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We Are...Marshall, October 17, 2012

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

October 17, 2012

Two University of Cincinnati writers to read from their work at MU

Novelist Chris Bachelder and Danielle Cadena Deulen, a poet and essayist, will read from their work at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, in Smith Hall 154 on Marshall University's Huntington campus.

The readings, part of the A.E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series at Marshall, are free to the public and will be followed by book signings.

Bachelder is a novelist, e-book pioneer and frequent contributor to the publications *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern* and *The Believer*. Born in Minneapolis, Minn., he grew up in Christiansburg, Va.

Bachelder received his M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Florida at Gainesville. His novel *Lessons in Virtual Tour Photography* was *McSweeney's* first e-book, which earned more than 45,000 downloads by 2004.

Bachelder is best known for his scrapbook-style novels, *Bear v. Shark* (2001) and *U.S.!* (2006). His fourth and most recent book, *Abbott Awaits*, was published in 2011 at Louisiana State University Press. He currently lives in Ohio where he is an assistant professor of fiction in the Graduate Creative Writing Program at the University of Cincinnati.

Deulen's collection of poems, *Lovely Asunder*, won the Miller Williams Arkansas Poetry Prize and was published with the University of Arkansas Press in 2011. Her memoir, *The Riots*, published with University of Georgia Press in 2011, won the 2010 AWP Prize in Creative Nonfiction, was a finalist for the 2011 Grub Street National Book Prize in Nonfiction, and won the 2012 Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) New Writers Award.

Formerly, she was a Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her poetry and essays have appeared in such journals as *The Utne Reader*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Smartish Pace*, and *The Indiana Review*.

Deulen received her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from George Mason University and her Ph.D. in English from the University of Utah. She currently lives in Ohio where she is an assistant professor of poetry in the Graduate Creative Writing Program at the University of Cincinnati.

Weekend at Marshall features marching festival

Marshall University's Department of Music will host the Tri-State Marching Festival Saturday, Oct. 20. Band performances begin at 11 a.m. in Joan C. Edwards Stadium on Marshall's Huntington campus. Stadium gates will open at 10:15 a.m.

According to Marshall's band director, Steve Barnett, this is the largest band festival of its kind in this part of the country. Bands from West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia have been separated into categories based on the number of performers.

Marshall's Marching Thunder will also perform an exhibition at the conclusion of the performances at approximately 9 p.m.

Admission to the festival is \$5 per person of school age and up. Public parking will be available for \$2 in the south end of the west stadium parking lot until the lot is full. After that, patrons may park in the garage on Third Avenue and any other available spaces near the stadium.

"The Tri-State Marching Festival is a tremendous opportunity to showcase Marshall University," Barnett said. "We expect to bring more than 10,000 to the stadium, many of whom are prospective college students, with their parents."

The event is sponsored by Marching Thunder and Kappa Kappa Psi, the band honorary fraternity.

'Unity Celebration' to involve students, faculty, staff Oct. 24



Hundreds of Marshall University students are expected to gather on the Huntington campus on Wednesday, Oct. 24, to take part in the first We Are ... Family! Unity Walk Celebration.

Maurice Cooley, director of the Center for African American Students' Programs, said the event was created to give all

Marshall students the opportunity to come together for the purpose of celebrating their unity, being part of the same “family,” and recognizing their individual differences.

“We all rejoice and celebrate being a part of the Marshall family,” Cooley said. “I don’t know of any other university where students have as much pride and exhilaration about their university as Marshall University students. We recognize that with the massive amount of students and the large number of organizations, we are all part of the same family, but we have never come together to celebrate together. We’ve never celebrated as a family.”

That’s the goal – to celebrate as a family – of Cooley and the Center for African American Students’ Programs, the Student Government Association, Student Affairs, Greek Affairs, the athletic department and Residence Services, all of which are sponsoring the event.

“We want to increase and instill more pride in who we are,” Cooley said. “We are all Marshall.”

