic DNA laboratory which provides assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies across the United States.

The workshop will be presented by Master's United Forensic Science Association, a student organization composed of forensic science graduate students in the nationally recognized two-year program. Proceeds from the workshop will go toward the travel expenses of graduate students to attend the national meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences next February in Atlanta, Ga.

"CSI Huntington" workshops have been offered previously as a summer camp for middle school students and as a series of evening sessions to adults and high school students in the past.

A new forensic science course is being offered at Fairview High School. Matt Moresea, who is teaching the class, said he and the students are very excited to visit the Forensic Science Center's forensic DNA laboratory and the crime scene house.

"With Marshall's forensics program being one of the top programs in the country, the students will have the opportunity to learn these techniques from some of the best and thus it might spark an interest for some of them for a career in forensic science or science in general," he said.

Dr. J. Graham Rankin, professor of forensic science in the graduate program and faculty advisor for the "CSI Huntington" workshops, said the faculty and students are pleased to have this opportunity to expand the areas of forensic science offered in the workshop as well as the presentation of a one-day format for high school students.
Profile: John Ball

You simply can’t have a proper train song without the long, lonesome wail of a harmonica. John Ball, a true buff of this unique wind instrument, knows that for sure. Throw in some chug-chug-chugging riffs, listen carefully and that steam-driven locomotive puffing in the distance springs to life.

So why the fascination with this unpretentious instrument that’s small enough to be tucked into a pocket? Well, for one thing, Ball says, “it’s so versatile it can lend its distinctive sound to blues, jazz, country, classical and pop. Choose any musical genre and the harmonica has been there, whether it’s playing solo lines or part of an ensemble, with its unique sound. An enthusiastic devotee, Ball, who is a research assistant in Pharmacology, is a member of the generically named Huntington Harmonica Club. No tricked-up, cutey name for this group of dedicated musicians. And just like the modest little instrument they love, the club had humble beginnings, taking root in a small coffeehouse gathering of people who just wanted to hang out and play the harmonica.

“I have always been a musician and I just always wanted to play the harmonica,” Ball says. “I heard there was a club [that] met at the Java Joint on Tenth Avenue. It started out about 10 years ago with just a couple of guys sitting around drinking coffee and discussing harmonic sounds. Then someone came in with a guitar, and other people started coming with instruments and now after 10 years it just evolved. We now have guitar players, keyboard players, drummers and about 30 of us who play the harmonica."

They’re eager to perform and show off their skills, so the group will play just about anywhere, Ball says. “We do shows all over the Huntington area and anywhere else they’ll feed us,” he laughs. In fact, the club sponsors an annual state harmonica competition, and this year for the first time they joined with the fancifully named Diamond Teeth Mary Blues Festival held in Huntington in late August. The festival was named for Huntington native Mary Smith, the half-sister of legendary blues singer Bessie Smith. Mary hopped a train at 13, rode the rails out of town and went on to carve a unique niche for herself as both a blues and gospel singer. Her fame among musicians was so great a young Elvis Presley shyly stopped by her house in Memphis to pay homage to her. When she died in 2000, her ashes were scattered over railroad tracks in West Virginia where she hopped her first train, as she wished.

Not everyone feels comfortable playing before a crowd and that’s okay, too, Ball says. “We have a lot of shy people who don’t like to play publicly so we had about 10 people [playing] at the festival. But everyone got a turn in the spotlight, doing a lead riff or whatever.”

Ball began his musical career in a pretty traditional way, playing guitar as a teenager. He was a drummer in his high school band but quickly found “that definitely was not my instrument,” he says emphatically. And actually there never was an “aha” moment when he felt drawn to the harmonica; it was just a fanciful notion with some practical aspects. Plus, he loves the versatility of this tiny instrument. “Harmonicas are the cheapest instruments you can find. Five bucks will get you one, although you can spend much more. It costs nothing to be in the club; there are no dues or membership fees and we mentor people. Our main goal is to encourage people to play the harmonica. We give free lessons to anyone who wants to learn. And the great thing is you can Improvise, put your own spin on music. Some people gravitate to western or blues, some like classic and pop, or country and railroad songs. It doesn’t matter—whatever you like best is what you’ll do best.”

If Ball is committed to his music, he’s equally involved in his second avocation, body building and weight lifting. And just like the harmonica club, this intensive workout program began casually as well. “I started with body building, which provides really good aerobic exercise just to keep in shape. The group I was working out with just fizzled, so I began...”
looking for another group because working out by yourself is no fun. A friend invited me to the YMCA to play basketball and to do power lifting. It turned out I really enjoyed the lifting, so I've been doing it for 20 years." And because he trains well and knows how to lift properly, he's never had an injury. Today he can dead lift 350 pounds and bench press 225. For a lark he entered his first completion last month in Charleston and to his complete surprise took home the first-place trophy in his age division. And he still plays basketball three times a week. "We play for fun, certainly not for competition," he wryly admits.

A native of Paintsville, Ky., Ball earned an undergraduate degree in chemistry/biology from Morehead State University. When his wife, Jan, was admitted to veterinary school at Auburn University, he followed her there and later the couple located to Huntington where for several years they owned and operated the Huntington Dog and Cat Hospital. Not surprisingly, the couple currently share their home with three dogs and three cats.

He's been with the School of Medicine for more than 25 years, doing biological research and analytical analysis of compounds. He's excited about the increased emphasis he says Marshall is placing on research and the productive work of faculty members who have brought large grants to the SOM. "We have several professors who have been very successful in getting grants and several that serve on grant committees. There's also an emphasis on administrators to obtain money for research."

His wife, Jan, who is semi-retired now, is the "creative genius," Ball says, who has turned their yard into a lush neighborhood showcase. If she's the designer, he's the willing muscle that keeps plants growing. The meticulously planned and profusely blooming gardens have become something of a neighborhood attraction, drawing visitors who come by just to marvel at their yard. His wife loves flowers and grows them everywhere, in artfully planned plots as well as in urns and big pots. "It's a big yard and it is a lot of work to maintain, but we work on it together so we really enjoy it, because we can spend time together." And the pair loves to travel when they can fit it in their schedules, but only if their grown daughter, Ashlee, can travel with them.

And there's rarely a dull moment in the Ball household, he says. There's always something interesting going on in this lively home. His mother-in-law, Barbara McPherson, now lives with them and they like spending time with her. An avid sports fan, Ball grew up following Kentucky basketball but now he's a big Marshall fan who follows both the football and basketball teams and he's optimistic about their future. "I see good things ahead for both teams, just as I see good things ahead for Marshall."

2/9/2012