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We Are...Marshall, December 11, 2013

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

December 11, 2013

Marshall headed to Military Bowl in Annapolis



Marshall's football team has accepted a bid to the Military Bowl, which will be played Friday, Dec. 27, in Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Md. The Thundering Herd will play the Maryland Terrapins.

"I want to encourage all of our supporters to purchase their bowl tickets through our ticket office," Marshall Athletic Director Mike Hamrick said Sunday. "It's important to us, and doing that will benefit our program in a significant way."

"It not only benefits us in the short-term, but when bowls are looking at the Herd in the future, we will have those great numbers to use to enhance our opportunities."

Marshall supporters can purchase Military Bowl tickets by visiting the ticket office window at the Cam Henderson Center, by visiting HerdZone.com and clicking on the Tickets tab, or by calling 1-800-THE-HERD (1-800-843-4373).

Kateryna Schray to deliver winter commencement speech



Dr. Kateryna Schray, an English professor and the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award Recipient for 2012-2013, is the keynote speaker at the 2013 Winter Commencement, which takes place Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Cam Henderson Center.

The ceremony will be the fifth annual winter commencement for Marshall, which began conducting a winter graduation ceremony in 2008 with a convocation at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. The speaker was Dr. Montserrat Miller, professor of history. Winter commencement began in

2009 and the tradition of having an MU professor deliver the keynote address continued.

Previous commencement speakers were Dr. Simon Perry, professor of political science, in 2009; Dr. Bonita Lawrence, professor of mathematics, in 2010; Dr. Jamie Warner, professor of political science, in 2011; and Dan Hollis, an associate professor of journalism, in 2012. Commencement begins at 2 p.m. and is for students who graduated in July or August 2013, or are tentatively scheduled to graduate this month.

Schray has been at Marshall since 1996, when she was hired as an assistant professor of English.

“I am truly humbled and fully aware of what a great privilege it is to share this important day with the graduates,” Schray said. “I attend every graduation that I can because it really is a big deal, it represents so much achievement, effort, sacrifice ... every graduation I applaud every single graduate as his or her name is called, every single one, no matter how many there are.”

Schray said she plans to speak about the three big unknowns that loom on the horizon for the graduates.

“After the euphoria of graduation settles a bit, it is normal for graduates to be faced with the daunting NOW WHAT?” she said. “For most of the graduates, three big unknowns loom on the horizon: What will I be doing? With whom will I be sharing my life? Where will I be living? — of course everyone has to find their own answers to these deeply intimate questions, but my goal is to try to offer some guidance, lay out some basic principles so that our students enter the world as prepared as they can be.”

She said she likes the idea of a faculty member speaking at winter commencement.

“I had the privilege of being the keynote speaker at the Freshman Convocation just this past August, during the Week of Welcome, and I actually spoke at the August 2009 Freshman Convocation which means — if my math is right — that there is a very good chance that some of the graduating students and I have already shared an important milestone together, which makes this especially exciting for me,” Schray said. “One of the best things about Marshall is the investment that faculty make in their students.”

Schray previously received the Pickens-Queen Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001 and the Reynolds Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009.

Schray said she takes three guiding principles with her into the classroom: 1, learning is a joy; 2, come as you are, and 3, an education really does make a difference.

“I have taught writing in an industry setting, in a homeless shelter, in a convent, and in an impoverished country,” Schray said. “In all those settings my students were taking an active step towards improving their lives in a way that nothing else could. I want my students to leave my class with a quiver full of lightning bolts and the confidence to launch them.”

Schray earned her Ph.D. in Medieval Literature from the University of North Carolina in 1997. She received her bachelor's degree from La Salle University and her master's from Georgetown University. She is coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Teresa Meddings named Employee of the Month



Teresa Meddings, Administrative Secretary Sr., College of Business, Division of Finance and Economics, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for July, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed for almost three years, she was nominated by Harlan M. Smith II.

In his nomination he writes that their division manages multiple degree programs with 15 full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty, plus adjuncts and GAs. “Teresa works tirelessly and competently every day, to make sure our administrative house is in order and that each of us has everything we need to do our respective jobs.” A problem solver, “...she strives every day to make our individual jobs just that much easier. And she succeeds...she goes above and beyond, without being asked.”