The Unity Walk Celebration begins at 6 p.m. at or near the Memorial Student Center plaza. Faculty and students who are not affiliated with any organization will meet on the plaza. Students from organizations will meet in groups in a line possibly extending from Buskirk Field to Old Main to Drinko Library to Corbly Hall. Cooley is expecting more than 500 students to participate.

A DJ on the plaza will “crank up,” Cooley said, the song “We Are Family,” which will be the cue for the student organizations/teams to begin walking simultaneously toward the plaza, where they will meet up with the other students. Many will be carrying banners, Cooley said, and each group will have its own chant.

“They’ll arrive here on the plaza and we will have celebratory music,” Cooley said. Each group will have a designated speaker, who will talk for 30 seconds. The students will then be treated to food and socialize on the plaza.

Cooley said all student organizations, including every athletic team, are expected to be represented. Faculty and staff are invited to participate, as are Marshall alumni in the community.

MU Cycling Club plans Spin-a-thon for Daniel Hughes

The Marshall University Cycling Club will host a Spin-a-thon at the Recreation Center from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25.

The Spin-a-thon will consist of three 30-minute spin classes (7 to 7:30 p.m., 7:45 to 8:15 p.m., and 8:30 to 9 p.m.) and will be instructed by Stephanie Vlahos. The proceeds from the event will

go to benefit Daniel Hughes, a local teen who was hit by a dump truck while riding his bike to class on The Ohio State University campus.

The cost is a minimum \$10 donation per bike, per class, and there are 24 bikes available per class. For specific details and registration information, visit the Facebook event page “MUCC Spin-A-Thon for Daniel Hughes” or email Corey Clark at marshalluniversitycyclingclub@gmail.com.

Here are related websites:

- “MUCC Spin-A-Thon for Daniel Hughes”: <http://www.facebook.com/events/210648312398504/>
- Marshall University Cycling Club: <http://www.facebook.com/mucycling>
- Marshall Recreation Center: <http://www.marshallcampusrec.com/>

Application process begins for Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waivers

Applications are now being accepted for the Marshall University Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waiver program for the spring 2013 semester, according to Dr. Donna Spindel, dean of the Graduate College. The program provides tuition assistance for Marshall graduate students and Marshall full-time faculty and staff employees.

Applicants must be currently admitted and enrolled in a graduate degree-granting or certificate program at MU. Up to three hours of waiver for graduate coursework will be awarded to qualified applicants. The waiver does not cover online courses.

The awarding of waivers is competitive and is made on the basis of academic achievement and promise, Spindel said. Students who received a Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waiver for fall term, 2012, are not eligible for a waiver for spring 2013.

- Deadline for the applications is Friday, Nov. 9. Applicants who are awarded waivers will be notified by e-mail. Waivers are posted to student accounts within 10 business days of approval and registration. Award recipients are responsible for any amount not covered by the waiver. Balances must be paid by the tuition/fee due date noted on the Bursar website at www.marshall.edu/bursar/tuition/dates.html.
- Applicants must be registered for graduate courses for spring 2013 by Friday, Dec. 7, in order to receive a waiver. Spindel said applicants are encouraged to register for classes at the same time they submit a waiver application. Waivers for students who are not registered by Dec. 7 will be assigned to other qualified applicants.

Applications are available in the Graduate College office (Old Main 113), through a student's academic department office on the South Charleston campus, or online at www.marshall.edu/graduate/tuitionwaivers.asp. Completed waiver applications must be submitted in person or by U.S. Mail. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.

For more information, contact the Graduate College office at ext.6-6606.

MU tops all state universities in friendly food drive competition

A fun and friendly Marshall/WVU football competition before last month's big game netted a Cross Lanes food pantry almost 2500 items and saw Marshall come out the winner.

Leading up to the game, the Tyler Mountain/Cross Lanes Community Services worked with several area churches and businesses to set up MU/WVU themed donation boxes, where fans could contribute food items in the name of their favorite teams. The final tally was MU 1469, WVU 841, and other teams 165, for a total of 2475 items.

