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We Are...Marshall, October 30, 2013

Office of Marshall University Communications

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

October 30, 2013

Marshall to host higher education forums next week as part of Marshall 20/20

Marshall University will sponsor three higher education forums next week in Pt. Pleasant, Huntington and South Charleston in order to give faculty, staff, students and members of the respective communities an opportunity to discuss issues with legislators. Each of the sessions will be moderated by Beth Vorhees, director of news and public affairs for West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

The week's activities begin with a session at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at the Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Pt. Pleasant, followed by a session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, in the Drinko Library Atrium on the Huntington campus. The forums will conclude with a session at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, in the Academic Center on the South Charleston campus.

Persons who would like to attend are asked to call 304-696-3977 to make reservations. Click on the graphic below for more information.

IT'S YOUR TURN
to ask some questions!

Ask your state leaders about
the future of higher education
in West Virginia.


Marshall 20/20

MONDAY, NOV. 4 @ 6 P.M.
POINT PLEASANT

TUESDAY, NOV. 5 @ 6 P.M.
HUNTINGTON

THURSDAY, NOV. 7 @ 6 P.M.
SOUTH CHARLESTON

Marshall kicks off United Way campaign for 2013



Marshall University's annual campaign for the United Way of the River Cities is under way, according to Dr. Michael Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, who is chairing the effort this year.

"I am a big believer that a contribution to our United Way is the most effective and efficient way to make the biggest difference for those who need it most," Prewitt said in a letter to the university community, "and so I am asking you to join me in helping our neighbors, in solving problems at their root cause and in improving our communities."

The campaign has a goal of providing help to 30,000 individuals in the community, he said. Projects include those related to adult literacy, childhood obesity, dropout prevention, life skills, substance abuse prevention, basic needs and more.

The pledge form may be viewed or downloaded at the following address:

http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/files/web/UnitedWayMarshallPledgeForm_2013.pdf. Forms may be turned in at the Marshall Recreation Center to receive a free day pass, to an individual's departmental office, or sent to Prewitt via campus mail at Prichard Hall 224.

Seidman to give next in series of Amicus Curiae lectures Tuesday, Nov. 5



Louis Michael Seidman, who is the Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Constitutional Law at the Georgetown University Law Center, will present "On Constitutional Disobedience" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, at Marshall University Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center. The lecture is the second in this year's Amicus Curiae series, sponsored by the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy.

In describing his talk, Seidman says, "Over two centuries after its ratification, most Americans are still infatuated with their Constitution. And yet, despite years of hagiography for the founders and worship of the text that they produced, atheists and agnostics have survived. Throughout our history, many of our most revered political figures have expressed doubts about the Constitution. Constitutional skepticism has been at the heart of some of our most important political battles, and it has preoccupied some of our leading political thinkers. It is as American as apple pie."

Seidman, who is the author of a book titled *On Constitutional Disobedience* as well, will sign books following the lecture.

Blue Man Group to appear Nov. 12 and 13



The Blue Man Group, a unique entertainment experience that must be seen to be believed, will be bringing their multinational flavor to the historic Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center for two performances Tuesday, Nov. 12, and Wednesday, Nov. 13. Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. both evenings.

This show will feature a blend of new content, featuring imaginative technology, and classic Blue Man favorites. This tour delivers on new sounds, sets, and video designed around an original performance. Also featured are the larger-than-life LED curtain and a high-resolution screen.

The Blue Man Experience is difficult to explain, promoters say, because Blue Man Group keeps pushing their show to new inventive heights, incorporating many of today's technologies which allows them to connect with the audience in a whole new way. Blending music, science, painting, and technology, this group engages many different primitive, witty, and sophisticated pieces.

Performing on such shows as *The Tonight Show*, *Regis & Kelly*, and *Ellen*, Blue Man Group has reached great heights in the entertainment industry. Imagination and originality are two of the qualities that are reflected in their shows.

The Blue Man Show today is an imaginative experience full of fan-interaction that incorporates the Blue Men's own language into the show. With Grammy-nominated music, the show manages to incorporate diverse ideas about art, visual perception and group dynamics. Through the performance, patrons are encouraged to interpret their own meaning of these ideas. Being involved with many scoring projects for TV, film, and commercials, the Blue Man Group has become synonymous with today's popular culture.

For this performance in Huntington, fans should expect risk-taking and experimentation, a show that will be unique and true to the Blue Man Spirit.

For ticket information, call the Artists Series box office, which is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m., at 304-696-6656.

Solo exhibit at Gallery 842 features paintings by visiting artist Morgan Craig



Philadelphia-based painter Morgan Craig will be featured in a solo exhibition at Gallery 842 at 842 4th Ave. until Dec. 6.