Smith says Meddings is working this semester with two adjunct instructors who teach evening classes and she not only stays late to help them get set up in their classrooms, but helps them navigate the various Marshall websites. “She works with them directly, in short, to make their teaching experience productive and rewarding.” She is also well liked and respected by the GAs. “They know she genuinely cares for them,” he says, and many stay in touch with her after they graduate.

When three new faculty members, all foreign nationals, joined the division in 2012, Smith says Meddings took it upon herself to work with them to complete the various paperwork necessary for visa applications and permanent work visa applications. “This required an untold number of hours of extra work on her part...she had to complete all this work to very tight, Federally mandated deadlines. And she had to work with the faculty in question to make sure they completed their work correctly and on time, too. She did all of this without complaint. Our three new faculty members are very grateful. They could not have gone through this without her and they know it.”

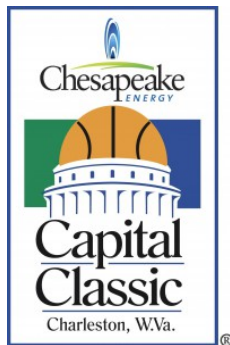
Well-liked and respected, “Teresa’s been a fantastic employee these two-plus years,” Smith writes. “She makes this place work every day, in a myriad of little ways, and is always focused

on what's best for the division and our students. As such, she's become more than an employee, she's become a partner with us in the educational mission of our division. And she's always looking for ways to contribute even more. We know our administrative affairs are in good hands with her. She's one of us now, and our division is the better for this. As her immediate supervisor, I continue to marvel every day at what she's able to accomplish and how she goes about her work."

In closing he says, "... in the relatively short time she's been with us she has learned how to work effectively and comfortably with people all over campus. She knows where to go for answers, for help. She knows more about how MU works.....than some people who've been here twice as long—or longer!"

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

Fan celebration planned before Marshall-WVU basketball game



Friends and fans of Marshall University are invited to attend the 2013 Capital Classic Fan Celebration before the Thundering Herd's annual men's basketball showdown with West Virginia University Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Charleston Civic Center.

The reception, which annually draws a large crowd of Herd followers, runs from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the South Hall of the civic center. It precedes the game between Marshall and WVU, which tips off at 7:30 p.m. Music, food, fun and festivities are guaranteed to all who attend the reception, said Nancy Pelphrey, assistant director of alumni affairs. The MU Alumni Association is sponsoring the event.

"The reception before the Marshall-WVU game is one of the best events of the year," Pelphrey said. "It is always packed with folks wearing their Kelly green. It's a spirited affair that we all look forward to attending before the big game with the Mountaineers."

Representatives from several campus organizations will take part in the reception, setting up displays and sharing information with visitors. Marco, the Marshall pep band and the MU cheerleaders will stop by to entertain those attending the reception. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and the First Lady, Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, are expected to attend as well.

A women's game between the two schools will be played at 1 p.m. at the civic center.

For more information on the reception, call Pelphrey at ext. 6-3134.

Football program to host toy drive Saturday



Members of the Thundering Herd football team will be on hand for a “Kick Off for Kids” toy drive which will take place Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Barbourville Wal-Mart (located by the mall).

People are encouraged to stop by, meet team members and drop off unwrapped new toys, which will be distributed to children in the Tri-state area.

[Click to view flyer in larger size.](#)

Marshall University Theatre, Lunar Stratagem to present ‘Can You Forgive Her?’ this weekend



Marshall University Theatre and the Lunar Stratagem, the international touring theater company based in Huntington, will premiere Lunar Stratagem’s newest work, “Can You Forgive Her?” in performances Thursday, Dec. 12, through Saturday, Dec. 14. All three performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Marshall University’s Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on Marshall’s

Huntington campus.

For tickets and more information, please call the Marshall Theatre box office at (304) 696-ARTS (2787) or visit www.marshall.edu/somt/theatre/marshall-university-theatre-alliance/the-joan-c-edwards-performing-arts-center/.