"The big winners here were the TMCLCS food pantry and all those we serve," said Vicki Ballenger, executive director of TMCLCS. "Our thanks to all who gave contributions."

Using some grant funding and through the generosity of local churches, businesses, individuals and civic organizations, TMCLCS is able to help those in most need. According to their newsletter, "TMCLCS is a community based organization where those that 'can help' provide for those that 'need help.'"

Marshall Recreation Center to host 4th annual Haunted Rec event to support Healthy Kids, Healthy WV initiative

The Marshall Recreation Center is inviting kids to get ready to get active in a spooky Halloween setting as it hosts the 4th annual "Haunted Rec" event from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23. The event is free and open to the public.

The recreation center is partnering with the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals Committee to encourage kids to be active through the Healthy Kids, Healthy WV initiative.

The goal of the Healthy Kids, Healthy WV initiative, a program created by Generation WV, is to use the members of young professionals' organizations to inspire communities across the state to make environmental changes that will reverse the current rise in childhood obesity rates. Community members can come to "Haunted Rec," the Huntington area's Healthy Kids, Healthy WV event, for entertainment and education, and leave with message points and motivation to make a difference in the community.

At "Haunted Rec," kids can take on an opponent as they tackle the haunted obstacle course, which will include howling hurdles, creepy ladder drills, horrifying hula hoops, bone-chilling box jumps and much more. By popular demand, the Rec Center is also bringing back the Haunted House. The spooky house is full of surprises lurking around every corner.

All participants will be able to take part in the Rec's "Eat This Not That" challenge with a spooky, Halloween twist. They can test their food knowledge and make the most healthful choices as they decide what to eat and what to avoid.

Every participant will leave the Rec with a goody bag full of treats, not tricks. Participants are asked to wear costumes.

For more information call Recreation Center Assistant Director Michele Muth at ext.6-2943 or e-mail pallante1@marshall.edu.

Hagen co-authors new book

Dr. Joshua Hagen, professor of geography, is the co-author of *Borders: A Very Short Introduction* which was published earlier this year by Oxford University Press. His co-author is Alexander C. Diener, an assistant professor of geography at the University of Kansas.

"From private gated communities to fenced national borders, and from gerrymandered electoral districts to bounded fiscal spaces we all live with (and against) barriers." said Dr. Harm de Blij, professor of geography at Michigan State University in reviewing the book. "This lively, brief, current, impressively comprehensive and theoretically as well as philosophically inclusive 'introduction' is much more than that—it's terrific coverage."

Hagen is also the author of *Preservation, Tourism and Nationalism: The Jewel of the German Past*.

Marshall graduate pledges \$300,000 for Medical School scholarships

Donald L. “Don” Blankenship, a 1972 Marshall University graduate, has generously committed \$300,000 over a three-year period for scholarships at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. Blankenship made the pledge in honor of his mother, Nancy Marie McCoy, who passed away in 1995. The first \$100,000 gift was received in early September.

“The demographics of southern West Virginia mean that there will be a continuing and increasing need for high quality local doctors,” Blankenship said. “I am fortunate to be able to contribute in a small way toward fulfilling this need, while at the same time honoring my mother’s memory, helping my alma mater, and helping these gifted students to achieve their dreams of becoming doctors.”

Ten second-year medical students who meet the financial scholarship requirements and exhibit high academic achievement will each receive \$10,000 to help defray the cost of medical school tuition. The awards will be renewed for each student annually for two years, pending satisfactory academic progress.

“We are grateful to Mr. Blankenship for his support of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and specifically his commitment to helping our students,” said Linda Holmes, director of development and alumni affairs. “His generous gift will go a long way in assisting our students achieve their dreams.”

Don Blankenship is a recipient of Marshall University’s Distinguished Alumnus Award, and he was inducted into the College of Business Hall of Fame in 1999. In addition, he was the recipient of the West Virginia Society of CPAs’ 2002 Outstanding Member in Business and Industry award.

