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We Are...Marshall, October 16, 2013

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

October 16, 2013

Janna Levin, professor of physics and astronomy at Barnard College of Columbia University, to deliver da Vinci Lecture at Marshall



Dr. Janna Levin, a professor of physics and astronomy at Barnard College of Columbia University, is the 2013 da Vinci lecturer at Marshall University.

Levin speaks at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, in room BE5 on the lower level of the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus. Her lecture on “The Third Culture” is free to the public.

Levin was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2012. Her scientific research concerns the early universe, chaos and black holes. Her second book – the novel *A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines* – won the

PEN/Bingham Fellowship for Writers that “honors an exceptionally talented fiction writer whose debut work ... represents distinguished literary achievement ...” It was also a runner-up for the PEN/Hemingway award for “a distinguished book of first fiction.”

She is the author of the popular science book, *How the Universe Got its Spots: Diary of a Finite Time in a Finite Space*.

In her talk about a growing movement deemed “The Third Culture,” Levin discusses the crossover between the arts and the sciences, sharing stunning examples – such as a Brooklyn collective of artists, designers, roboticists, engineers and biologists – of a new intellectual being born.

Levin holds a B.A. in physics and astronomy from Barnard College with a concentration in philosophy, and a Ph.D. in physics from MIT. She did research at the Center for Particle Astrophysics at the University of California-Berkeley before moving to the United Kingdom to work at Cambridge University in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.

Just before returning to New York, Levin was the first scientist-in-residence at the Ruskin School of Fine Art and Drawing at Oxford University with an award from the National Endowment for Science, Technology, and Arts. She has written for many artists and appeared on several radio and television programs.

Marshall 20/20: university community considers long-range plans, effects of state funding

More than 50 representatives of Marshall's administration, faculty, staff and students attended a long-term planning session Friday, Oct. 11, under the leadership of Rick Staisloff, a consultant who specializes in assisting colleges and universities to develop new "business models."

President Stephen J. Kopp said this type of planning is necessary in view of fewer state and federal dollars being available in the foreseeable future.

"We must become more self-reliant and more self-sustained," Kopp said. "We are ahead of the curve and with everyone's input we are going to stay ahead."

The day's session included small-group consideration of some of the topics under discussion, among them what the "Marshall advantage" is, what a new business model for Marshall might look like and what additional information will be needed. Of particular importance is the "value proposition," which includes the job to be done (Marshall's mission), and the resources available to do that job.

Each small group reported to all present and the ideas were discussed.

The next steps in the process will include the following:

- Definition of Roles and Responsibilities
- Construction of a Communication Plan
- Evaluation of procedures by means of prototyping
- Development of a shared future vision

MU alum Paula Tompkins, founder of ChannelNet, to speak Oct. 31; reservations due Oct. 19



Paula Tompkins, a Marshall University alumna and CEO/founder of the marketing and sales firm ChannelNet, will speak on the Huntington campus Thursday, Oct. 31. Her presentation, which will take place at 5 p.m. at Marshall University Foundation Hall, home of the Erickson Alumni Center, is titled “Energy, Empowerment and Enterprise.”

“This will be an interesting and enlightening hour of meeting and hearing about the success of an alum from Marshall,” said Dr. Ronald G. Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation Inc. “Paula will be very entertaining, for sure.”

Students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend, Area said, but need to make a reservation by Saturday, Oct. 19, by calling 304-696-3321 or e-mailing vance50@marshall.edu.

ChannelNet, founded in 1985, specializes in multichannel marketing and sales solutions based on Internet technology. Their client list includes automobile companies such as Ford, GM and Toyota; technology companies such as IBM and Intel; retailers such as Saks Fifth Avenue and Macy’s; and other consumer retailers such as Coca Cola, La-Z-Boy and Benjamin Moore Paints.

Click on photo above to view event flyer.

Presentation on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Lily’s Place services to be given Oct. 18

Dr. Sean Loudin, medical director at Lily’s Place, and Mary Calhoun Brown, secretary and treasurer with the Lily’s Place board of directors, will give a presentation titled “Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Lily’s Place” Friday, Oct. 18, at noon in room BE5 on the lower level of the Memorial Student Center.

The presentation will provide information related to services offered by Lily’s Place, a pediatric addiction recovery center, and the ever-growing problem of neonatal addiction.

The event is hosted by Student Health Education Programs, The Women's Center, Women's Studies and the Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership.

Refreshments will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a package of diapers, size newborn or 1.

Call ext. 6-4103 for more information.

Awea Duo, guest pianist to appear at Marshall Oct. 21



The Awea Duo, consisting of Mas Sugihara, saxophone, and Jennifer Brimson Cooper, flute, will give a recital on Marshall University's Huntington campus Monday, Oct. 21. The performance will take place at 8 p.m. in Smith Recital Hall and also will include pianist Eunbyol Ko.

