

5-11-2011

We Are...Marshall, May 11, 2011

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall for May 11, 2011

University Communications Announcements

Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 11:44 AM

To: AllExchangeUsers

WE ARE...MARSHALL.

The Newsletter for Marshall University May 11, 2011

Journalism faculty member named Drinko Fellow for 2011-2012



Burnis R. Morris, Marshall's Carter G. Woodson Professor, has been selected as the 2011-2012 Distinguished John Deaver Drinko Academy Fellow, according to Dr. Alan Gould, executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy.

Morris is the 20th faculty member to have been appointed as a Drinko Fellow. Dr. Simon Perry was the first Drinko Fellow in the 1994-1995 academic year.

[Read more.](#)

'100 Cities, One Night for Autism' features acclaimed documentary, 'Wretches & Jabberers'

Huntington is one of 100 cities across the United States participating Thursday, May 12, in "100 Cities, One Night for Autism," a unique theatrical screening of the critically acclaimed documentary, "Wretches & Jabberers," sponsored nationally by the John P. Hussman Foundation and the Autism Society.

Locally the film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Marquee Cinema in downtown Huntington. This showing is sponsored by the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University, the Autism Services Center and the Autism Society – River Cities.

[Read more.](#)

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Springs, W.Va.

This week, it was announced that the Black Eyed Peas would be performing, in addition to country music performers Tim McGraw, Luke Bryan, Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert. Also, golfer Phil Mickelson, who has won the Masters three times, is expected to play in the tournament.

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Keeling, who was born in St. Albans, achieved recognition far beyond the borders of his home state with his engaging images achieved through combining collage, drawing and painting.

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Graduate College announces summer thesis grant recipients

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The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for students who are working on thesis projects, Spindel said. The selection is made on the quality and significance of the thesis research, the likelihood that the research will eventuate in a completed thesis and the justification of need for support.

[Read more.](#)

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He will be joined by Ron Houchin of Huntington and others in the readings.

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Marshall University is once again offering a month-long K-12 Summer Program in Charleston, designed to provide children under 18 with activity-based learning experiences in writing, reading and math.

Students will explore the theme "Many Lands, Many Stories" and have opportunities to become involved in hands-on activities.

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English professor recognized for short story

A Marshall professor has been awarded a prestigious prize for his fictional short story which chronicles a day in the lives of four young boys.

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The results of the 2011 Staff Council General Election are as follows:

- Chair
Nina Barrett – Accounting
- Institutional Board of Governors Representative
Mike Dunn – Plant Operations

- Advisory Council of Classified Employees Representative
Mike Dunn – Plant Operations

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Profile: Connie Zirkle

- a series on interesting Marshall University people

Connie Zirkle has a great fondness for the Chinese proverb that says, "Birds sing because they have a song," and she's translated that to her own life by focusing on figuratively singing a song rather than dwelling on darker moods.

"It keeps you from getting involved in all kind of craziness," the Program Assistant II in Psychology and adjunct faculty member in Sociology, admits. And the mantra has helped her through good times as well as



some tough ones. It took a lot of hard work and a few hard knocks along the way but she's proud of where she is today and what she's accomplished through grit and determination.

[Read more.](#)

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed May 25, 2011. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by May 23.

This issue is also available online at www.marshall.edu/ucomm/newsletters/2011/nl_051111.html.

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Morris is the 20th faculty member to have been appointed as a Drinko Fellow. Dr. Simon Perry was the first Drinko Fellow in the 1994-1995 academic year.

"Burnis has been an outstanding addition to the Marshall University faculty," Gould said. "He certainly merits the title of Distinguished John Deaver Drinko Fellow. I am especially pleased that he will be using his time as Drinko Fellow in the next academic year to work on certain aspects of the life of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a one-time resident of Huntington, a distinguished scholar and father of African American history."

Appointed annually, the Fellow receives a generous stipend, a reduced teaching load, and other financial and clerical support for two academic years to undertake research projects and other scholarly pursuits.

Morris will present the results of his work to the university community at a symposium next spring during Marshall's annual Celebration of Academics.

Morris, known nationally for his work advising and training professional journalists who cover philanthropy and tax-exempt issues, has held the position of Carter G. Woodson Professor in the Marshall University School of Journalism and Mass Communications since 2003.