Profile: Edna Meisel



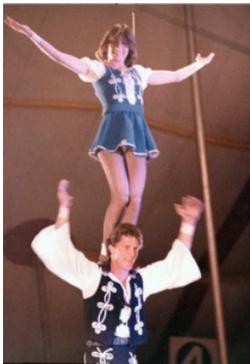
Ah, the music, the lights, the clowns, the sawdust, the edge of the seat anticipation that something wonderful is about to happen, the future college professor flying through the air doing fancy flips and then dangling upside down from a trapeze.

So who among the dreamers and starry-eyed adventurers hasn’t fantasized at one time or another about chucking it all and running away to join the circus. Dr. Edna Meisel, assistant professor in the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development, didn’t exactly run away to join a

circus, but in a way you could almost say the circus found her. When the Huntington native headed off to Florida State University to study the serious subject of chemistry, little did she dream that shortly she would be thrust into a whole new world of excitement, thrills, physical and mental challenges— and best of all it would be the most fun she'd ever had in her life. It turns out that Florida State has a storied history of a student-run, non-animal circus dating back to 1947, a club activity similar to sororities and fraternities, only with people soaring through the air and clowns blundering through slapstick routines. From the beginning she and the circus fit together like a bee and honey. She was an exceptionally talented performer from the start with her natural gifts—agility, balance, superb coordination, concentration, curiosity and fearlessness, to name a few. Not all of the eager amateurs would make the cut, but Meisel had a definite advantage. Born the seventh of eight children, she was a scrappy competitor in a household that consisted of six boisterous brothers and an older sister and she learned early to combine her athleticism with a fierce competitive spirit.

Meisel concentrated on four specialties—the teeter board, the double trapeze, a five-person bicycle team, and roller skating. By far the most complex to learn was the teeter board, in which a performer stands on one end of a board and is flipped through the air to land on a teammate's shoulders. The students worked with safety lines until they were absolutely proficient but it still took incredible skill and timing just to learn. It's a source of pride to her that she was, in fact, part of the FSU team that was the first to set an amazing record, an impossible feat to most peoples' thinking—flipping five people high. In a tribute to her nature, she easily navigated the intricacies of the teeterboard and the other circus “tricks” with the same proficiency she navigated the dense thicket of the statistical mathematical equations she now teaches.

“Oh, that was really fun!” she says in a whopper of an understatement. “The audience really got into it, they were clapping and cheering us on and we were interacting with them. That's why circuses are so great; they take your mind off your problems.”



do a show.”

Not content to rest her well-earned laurels on the teeter board, there were more feats to come. She was part of a double trapeze act which consisted of a boy and a girl working on a stationary trapeze, doing flips in the air, hanging upside down and performing other scary-to -watch gymnastic routines. Once again, performers practiced with lines until they were proficient. Safety was always paramount, Meisel says, “We were coached and everything we did was very safety oriented. We were taught not only how to practice but how to ‘miss a trick.’ It's as important to know how to miss a trick, which is to fall into a net, as it is to do the trick in the first place. In fact we were taught so well I was never apprehensive or scared to

And as dazzling as her aerial work was, Meisel also excelled on the ground as well. She was part of a closely synchronized five-person bike team and also took up roller skating, quickly mastering the intricate and crowd-pleasing routines as she and her partner twirled in intricate patterns around the rink.

Although audiences enthusiastically cheered on the young troupers, one person who decidedly wasn't thrilled was Meisel's mother, Lourice Fattaleh, who wasn't happy with her daughter's new avocation, to say the least. "She was, of course, concerned about the safety. But when she came to visit we showed her that since I was athletic, it was safe if you were careful. That eased her mind a lot but still she was very happy when I graduated and left it all behind!"

