

Creation

Summer 2011



W. B. "Bart" and Doris Andrews, supporting the arts and beyond

The couple, part of COFA's Dean's Council, establish a new scholarship

Bart Andrews has never lived more than a mile from Marshall University. Both he and Doris, his wife of 50 years, are West Virginia natives. And the passion for Marshall University, coming from the Andrews, is apparent in all they do. The couple supports everything from the women's basketball program, to the theatre program – and many other initiatives in between.

The two met when they were both in the wedding party of friends in 1959. After a whirlwind romance, Bart proposed seven months later, on Valentine's Day, and in keeping with his sense of humor, they announced their engagement to friends on April Fool's Day. They've been happily together ever since. Nearly 75 people from across the country gathered to celebrate their 50th anniversary recently, when Bart surprised Doris with a party.

They say compromise and patience are the secrets.

Fortunately, there's not much they don't agree on. Both love athletics and the arts – and support both, financially and with their

attendance. They even have a large RV for travel and to attend away sports events.

So how do you find yourself supporting both athletics and fine arts? For the Andrews, it grew from supporting their children's endeavors. The couple has four children – two boys and twin girls.

One of their daughters played women's basketball. From that, the couple developed a passion for the sport and Marshall's team. The relationship grew and both the Andrews have served on the executive board for women's basketball. For 17 years, the Andrews hosted the men's basketball team for Thanksgiving dinner – it became such a known tradition that former players would call their home to chat with current players.

And then there's the son who majored in art and design. He studied drawing and ceramics, and his parents discovered a joy for the arts. And when professor J.D. Folsom, with the Department of Music, started the jazz festival in 1970, the couple jumped on board. They've watched the program grow. But while jazz is Bart's favorite, Doris loves classical music.

And the two have developed a love of theatre over the years as well.

Bart and Doris, with 14 of their friends, fill two boxes at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center during the theatre season. The eight

couples meet on Thursday nights for dinner and then a show – frequenting restaurants like the Marshall Hall of Fame Café – and sometimes even Harless Dining Hall on campus.

Doris says helping the university is helping the bigger picture. "If you help Marshall, you help it progress," she said. "And then all of Huntington benefits. When Marshall does well, Huntington does well, too. And without Marshall, there wouldn't be as much of a community."

Bart added, "Without arts and athletics, there wouldn't be as much to do around here. They're both big draws for entertainment. These things enrich the community – and the quality of life—in Huntington. It's good, both culturally and economically."

In addition to supporting the arts with attendance at local events, including art openings, plays, and concerts, the Andrews support COFA through generous financial contributions. Most recently, they established the **W. B. "Bart" and Doris Andrews Fine Arts Scholarship**. This renewable award will benefit an in-state freshman studying in COFA; as long as the student maintains good academic standing, the award stays with this student for up to four years of study. "It is fitting that two lovers of the arts and lovers of education at Marshall have created this legacy for Marshall's students

The Andrews: *(continued on page 3)*

A 75th anniversary is a special milestone and so it is that the Marshall Artists Series joyfully celebrates 75 years of remarkable service to the university and the region during the course of the 2011-2012 academic year. From its humble beginning in 1936, when the late Professor Curtis Baxter was charged with planning a one-time event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Marshall College, the Artists Series has grown to become a leader in the cultural enrichment of our community. The array of artists and performers who have graced our stages through Artists Series programming is nothing short of breathtaking. The center spread of this issue of *Creation* highlights some of the best of the best offerings, and it serves as testimony to the creative vision of the many directors and staff who have worked tirelessly for the past 75 years to bring speakers, artists and performers to Huntington.

I want to pay particular tribute to the current Artists Series director, Penny Watkins, for her keen vision and leadership. She is assisted by a very capable staff of Angie Jones and Donna May, and they are all supported by a talented and dedicated cadre of student assistants. I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge and thank the many sponsors and patrons who have provided vital support over the years to the Artists Series and, by doing so, have helped the organization reach this special anniversary.

An exemplar of a "town and gown" relationship, the Artists Series has helped shape the aesthetic sensibilities of numerous generations of students as well as members of the larger community. For over seven decades, the Artists Series has been at the fore of the university's institutional mission to "further the intellectual, artistic, and cultural life of the community and region." This places the Artists Series in elite company. Very few ventures like our Artists Series have endured the test of time at other colleges and universities. Many, if not most, have come and gone, but the Artists Series persists as a vital and healthy organization that has very deep roots in the community.

The fact is it is impossible to imagine Marshall and Huntington without the Artists Series. The fabric that forever binds our institution and the community is woven in part by the rich and historic legacy that is the Marshall Artists Series. It is one of the many things that make this such a special place and it is a pleasure to be able to say "Congratulations" to the Artists Series and to wish it continued success over the next 75 years!