"The Drinko Academy Fellowship is one of the most prestigious honors a faculty member can receive in West Virginia higher education," Morris said. "I am grateful to the Drinko Academy for its support and recognition. I look forward to an exciting year."

Morris said he will continue his research into Woodson's career and revisit his most famous work, "Mis-Education of the Negro," first published in 1933.

"The book, now a classic, was a strong indictment of American education, especially how it systematically ignored contributions from racial minorities," Morris said. "Although the education system has been more inclusive in the decades since Woodson's observations, one would have to be Rip Van Winkle not to notice the system still has major problems; it is attacked from the left and the right, incessantly. I hope to figure out whether any of Woodson's major criticisms in 'Mis-Education' are relevant 78 years later - and of course, whether many of today's criticisms echo Woodson's observations. There should be enough material for a book."

Morris has served as head of the Journalism Division at Marshall since 2006. He has created two courses, copy editing and sports reporting, and taught other courses across a wide spectrum in mass communications -- including advanced reporting, public affairs reporting, computer-assisted reporting, mass media history, women, minorities and the media and public relations. He is a member of the Marshall University Faculty Senate and its Executive Committee, chair of the JMC Diversity Committee and Special Projects Committee and former chair of the Faculty Senate's Student Conduct and Welfare Committee.

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Locally the film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Marquee Cinema in downtown Huntington. This showing is sponsored by the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University, the Autism Services Center and the Autism Society - River Cities.

"Wretches & Jabberers" follows two men with autism, Tracy Thresher and Larry Bissonnette, who embark on a global quest to change attitudes about disability, intelligence and communication. The feature film is about personal struggles and the power of relationships and the personal connections people make through communication.

"We encourage everyone in our community to come and see this film. It is an eye opener about perceptions of disability," said Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill, director of the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University.

The documentary was directed by Academy Award winner Gerardine Wurzburg ("Educating Peter") with a soundtrack featuring original music by composer J. Ralph.

The Autism Society is the nation's leading grassroots autism organization dedicated to improving the lives of all affected by autism. The mission of the John P. Hussman Foundation is to provide life-changing assistance through medical research, education and direct aid to vulnerable individuals having urgent needs or significant disabilities.

For more information, call 1-800-344-5115.

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This week, it was announced that the Black Eyed Peas would be performing, in addition to country music performers Tim McGraw, Luke Bryan, Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert. Also, golfer Phil Mickelson, who has won the Masters three times, is expected to play in the tournament.

A percentage of proceeds from

each badge purchased will benefit Marshall University, thanks to The Greenbrier Classic Badges for Charity Program in partnership with The Marshall University Foundation, Inc.

The Alumni Badge provides tournament admittance for the entire week and access to special hospitality areas with air-conditioning, upgraded restroom facilities, flat-screen televisions to watch all the tournament action, complimentary dry snacks and non-alcoholic beverages (Monday and Tuesday), as well as unlimited tailgate style food and non-alcoholic beverages (Wednesday-Sunday).

Also, Marshall University coaches, administrators and alumni athletes will make special appearances. Weekly parking is included, and tickets to the 2011 Greenbrier Classic Concert Series are complimentary with purchase of an Alumni Badge.

Those interested in purchasing Alumni Badges during this promotion can do so online at www.greenbrierclassic.com, and apply the promotion code MUBDGO to the promotion discount field during check-out. Alumni Badges also may be purchased using the promotion code by calling the ticket hotline at 304-536-5322. Quantities are limited and early purchase is encouraged.

For additional information, contact Rebecca McPhail Randolph at 866-308-1346.

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Keeling, who was born in St. Albans, achieved recognition far beyond the borders of his home state with his engaging images achieved through combining collage, drawing and painting. His effervescent yet significant works can be found throughout the United States, Europe and China. His contemporary modern art has been featured

in numerous exhibits, museums and art stores, and his work has been the subject of several feature articles.

After receiving a B.F.A. in Interior Design in 1947 from Pratt Institute, Keeling attended classes for several years at the Hans Hofmann School of Fine Art, Art Students League and Brooklyn Museum of Art, all in New York City. He also participated in several summer workshops in Provincetown, Mass., where he studied with artists Leo Manso and Victor Kandell. In the late 1960s Keeling returned to this area and received a master's degree in fine arts from Marshall in 1969.