Since the circus was a strictly a student activity, performers doubled up and did all the behind-the-scenes work as well—they made costumes, set up the tent, packed up, transported equipment, and then started all over again. Everyone pitched in and did their part. And just like their bigger counterparts, they were a traveling troupe. "We did shows in Florida, Georgia and Alabama," Meisel remembers. "We traveled up until the spring semester. We then put up the tent on the campus circus lot and presented performances for two weekends on campus. An FSU circus tradition! Then in the summer, 25 or so of the 100 in our group would be selected to work at Callaway Gardens in Georgia as counselors. We worked during the day as counselors and then in the evenings we put on shows. That was a fantastic job that allowed me to be with my friends. College was such a great experience for me. I'm sometimes amazed I managed to get a degree in the midst of all that fun. I cried when I had to leave."

With chemistry degree in hand, Meisel landed a job in an analytical chemistry lab, where her natural teaching skills didn't go unnoticed. When a new hire she was working with one day asked, "Why aren't you a teacher?" that put a bug in her ear. "I liked talking about the work, showing others how to do it; I realized I did enjoy the teaching aspect of my work. So I decided to go back to college and obtain my teaching certificate in chemistry and mathematics."

Years later she added a master's degree in secondary education. Then it was on to the Marshall University Community and Technical College, where she taught developmental science and math classes for six years. She then obtained a doctorate in curriculum and instruction, earning the latter through the MU/WVU cooperative Ed.D. program that existed at the time. During her doctoral program, she worked at the MU graduate college in South Charleston beginning in 2002 as a grad assistant before joining the faculty full time in 2005, where today she teaches math, statistics, curriculum and instruction, and educational foundation courses.

Getting her doctorate opened up a whole new world, she says. "I work with grants that help teachers become better math teachers. I love working closely with them; I particularly like working with ... groups that go through the classes together. While I certainly appreciate the benefits of teaching and learning online, I like to go out into the schools and meet with the teachers. I enjoy that the most. And now I'm working with science grants as well. Anything that can make science and math more enjoyable for teachers to teach and for students to learn is a real joy for me. I particularly like teaching statistics, because it's math with a purpose, and I also like to do data analysis because it's working with real-world data."

Meisel is so multi-faceted it's hard to know where to begin, but her family would be a good start. With grandparents who came from Lebanon and Syria on both sides, the close-knit Fattaleh family still has strong Middle Eastern traditions and celebrates them with style. "We all went to St. Joseph's, and a few of us still live in Huntington. We get together for holidays and any other time that we can. My best friend, for example, is my older sister," she says. And no surprise, the

family get-togethers are famous for their sumptuous Lebanese foods. There are grape leaf rolls, kibbee, tabbouleh salad, hummus, cabbage rolls, and their own special meat rolls.

“We have to have our Lebanese food,” Meisel says emphatically, “All of us are good cooks.” And the grape leaves they use are no ordinary ones but have their own storied family history. The leaves come from a vine that Meisel’s grandfather carried to this country from Lebanon and it’s been cut and divided and planted in the yards of his children and grandchildren ever since. It’s a cherished family tradition that the original vine still lives through the generations of cuttings that have been passed down with love. “We want to keep it growing because we think of him every time we cook with those leaves.” And she’s delighted that some of the younger family members are beginning to ask for cuttings.

And as fiercely competitive as the rambunctious siblings were on athletic fields, parents Lourice and James made sure each youngster also got a sound music education. Growing up, music was an integral part of the Fattaleh household. “Mom was a singer and we all had piano lessons. We grew up with music and we were expected to choose an instrument and learn to play it. Music brought our family together even more.” And those lessons really paid off because today the family has its own band, Mountain Color, in which Meisel plays the banjo alongside her husband, Tim, who plays the mandolin; brothers Larry on bass, David on guitar and dulcimer, John on the autoharp and sister Frances on the violin. The band plays “old time music,” as Meisel characterizes it, and they’re a popular attraction at fairs and festivals, church functions and other places where groups congregate and appreciate spirited mountain music. They’ve played at a family wedding rehearsal dinner and they’ve been invited to perform at numerous other gatherings. They’re particularly fond of performing at the Vandalia Festival held annually on the grounds of the state Capitol in Charleston each summer, and the Appalachian String Festival which takes place near Babcock State Forest. “That festival is very big; people come from miles around. We play the traditional old-time music, which is very popular. We do it for fun, but it’s part of our heritage.”