Written by postman-turned-novelist Anthony Trollope (1815-82), “Can You Forgive Her?” is actually three interconnected stories. Alice (played by Marshall Theater faculty member Nicole Perrone) is engaged to the sterling John Grey (Shawn Parr), but to the horror of her family and society, she ends the engagement to resume an affair with her former lover, the cad and ne’er-do-well George (also played by Parr). Lady Glencora (Vanessa Sawson) is already married to Lord Palliser (Andi Dëma), a brilliant but passionless Member of Parliament, but her heart still belongs to the doomed Burgo Fitzgerald (Hurricane native and recent Marshall graduate Nathan Mohebbi). The eccentric widow Aunt Greenow (Samantha Rosentrater) claims to be in mourning for her husband, yet she encourages the courtship of Mr. Cheesacre, a fat Norfolk farmer with leathern manners (also played by Dëma).

“I was interested in this classic Victorian story as an example of how an individual sometimes gets lost trying to make everyone else happy,” says adaptor-director and Lunar Stratagem Artistic Director Matthew Earnest. “It takes courage to put on the brakes and do things in your own time, when everyone would rather you just do what you’re told.”

Trollope’s story, written from 1864 to 1865, is sometimes elegantly lyrical, sometimes crude, and always gossipy fun. As a postman in Victorian London, he most likely knew more of people’s private business than they realized, and out of these complex connections and salacious details he created the massive 2-volume novel, “Can You Forgive Her?”, as well as his great and celebrated Parliamentary novels, sometimes referred to as The Barchester Series. Earnest’s modern take on the story combined with his very contemporary stagecraft slyly asks us to examine how much of our lives are still structured on these old models, and especially, why romantic love and marriage, fundamental elements of our world, have always caused us so much consternation and so much joy.

In addition to the giddiness of courtship and the heartbreak of a marriage falling apart, “Can You Forgive Her?” contains something that has become a signature of works by The Lunar Stratagem – dancing. “Some directors are actors; some are painters,” says Earnest. “I’m just a frustrated choreographer. I love to try to communicate ideas and relationships with as few words as possible, and if I can, with none.” “Can You Forgive Her?” could actually be classified as a contemporary dance-theater work, as the movement sequences, both literal and abstract, are as essential to the storytelling as Trollope’s hilarious, elegant text.

The production design, juxtaposing the trappings of pristine Victoriana with our own post-industrial America, is by William Bezek. The sound design is by Anthony Narciso.

Staff Council updates items needed for holiday project

As tomorrow, Thursday, Dec. 12, is the deadline for donating items for the Classified Staff Council’s Holiday Project, here is an update on the items still needed to meet their goal.

The following is needed for the Homeless Christmas Bags Project:

- Toothbrushes – None needed; our goal of 300 has been met!
- Tubes of Toothpaste – None needed; our goal of 300 has been met!
- Bars of Soap (Individually Wrapped) – **111 needed**
- Little Debbie Christmas Cakes – **289 needed**
- Candy Canes (Individually Wrapped) – **204 needed**

Several donations have been made for the Veterans Home and the following items will continue to be taken:

- **Toiletries** (travel sized are acceptable)
Deodorant, Shaving Accessories (Razors, Shaving Cream, Aftershave), Toothbrushes/Toothpaste, Shampoo, Denture Care (Cleaner, Cups, Tablets), Soap (Bar or Liquid), Mouthwash, Tissues
- **Personal Care**
Laundry Detergent, Hair Care (Brush, Comb)
- **Clothing Items**
New Socks, New Handkerchiefs, New Hats/Gloves/Scarves, New Flannel Shirts

Items can be dropped off to any of the following locations:

- Old Main Basement Mailroom – Leonard Lovely
- Memorial Student Center 2W6 – William “Tootie” Carter
- Department of Housing, Holderby Hall 105 – Miriah Young
- Physical Plant, Sorrell Maintenance Building – Anita Hill
- Charleston Campus – GC 304 – Joyce Harrah
- SOM Medical Center – Suite 3407 – Lisa Maynard
- College of Business Corbly Hall 111 – Lisa Williamson
- College of Education Jenkins Hall 201 – Toni Ferguson
- IST Department Morrow Library 116 – Wanda Dyke
- CFO Office
- Bursar’s Office
- Payroll Office

For any questions, contact the Staff Council Office by phone at ext. 62222 or by e-mail at easter@marshall.edu.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Dec. 18, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16.