Keeling found recognition not only as an artist but also as a teacher and mentor. As a teacher and chair of the art department at the University of Charleston, he was a strong force in modeling the careers of countless artists, public school teachers and university professors. Keeling was always generous in sharing his talents and his knowledge of art, teaching classes throughout the community and at local art museums. Some West Virginia collections that include his work are the Avampato Museum (formerly Sunrise Museum), the Parkersburg Art Center and the West Virginia State Art collection. He also was listed in *Who's Who in American Art* as an influential American artist. Keeling retired from the University of Charleston as an Associate Professor of Art, Emeritus.

The Keeling exhibit at Marshall came about in part because of a Graduate Humanities spring seminar taught by Mark Tobin Moore, also titled "A Life in Art: Hank Keeling." The seminar included biographical research, art preparation, and the writing and producing of a catalog of the exhibition. Students assisted in curating and installing the Keeling exhibit, which will run through August 12.

The Keeling show is one of a rotating series of exhibits designed to showcase the work of local artists or those with local ties. The exhibits are free and open to the public.

Photo: Henry C. "Hank" Keeling, *Untitled (Central Park, NYC)*, 10" x 14", watercolor on paper, 1951.

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The recipients are:

- Lauren Angel, M.A., History, The West Virginia Dance Festival: An Enduring and Evolving Community (Thesis Adviser: Dr. Kevin Barksdale).
- Derek Bozzell, M.S., Biological Sciences, The Effects of Auditory Call Playback on Anuran Visual Encounter Surveys (Thesis Adviser: Dr. Thomas K. Pauley).
- Elizabeth V. Fet, M.S., Biological Sciences, Fish population dynamics within the Ohio River: Are dams acting as barriers? (Thesis Adviser: Dr. Philippe Georget).
- Derek S. Hancock, M.S., Environmental Science, Digital Conversion of Scientific Technical Manuals (Thesis Adviser: Dr. Tracy Christoforo).
- Jennifer L. Hancock, Psy.D., Psychology, Assessing the Needs of West Virginia Cancer Survivors (Thesis Adviser: Dr. Pamela Mulder).
- Sarah M. McConnell, M.A., English, Portrait of an Appalachian Woman Writer: Investigating the relationship between literacy and identity among Appalachian Women of the working-class (Thesis Adviser: Dr. Chris Green).
- Robert Desmond Shura, Psy.D., Psychology, Effects of Partner Attachment Quality on PTSD Severity with Combat-Exposed Veterans (Thesis Adviser: Dr. Marc Lindberg).
- Claire E. Snyder, M.A., History, Change by Coalition: WV FREE and the Reproductive Rights Movement in West Virginia (Thesis Adviser: Dr. Greta Rensenbrink).

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He will be joined by Ron Houchin of Huntington and others in the readings.

Stringer is the author of two collections of poems, *Channel Markers* (Wesleyan University Press) and *Human Costume* (Salmon Poetry). His work has appeared in such journals as *The Nation*, *Antaeus*, *The Ohio Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Shenandoah* and *Poetry Northwest*, as well as in *Backcountry: Contemporary Writing in West Virginia*.

He has edited and introduced a new edition of Louise McNeill's *Paradox Hill*, (West Virginia University Press, 2009). He has read his work in a wide range of American locales and also previously in Galway. For 20 years, he has taught writing and literature at Marshall.

For 30 years, Houchin taught public school in the Appalachian region of southernmost Ohio. He has three books published by Salmon Publishing, *Death And The River* (1997), *Moveable Darkness* (2002), and *Museum Crows* (2009).

His other books *Among Wordless Things* (2004) and *Birds in The Tops Of Winter Trees* (2008) were published by Wind Publications of Nicholasville, Ky. His awards include Appalachian-Book-of-the-Year-In-Poetry, a National Society of Arts and Letters Prize, an Ohio Arts Council Fellowship, a poetry prize from Indiana University and a Writer's Digest Award.

Houchin earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall.

For more information, visit www.overtheadgeliteraryevents.blogspot.com.

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John Van Kirk, a professor of English, was recognized by The Iowa Review which sponsors a yearly contest in poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Van Kirk will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and his story, "Landscape with Boys," will be published in the magazine later this year.