Until recently the three musicians were colleagues at Morehead State University in Morehead, Ky., but Sugihara is now on the faculty at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. However, the Awea Duo continues to perform, having made more than 20 appearances including recitals at the Flute Society of Kentucky Festival, the Florida Flute Association convention, the National Flute Association convention, the North American Saxophone Alliance Region 7 conference, as well as at Santa Catarina State University and Goias Federal University in Brazil.



"It is our goal to expand available literature for this instrumentation while having a great time working and performing together," Cooper said.

"This is a program not to be missed," said Dr. Wendell Dobbs, professor of music at Marshall. "Here's an opportunity to hear great artists performing new, cutting-edge repertoire."

The program will include works from Brazil, France, Germany, Serbia, Russia and China, as well as the United States. It is free and open to the public. Call the School of Music and Theatre at 304-696-3117 for more information.

(Photos) The Awea Duo (above) and Eunbyol Ko will perform at Marshall University Monday, Oct. 21.

Next event in Visiting Writers Series to feature Marshall professor



John Van Kirk, fiction writer and professor of English at Marshall University, will be featured at the next reading in the A.E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series on the Huntington campus.

The reading will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, in Smith Hall, room 154, with a book-signing immediately following.

Van Kirk will read from his debut novel, *Song for Chance*, which has been called by Publishers Weekly “a passionate, elegiac tale about the excesses of sex, drugs, and rock and roll over a tortured musician’s

lifetime.”

Van Kirk joined the U.S. Navy in January of 1980. He graduated from flight school as a naval aviator and served for three years in the Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 7, based in Jacksonville, Fla. In 1989, Van Kirk joined the Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Maryland, where he studied with Joyce Kornblatt, Howard Norman and Stanley Plumly. After two years of sailing and traveling internationally, he joined the Marshall faculty, where he has balanced a dual career as a writer and teacher since 1993. The recipient of an O. Henry Award and the Fiction Prize at The Iowa Review, Van Kirk’s work has appeared widely in The New York Times Magazine, The Hudson Review, West Branch, Kestrel, The Sonora Review and Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, among several other journals and anthologies.

The Visiting Writers Series receives support from Marshall’s College of Liberal Arts and Honors College.

Autism Center’s college program reaches matching fund goal

A family who wishes to remain anonymous has donated a \$30,000 gift to the West Virginia Autism Training Center’s College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder at Marshall University. The donation was provided to be an incentive to challenge other donors to match, dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000. In less than one month, that challenge has been met.

Marshall’s college program was recently the subject of a highly complementary article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which noted that the program, which began in 2002, is the oldest one in

the nation that supports students on the autism spectrum as they pursue traditional college degrees. The article may be accessed at www.post-gazette.com/stories/news/health/marshall1009roth39-706805.

Since that story appeared on Oct. 9, “we have been happily flooded with calls and e-mails,” said Rebecca Hansen, coordinator of the college program. “We are thankful for the exposure and hope to accommodate more students in the near future.”

Currently there are 48 students who work individually with graduate student mentors who guide them in navigating the academic and social aspects of college life. Students live in residence halls and local apartments, following the typical curriculum as other Marshall students. The college program began with a \$50,000 donation from Virginia businessman Larry Austin, whose son, Lowell, became the first student in the program and who now works at the Autism Training Center.

The purpose of the college program is to provide individualized skill building and therapeutic supports to degree-seeking students with Autism Spectrum Disorders through a mentored environment while navigating a college experience at Marshall University. For more information, please visit www.marshall.edu/collegeprogram.

NSF grant to integrate robotics technology into middle school courses in Mingo County and Pennsylvania

An innovative program that introduces robotic technology into non-technical middle school classes will be used by rural West Virginia and suburban Pittsburgh schools in a federally funded research project to identify and nurture students with an affinity for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

All 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students in Mingo County Schools and all 7th- and 8th-grade students at Springdale Junior-Senior High School in Allegheny Valley, Pa. – a total of 900 children annually – will use robotic kits developed at Carnegie Mellon University. They will use the kits to complete at least one project or assignment each year in required courses such as health, earth science and language arts.

The three-year Creative Robotics project, supported by a \$1.5 million National Science Foundation grant, seeks to increase the number and diversity of students in the STEM education pipeline.

“We’re particularly interested in finding students who may not realize they have STEM-related talents or interests, or who otherwise have slipped through the cracks,” said Dr. Illah

Nourbakhsh, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) professor of robotics and the project's principal investigator. "Integrating robotics technology into classes such as art or health will give every student multiple opportunities to discover their STEM potential. At the same time, robotics can help make those courses more compelling, which helps all students."