It’s no surprise that with her mathematical mind she would be a dedicated quilter. She took it up a few years ago at her sister’s behest and learned to quilt Frances’ way, laboriously by hand. “I love geometry so it came naturally to me, but I didn’t like doing it by hand,” she candidly admits. “Then I got introduced to machine quilting and that opened the door for me.” And the doors really opened wide because so far she’s polished off a queen-size quilt and a throw, and there are always assorted works in progress. In fact, quilting is such a passion she makes the annual “quilt hop” with friends. Every June her group gets together for the two-day event, visiting designated quilt shops in Huntington, Morgantown, Parkersburg, Fairmont, Bridgeport, and Elkins—12 shops in all. It’s like collecting pieces of a quilt puzzle as each shop gives the quilter a pattern square and fabric and the artists express their creativity by choosing materials to create their own works of art. “It’s amazing how much interest there is in quilting,” she says. “Hundreds of people go on these hops.”

And with all the teaching, quilting, band gigs and family get-togethers, Meisel still makes time for vigorous workouts on the tennis court and the golf course with her husband, who was her high school sweetheart and her tennis mentor. She can rack up a mean game of basketball as

well. She's modest, as usual, about her accomplishments but does say about her husband, "You have to be good to play with him!"

And although time may have dimmed the chords of the calliope and the spotlights and the glitter of her circus past, those treasured memories are still there and she, in fact, has kept in contact with several of her fellow performers. She's even made nostalgic trips back to see the modern FSU troupes perform where there have been some subtle changes, probably related to safety, she guesses. The high wire is a little lower now and the sawdust is gone—it's flammable. It was flammable in her day as well, but because of its "circusy" ambiance it was given a pass. But the fun, the excitement, the sheer exuberance of the performers, that hasn't changed; it's all still there, a never-never land where even an eager young teenager from the hills of West Virginia could take off on flights of fancy and soar to heights she once could only dream about.

Photos: Dr. Edna Meisel (right in first photo and top in second photo) in her days as a circus performer at Florida State University.

Women's Studies Colloquium series continues Oct. 26

Dr. Anara Tabyshalieva, an assistant professor in the department of history, will speak from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, in the Drinko Library auditorium (room 402).

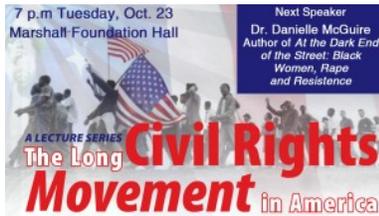
Tabyshalieva will discuss her new book, a volume she co-edited with Albrecht Schnabel, *Defying Victimhood: Women and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*. Published this year by the United Nations University Press, the book affirms the importance of including women in the process of rebuilding and creating sustainable peace after war.

Too often, this collection of comparative case studies and country studies shows, women are marginalized in this process, thereby subverting the possibilities for sustainable peace. By "defying victimhood," the authors affirm, women can become activists, peace builders and full participants in rebuilding political, economic, and social and security structures.

Tabyshalieva's talk is part of the Women's Studies Faculty Colloquium series. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will follow.

For more information, contact Dr. Greta Rensenbrink, director of women's studies, by e-mail at rensenbrink@marshall.edu, or by phone at ext.6-2955.

Civil rights lecture series continues Oct. 23



The fourth in a series of six lectures by distinguished scholars, centering around the long civil rights movement in the U.S., takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, in Foundation Hall, home of the Ericson Alumni Center.

Dr. Danielle McGuire will speak on the connection between the civil rights movement and efforts to confront violence against black women in the Jim Crow South. She is the author of *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance, A New History of the Civil Rights Movement*.

“Rosa Parks did not refuse to leave her seat because her feet were suddenly tired in 1955,” said Dr. David Trowbridge, associate professor of history and director of the African and African American studies program at Marshall. “She began her career with the NAACP in 1944 as a field worker. Her first case was the investigation of the brutal attack and rape of Recy Taylor in Henry County Alabama. Parks obtained testimonies and partial confessions despite a multitude of death threats. Although the six men who committed the crime were acquitted by an all-white and all-male jury, Parks was the first to force a number of southern police departments to investigate this and countless other crimes. By the 1950s, Rosa Parks was securing convictions.”