Craig creates large-scale paintings of dilapidated and abandoned interior spaces, often portraying the ruins of urban dwellings, factories, asylums and penitentiaries. He has found inspiration for his work in locations ranging from defunct factories in Detroit to forbidden nuclear zones in Russia to restricted industrial islands in Australia. The artist describes these structures as “both repositories and vehicles for memory that profoundly influence culture and identity.” Craig’s paintings address the demise of the American Dream, as well as the human component of these vacant spaces—the imprint of the men and women who spent the vast majority of their lives working within these now-spent buildings.

“We’re very excited to welcome an artist of Craig’s caliber to our community,” said gallery director John Farley. “Many of the architectural settings depicted look all too familiar – equal parts beauty and poignancy. As downtown Huntington seeks to rebuild, rebrand and reinvent itself, Craig’s paintings provide an important vehicle for discourse.”

Craig received an M.F.A. in painting from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and a B.F.A. in painting with teacher certification from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, also in Philadelphia. He has been featured in periodicals including *New American Paintings*, *American Art Collector Magazine* and *Direct Art Magazine*. Craig has shown at SOFA Chicago; the Goggleworks Center for the Arts in Reading, Pa.; the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington, Va.; the Current Gallery in Baltimore; and the Lawrence Asher Gallery in Los Angeles, among others.

Gallery 842 is free and open to the public from noon to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Image: “The Heartbeat of America” (2011) is an oil painting on linen, 72” x 54” by artist Morgan Craig, whose work will be on display at Gallery 842 until Dec. 6.

'Fraught fantasies' conversation with authors to take place Nov. 4

The Women's Studies Program will be hosting a conversation among authors Kallypso Masters and Ann Mayburn and Assistant Professor of English Dr. Jill Treftz. The discussion, entitled "Fraught Fantasies: Feminism, Erotic Literature, and BDSM," will focus on women as writers and consumers of erotic literature and the controversies surrounding recent bestselling books such as *Fifty Shades of Grey* by E.L. James.

A bestselling author, Masters writes emotional and realistic novels including the Rescue *Me* series. She has been writing full-time since May 2011. *Masters at Arms* was her debut novel (published in August 2011), followed by *Nobody's Angel*, *Nobody's Hero*, and *Nobody's Perfect*.

Mayburn is an award-winning author of over thirty erotica and romance novels including the *Prides of the Moon* series and *Wild Lilly*. She is influenced by mythology and fairy tales and has written historical, paranormal, and contemporary romance novels.

Treftz holds a Ph.D. from Penn State. She teaches and writes about nineteenth-century British literature, fantasy and romance fiction. She is interested in representations of female desire in literature.

The conversation will be moderated by Leah Tolliver, coordinator of the Women's Center at Marshall.

"Fraught Fantasies" will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4 in Drinko Library 402. A reception and book signing with the authors will follow at 8 p.m. in the Drinko Atrium. Books by Masters and Mayburn will be available for purchase.

This event is free and open to the public. For questions or more information, contact Dr. Laura Michele Diener at ext. 6-2954 or Tolliver at ext. 6-3112.

Marshall University recognized as a Phi Kappa Phi Chapter of Merit

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines, recently recognized the Marshall University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi as a Chapter of Merit. The award is given to chapters that excel in recognizing and promoting academic excellence in all fields of higher education and engaging the community of scholars in service to others.

The Chapter of Merit distinction is a part of the society's Chapter Recognition Program, which acknowledged 69 chapters with recognition this year, including 50 as Chapters of Merit.

"Phi Kappa Phi is proud of all its chapters, but we are pleased to offer special recognition to those who have achieved the status of Chapter of Merit and Chapter of Excellence," said Society Executive Director Dr. Mary Todd. "The efforts of chapter officers to promote academic excellence on their campuses demonstrate their strong commitment to the mission of Phi Kappa Phi and to their students." By receiving the Chapter of Merit distinction, the Marshall University chapter is recognized as a thriving organization that meets regularly, holds annual initiations and applies frequently for Phi Kappa Phi's select awards, grants and fellowships.

"I am pleased that the Marshall University chapter was honored as a Chapter of Merit," said Chapter President Dr. Todd L. Green. "It means a lot to us as we are a young chapter, having been established in 2010. We are fortunate to have such high quality student and faculty members."

Chapters achieving the Chapter of Merit distinction receive:

- a commendation letter from the society sent to chapter officers and campus administration
- special recognition on the society's website and publications
- a specially designed logo for use in chapter communications
- recognition advertisements in local media and educational journals
- a \$100 award

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. The society has chapters at more than 300 select colleges and universities in North America and the Philippines.

For more information on Phi Kappa Phi, please call 800-804-9880 or visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

Marshall alumna named 2013 Outstanding Woman in Technology at ‘Spirit of Innovation’



Two-time Marshall University graduate Dr. Stephanie A. Skolik was recognized as one of West Virginia’s top innovators last week at the TechConnectWV “Spirit of Innovation” awards banquet.

An ophthalmologist and president and CEO of the Huntington Retina Center, Skolik was honored with the 2013 Outstanding Woman in Technology award for her retinopathy research and invention of devices to assist with eye surgery. She is the founder of the American Retina Research Foundation and heads up Eyedeia Inc., an ophthalmic invention company.