In addition to CMU and the Mingo County and Allegheny Valley school districts, the project includes faculty and staff members in the colleges of education at Marshall and West Liberty Universities in West Virginia including the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development.

The CREATE Lab in the CMU Robotics Institute set the stage for this new project in 2006 when it launched a program called Robot Diaries, which later became known as Arts & Bots. The idea was to foster interest in technology at the middle school level, particularly among girls. Rather than focusing on building robots, Arts & Bots used robotic kits to enable students and teachers to turn almost any arts and crafts project into a robot, or something akin to a kinetic sculpture.

The kit, called Hummingbird, consists of a customized control board along with a variety of lights, sensors and motors that can be connected to the controller without soldering. Students program their creations with an easy-to-learn, drag-and-drop environment that requires no prior experience with programming.

The CREATE Lab and the June Harless Center at Marshall train teachers on how to use the kits in their classes. Approximately 1,100 students and about 200 educators in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, as well as Brazil and the United Kingdom, have participated in Arts & Bots thus far.

In most cases, however, participation has been limited to a course or two, or just a handful of teachers in each school. With the new Creative Robotics project, Arts & Bots will be introduced into required core courses that all students take.

Update: Appalachian Studies Association deadline extended to Oct. 18

The Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) is extending the deadline for proposals for its 2014 Annual Conference to Friday, Oct. 18. The conference will be hosted by Marshall on March 28-30, 2014.

The interdisciplinary conference will explore and honor traditions of Appalachia while making appraisals of present-day Appalachia. It will feature dozens of interactive sessions and workshops, as well as several networking opportunities for Appalachian scholars, activists and artists.

Proposal types include individual scholarly papers by single or multiple authors, panel or group presentations, poster presentations, facilitated discussions, workshops and performance pieces including music, visual art, film, theater, readings of original works related to Appalachia and new “Un-Conference sessions,” which allow peer to-peer learning in a semi-structured setting.

All proposals must be submitted online using Marshall Digital Scholar on the Appalachian Studies Association’s website. Late and incomplete proposals cannot be considered or accepted. Receipt of proposals will be acknowledged via e-mail to all authors by Nov. 30.

For full proposal details, or to submit a proposal, visit www.appalachianstudies.org/conference.

Faculty Achievement: Dr. Suneel K. Maheshwari

Dr. Suneel K. Maheshwari, professor of accountancy and legal environment in the College of Business, is a co-author, along with Dr. S.N. Maheshwari and Sharad K. Maheshwari, of the new 11th edition of An Introduction to Accountancy, published by Vikas Publishing House.

The textbook provides students with the knowledge of basic accounting principles and practices in a systemic manner. According to the publisher, the unique feature that has made this book so popular among students is the simplicity of presentation, which enables them to understand the subject matter and solve practical problems. The book’s wide coverage helps to meet course content requirements for several degrees as well as foundation exams for various professional institutions.

S.N. Maheshwari is professor emeritus and academic adviser at Delhi Institute of Advanced Studies, Delhi, India. Sharad K. Maheshwari is the general manager of Corporate Finance, Lalit Hospitality Group, New Delhi, India.

Marshall hosts blood drive on South Charleston campus

A blood drive for the American Red Cross is taking place on the South Charleston campus until 2 p.m. today. Donors have the option of giving blood or making a double-red cell donation during the drive. No appointment is necessary.

All blood types are needed, but Red Cross officials have issued special alerts requesting both O-negative and O-positive blood.

For more information, contact Joyce Harrah at ext. 6-2030 or jsharrah@marshall.edu

Annual 'Haunted Rec' to take place Oct. 22



The Marshall Recreation Center will have its annual “Haunted Rec” from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22.

Haunted Rec is free to the public and offers an array of Halloween-themed events for kids of all

ages. There will be a haunted house, a ghoulish obstacle course, and an “Eat This, Not That” challenge complete with prizes.

All kids are encouraged to wear their costumes and to bring swimming suits. A screening of the movie “Hotel Transylvania” will take place in the pool at 7 p.m.

Parents wanting to join in on the Halloween fun can take a class that teaches the dance performed in Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” while their kids enjoy the movie screening. The cost of the class is \$8 and all proceeds will go to Erin Hickok, a personal trainer at the Rec Center, who will be running in the New York Marathon on Nov. 3

Hickok will be running for Team Healthier Generation, a national program working to prevent childhood obesity. The funds will not only make it possible for Hickok to run in the marathon, but to raise money for the Healthier Generation Alliance as well.

For more information on the Marshall University Recreation Center, visit <http://www.marshallcampusrec.com/>, or for more information about Team Healthier Generation, visit <http://www.healthiergeneration.org>.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Oct. 23, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21.