"The story is set in a suburban cemetery," Van Kirk said. "It's based on a real place where my brothers and I often played when we were boys."

Van Kirk has been teaching courses in creative writing and international literature at Marshall since 1993. He has written a novel, "The Enchanted Pond," which is scheduled to be published by Red Hen Press in 2013.

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Students will explore the theme "Many Lands, Many Stories" and have opportunities to become involved in hands-on activities. The program will take place at Stonewall Jackson Middle School from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, June 27 through July 28. Assessment and counseling services also will be available.

The cost for each child is \$100 and includes breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available on a need basis. Participants will be scheduled for an orientation session from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on either Wednesday, June 22 or Tuesday, June 23. Since this is a full inclusion program, both regular and special education students are encouraged to apply.

The program utilizes supervised graduate students in clinical experiences leading to certification or licensure.

Enrollment forms and additional information can be obtained by contacting Dr. Joyce Meikamp, Director of Clinical and Field-Based Experiences at Marshall, by phone at 304-746-1983 or by e-mail at jmeikamp@marshall.edu.

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Nina Barrett - Accounting
- **Institutional Board of Governor's Representative**
Mike Dunn - Plant Operations
- **Advisory Council of Classified Employees Representative**
Mike Dunn - Plant Operations
- **EEO Group 10 - Executive, Administrative & Managerial**
William "Tootie" Carter - MSC Operating
Virgil Crockett - Plant Operations
William "Bill" Lewis - Plant Operations
Lisa Williamson - Lewis College of Business
Miriah Young - Housing
- **EEO Group 30 - Other Professionals**
Betty Cook - College of Liberal Arts
Barry Dickerson - Honors College
Carol Hurula - Academic Affairs
Jennifer Jimison - Financial Aid
Jan Parker - Graduate College
- **EEO Group 40 - Technical and Paraprofessional**
Nina Barrett - Accounting
Johnny Bradley - Library
Toni Ferguson - School of Education
Lisa Maynard - School of Medicine
Kelly Preston - Autism Training Center
- **EEO Group 50 - Clerical**
Bernice Bullock - Faculty Senate
Leonard Lovely - Mailroom
Okey Napier - Psychology
Kris Standifur - Geography
Monique Williams - Special Education
- **EEO Group 60/70 - Service/Maintenance**
Jack Ferrell - Public Safety
Dwayne McCallister - Housing
Joe Wortham - Athletics
- **Classified Staff Constitution Article VIII Amendment**
Approved and passed by more than a two-thirds vote.

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Profile: Connie Zirkle



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"It keeps you from getting involved in all kind of craziness," the Program Assistant II in Psychology and adjunct faculty member in Sociology, admits. And the mantra has helped her through good times as well as some tough ones. It took a lot of hard work and a few hard knocks along the way but she's proud of where she is today and what she's accomplished through grit and determination.

Born in Huntington to a father who was career Air Force, she lived the life of a "military brat," traveling from state to state wherever her father, both a Korean War and a Vietnam veteran, was stationed. The family lived for a time in North Carolina and New York before they relocated just in time for her senior year of high school at Fairland High School in Proctorville, Ohio.

Despite all the multiple schools she had attended, Zirkle was an honor student who was offered a scholarship at the Ohio State University. Possibly because of all the traveling the family had done over the years, her parents weren't ready for her to go away quite yet and they urged her to stay home for a while. Computer science, which was still in its infancy, sounded intriguing, so she signed up to attend a keypunch school to learn the basics. That training led to a job at St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington and eventually, because coworkers were taking jobs at Marshall, she followed them in 1974, working in the computer center as a data entry clerk. That lasted until 1977 when she took time off to be with her sons, Christopher and Jesse. Except for some brief temporary work, she remained a stay-at-home mom until finally returning to Marshall full-time in the psychology department in 1985. And with her return to Marshall came the determination to get a degree.

"When I came to work here it was always with the intention of getting a degree," she says. "I was now a single mother, fitting in classes however I could." But her perseverance paid off handsomely when she graduated summa cum laude with a Regents Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996. An M.A. in sociology followed in 1999 and that degree would open doors she hadn't even thought about. "I began teaching sociology classes almost immediately and I found I love teaching. Being able to do it part-time is ideal. I actually started out in psychology but then took a sociology class and something just clicked. I realized that the difference between the two fields is basically how you view the world. In psychology you are looking at it from an individualistic approach, but with sociology it's not about me or why I behave or who I am, it's about looking in from the outside rather than taking the personal inside perspective."