Approximately 20 years ago, she observed that patients with long-term diabetes and co-existing arthritis seemed far less likely than their non-arthritic counterparts to develop diabetic retinopathy, the most common diabetic eye disease and a leading cause of blindness in American adults. The disease is caused by changes in the blood vessels of the retina.

Skolik hypothesized that the inflammatory joint proteins were providing a sort of innate protection. The search for the identity of this protective factor is the focus of her research. If the protective factor can be identified, it may be a critical link to understanding diabetes itself and could eventually lead to a “diabetes vaccine.”

Dr. Jan I. Fox, Marshall’s senior vice president for information technology and chief information officer, said she has known Skolik since high school, when they were debate partners.

“Stephanie Skolik epitomizes entrepreneurship. When I think of innovation, technology and a strong female leader, it is her name that comes to mind,” said Fox. “When she needed something for her work that was not available, she would just create a new device for ophthalmic surgery. Most people could only dream of holding a single patent, but she holds multiple patents for ophthalmic medical devices.

“Above all, she has used her intellect and skills to improve the lives of West Virginians. Eleven years ago she established the non-profit American Retina Research Foundation, which is based in Huntington, to provide financial support for diabetic retinopathy research. Her heart is as large as her talent.”

Skolik earned a bachelor’s degree from Marshall in 1981 and graduated from the university’s school of medicine in 1985. She was a finalist in the U.S. Olympic Trials in basketball in 1980 and a Rhodes Scholarship finalist in 1981.

In addition to being an assistant professor at Marshall’s medical school from 1994 to 1999, she has been a clinical instructor and fellow at the Yale University School of Medicine. From 1998 to 2002, she was a guest researcher at the highly acclaimed National Eye Institute in Bethesda, Md.

TechConnectWV is a non-profit coalition committed to the advancement of the high-tech economy in West Virginia. The awards banquet was held Tuesday in Morgantown.

Anne Barth, TechConnect's executive director, said, "The 'Spirit of Innovation' program is an opportunity to spotlight success stories throughout the state, and recognize the people and organizations that support innovation-based economic development. By showcasing these creative efforts and the people behind them, we hope to inspire others who may have an entrepreneurial spirit. The 33 nominations received for this inaugural awards program demonstrate that in West Virginia, the innovation economy is not just a concept it's a reality."

Marshall awarded 2014 Military Friendly Schools Designation



Marshall University has been named to Victory Media's Military Friendly Schools® list for 2014, according to Crystal Stewart, program manager for information technology/MUOnline.

The list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

"Inclusion on the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools® shows Marshall University's commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, vice president at Victory Media and a nine-year Navy veteran. "The need for education is growing and our mission is to provide the military community with transparent, world-class resources to assist in their search for schools."

The Military Friendly Schools® media and website, found at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com, feature the list, interactive tools and search functionality to help military students find the best school to suit their unique needs and preferences. The 1,868 colleges, universities and trade schools on this year's list exhibit leading practices in the recruitment and retention of students with military experience. These schools have world-class programs and policies for student support on campus, academic accreditation, credit policies, flexibility and other services to those who served.

"Potential military students are encouraged to virtually attend the upcoming Military Friendly Schools Virtual College Fair, Wednesday, Nov. 20," Stewart said. "The fair will provide an opportunity for service members, spouses and veterans to engage with Marshall while searching for a school and is especially efficient for introducing service members deployed overseas or those still in uniform to our education programs."

Those who would like to attend the virtual college fair may register at www.militaryfriendly.com/events, Stewart said.

Now in its fifth year, the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools® was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 10,000 schools nationwide approved for VA tuition funding.

Marshall Recreation Center announces 'Kids' Nights Out' for Nov. 1, Dec. 6



The Marshall Recreation Center is hosting special nights out for kids from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, and Friday, Dec. 6. These programs are available to parents who would like some time to themselves to shop, see a movie, or get some things done around the house.

The children will be entertained in a fun, safe environment where they will experience climbing on the Rec Center's rock wall, swimming in the indoor pool, playing ball on the courts and having a pizza party with all their new friends.

Children ages 4-12 are welcome and the deadline to register for Nov. 1 is Thursday, Oct. 31. Parents are asked to please register their children in advance, as space is limited. The cost for members is \$15 (\$10 for each additional sibling), and the cost for non-members is \$20 (\$15 for each additional sibling). Cash, credit cards or checks made out to the Campus Rec Club will be accepted.

Sign-up deadline for Dec. 6 is Thursday, Dec. 5.

Forms and waivers for these events can be found on www.marshallcampusrec.com. Parents are asked to return the forms to the Marshall Recreation Center Welcome Desk or mail them to: Marshall Recreation Center, Attn: Dan Belcher, 402 Thundering Herd Dr., Huntington, WV 25755.

For more information, call Belcher, facility operations coordinator, at 304-696-4651.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Nov. 6, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4.