McGuire was the winner of the 2011 Frederick Jackson Turner Award from the Organization of American Historians.

Graduate College to sponsor Graduate School Fair Oct. 24

Marshall University’s Graduate College will sponsor a Graduate School Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24, for college students, teachers and other working professionals who are considering a graduate program at Marshall.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center.

“This is a great opportunity for people to learn about the graduate educational opportunities here at Marshall and talk directly to representatives from graduate programs across the university,” said Dr. Donna Spindel, dean of the Graduate College. “We’ll also have information on how to apply to graduate school and on what financial support options are available.”

Marshall University has 48 master’s degree programs, seven doctoral degree programs and 33 graduate certificate programs, Spindel said.

For further information, contact the Graduate College by phone at ext.6-6606 or by e-mail at graduatecollege@marshall.edu.

10/17/12 – Parking lots to close for construction of new engineering complex at Marshall



As construction begins soon on the Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex, a 145,000-square-foot, 480-foot long facility, parking adjustments will be necessary for MU students, faculty and staff on the Huntington campus, according to James E. Terry, director of public safety.

“For more than two years, we’ve been planning for the relocation of parking spaces that will be lost due to the construction of the Weisberg Engineering Complex,” Terry said. “That’s why we built the 6th Avenue parking facility before this construction begins.

“Often, with progress comes some inconvenience. We ask for understanding and patience as our community has to alter their campus parking habits. While a construction project of this magnitude will change the face of our campus, we do have enough parking locations to accommodate our students, faculty, staff and visitors.”

In all, about 150 spaces on F Lots between the Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories and the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center on the north side of Third Avenue will be closed beginning the evening of this Friday, Oct. 19. Also, the first five rows of spaces at the east end of the general lot on the north side of Commerce Avenue – formerly home to Weiler Steel – will be used for staging during construction, leaving 250 spots open on that lot.

Terry said other parking options include the new 411-space parking garage on 6th Avenue, where people can park for 50 cents an hour. Employees, if they wish, can pay \$40 a month to park in the garage. The west lot at Joan C. Edwards Stadium can be used, or people may upgrade their permits and park in the Third Avenue garage across from Cam Henderson Center.

Thundering Herd fans have been tailgating for years on the F Lots before Marshall football games. They, too, will be asked to find a new home to tailgate. Marshall has three home games remaining this season: Oct. 27 vs. Central Florida, Nov. 3 vs. Memphis and Nov. 17 vs. Houston, all Saturdays.

“We understand the importance of this new facility, and that a lot of people will need to alter their game-day routines in the name of progress,” said Mike Hamrick, Director of Athletics. “But, we have the greatest fans in the country. If they want to continue tailgating, I’m sure

they'll seek out and find a new place somewhere in the vicinity of the stadium. We appreciate everyone's cooperation."

Tailgaters could move to the general lot across Commerce Avenue, the lot on the west side of the Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratories, or a lot on the south side of Sixth Avenue.

Construction on the \$50 million facility is expected to take 28 months, meaning it is projected to open in early 2015.

In addition, MU's new Sixth Avenue parking facility became fully operational at 7 a.m. today (Wednesday, Oct. 17), according to Terry.

The 411-space garage has been open since the start of the fall semester, but not fully operational because of what Terry called "unexpected technical issues" that have since been resolved.

Hours of operation will be from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, and entry will be from the 6th Avenue entrance. The entrance at the 5-1/2 alley will be closed. Because overnight parking is prohibited, all vehicles must be removed by 11 p.m. The facility is closed and secured from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Weekend hours will be based on need and special events.

The fee for parking in the facility is 50 cents an hour, cash only, and will be collected when the driver leaves the facility. The lost ticket fee is \$5.