However, her path to earning her degrees was not without some rocky patches. As her family's first-generation college student, Zirkle was determined to do well and make them proud. "It was very difficult to get those degrees but it was a labor of love for my master's. I had found my niche, I had found my focus, I knew what I wanted to do."

In the midst of her undergraduate studies, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery and chemotherapy. But with her usual forthright manner, she tackled her condition head on and refused to let it halt her life plans. With her indomitable spirit, she doesn't wait for circumstances to overwhelm her, she just takes them on. "I am a survivor, I don't focus on it. I'm a good old Appalachian tough girl," she says proudly. In fact, she has put the whole experience so far behind her that she has to search her memory for the year she was diagnosed.

Teaching part-time is ideal for her because it allows her to focus on the psychology department, where a lot of exciting things are taking place, she says. The program is an extremely complex, diverse one with very busy faculty who do both research and clinical work in addition to teaching, she explains. "We have the APA [American Psychological Association]

We Are...Marshall Newsletter

The Office of University Communications publishes the bi-weekly e-newsletter, "We Are...Marshall" for the university community.

To suggest a story idea, please contact the editor, [Pat Dickson](#), on the South Charleston campus. The current issue contains the deadline date for the next issue.

To read the newsletter online for issues prior to May 6, 2010, you need the Adobe Acrobat Reader.

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accreditation coming up, so there is a lot of work preparing for that. The psychology doctoral program, which first began to admit students in 2002, is very successful. In fact, our first student to officially graduate from the program is now the president of the West Virginia Psychology Association. Many of our graduates have established themselves well in their careers. I really like dealing with our students. In fact, I keep in touch with many of our students, both undergraduate and graduate."

Then there are the three psychology clinics, one on the Huntington campus, one located in Dunbar near Marshall's South Charleston campus and a newer, smaller one located on Rt. 60 near Huntington. Zirkle has great admiration and affection for the psychology students, particularly the graduate ones who are fulfilling their clinical requirements. "The psychology graduate programs are very complex--we're training professional to go out and work in underserved areas, as rural communities are our focus. The students work in many communities for their internships."

These days, much of her free time is taken up doing grandmotherly things with Zoe, six. Her granddaughter, along with Zirkle's son Christopher, lives with her and the menagerie of birds and rescued special needs dogs that make for a very lively household. Son Jesse currently is a student at Ohio University.

The birds have a special place in her heart, particularly Raicho, a macaw that has free rein of the Zirkle household. "Raicho is the Japanese word for thunderbird," she explains. "They're really intelligent; they have the same level as a five-year-old child. I got him when he was six weeks old, when I was grieving over the death of my beloved Great Dane, and he's actually the same age as my granddaughter ... they've grown up together. He sits on my shoulder when I'm working on the computer. We talk to each other and sometimes he says things he shouldn't! Sometimes we fight about things ... there are times I think we need couple counseling," she says laughing.

Raicho is joined by a bevy of other birds -- parakeets, canaries, four cockatiels and two lovebirds. Her love of her feathered friends was so great Christopher built her an aviary, but she says she has fewer birds now so all of them except Raicho reside in cages "I've always liked birds, they brighten up your day. Nothing can make you feel better than to come home and be greeted with a song. Their song tells you they're glad to see you." And the birds keep a watchful eye on the dogs, mostly deaf ones. "I found that deaf dogs are usually put down so I've tried to rescue as many as I can."

Zirkle is quick to give credit to Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, a retired sociology faculty member, who inspired her and was the mentor who set her on the path to teaching. "She molded me; she really gave me encouragement to do what I thought I couldn't do," she says. "I was afraid of public speaking and she asked me to co-present with her at a meeting of about 100 women at the state Capitol. Our topic was stereotypes of Appalachian women and I was scared to death to speak before a group. But she encouraged me and I did it. She got me over the professional hurdles and gave me the courage to stand up before people. I hope I can mentor people like she did."

Now after more than 25 years at Marshall, Zirkle reflects, "I love the people here, they're my family. I've always liked a challenge, but I like to compete with myself rather than with others. I can shine here."

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