Just as we recognize and celebrate the Marshall Artists Series, it is fitting that we recognize and celebrate Bart and Doris Andrews. Long-time residents of Huntington, devoted Marshall alumni, and founding members of the College of Fine Arts Dean's Council, the Andrews too are an essential part of the fabric that distinguishes the relationship between the community and Marshall University. You will see them, along with several friends, at every production of Marshall University Theatre; they can be found routinely in audiences of musical events presented by the Department of Music; and they are always eager to attend art exhibitions in the Birke Art Gallery and Gallery 842, particularly when exhibits feature works by our students. Avid Marshall sports fans, Bart and Doris have logged thousands and thousands of miles traveling to watch our student athletes compete across the country, and they are ever present at home games and competitions.

Wherever there are Marshall students, you will find Bart and Doris Andrews. Their dedication to students and support for their various endeavors is manifest in many ways, including a scholarship they recently established for the College of Fine Arts. I was deeply touched,



A Message from the Dean

when we first began discussing this scholarship, with the Andrews' insistence that they wanted to help a student in the College of Fine Arts who might not be able to attend college without scholarship assistance. With a clear passion for higher education and what it means to have a college degree, the Andrews have, through their generous action, created a lasting gift that will afford a deserving student much needed support in pursuit of dreams for a better life. Bart and Doris are exemplary friends of Marshall and our students and it is real pleasure to be associated with them.

A group of students led by Byron Clercx, chair of the Department of Art and Design, returned earlier this summer from a three week residency for study abroad in Florence, Italy. This was the second consecutive year COFA had students in Florence and it is representative of our commitment to expanding international opportunities for all of our students. We are already in the preliminary stages of planning a similar experience for students next year in Florence.

In addition, we are sending the Marshall University Chamber Choir on tour to France during spring break 2012. Under the direction of David Castleberry, associate dean and director of choral activities, the choir's tentative itinerary includes numerous concerts, highlighted by a performance at Sunday morning mass in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The Chamber Choir is an exceptional ensemble and represents a remarkable cross section of Marshall students coming from several majors in addition to music. This is an extraordinary opportunity for these students to perform on international stages and promises to be a memorable experience for all of them. It is also a unique opportunity for Marshall University to shine on the international level through these fine students who will serve as wonderful ambassadors for our great institution.

Some of our theatre students will travel to Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 2012 to participate in the International Collegiate Theatre Festival, which runs in conjunction with the world-renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the world's largest performing arts festival. Theatre Professor Jack Cirillo will lead a group of 10-12 students who will perform a yet-to-be-announced production at this festival. The college looks forward to developing the full details of this important opportunity for these students and we will be certain to share them with all of you as they come into focus.

I hope all of you enjoy your summer, wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Van Horn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald Van Horn

The Andrews: (continued from page 1)

in the arts," stated Melanie Griffis, director of development for COFA. "This scholarship benefits a new student which allows us to compete for the best of the best students in the arts in the state of West Virginia," she continued.

They feel strongly about supporting College of Fine Arts students.

"We feel it's important to support students who might not have been able to go, without the scholarship assistance," she said. "The fine arts are very important and since arts are being cut in some organizations, we wanted to help Marshall's arts program."

"We are happy that we can do it," Bart said. "I've always been a saver—we always saved half of what we made, and it's put us in a position to give. Marshall University is so important to the community.

"I've adopted this saying," Bart chuckled. "Money is like manure; to make things grow, you gotta spread it around!"

Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts, credits the Andrews as a strong asset to COFA and beyond.

"Bart and Doris Andrews epitomize what it means to be generous," Van Horn said. "They are generous with their support and they support multiple causes. The College of Fine Arts is fortunate to have Bart and Doris as friends, as is Marshall and our greater community. The two of them are truly dedicated to making Marshall a better place to study and compete, and they are steadfast in their efforts to help Huntington and our region reach full potential."

You can help students succeed through private scholarship donations.

*For more information, contact **Melanie Griffis**, Director of Development for COFA: griffism@marshall.edu or 304-696-3686*

COFA artist G.W. Lanham chosen for 'Best of West Virginia'



College of Fine Arts student G.W. Lanham has been chosen as one of the "Best of West Virginia" in Tamarack's upcoming juried exhibition of artwork. It's a show that Tamarack officials say showcases the most talented and creative artists in the state.

Located off I-77/64 at Exit 45, Tamarack specializes in handcrafted products made in West Virginia and in food court dining, catering and conference center services. The "Best of West Virginia" exhibition opened with a reception at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 19, and runs through Saturday, Aug. 13.

Lanham is an art major at Marshall, with an emphasis in ceramics. "I like to make functional things that are inspired by nature," he said. "I like to see my work in people's hands."

Ceramics professor, Earline Allen, who retired this spring after 41 years of teaching at Marshall, encouraged him to enter the show. "I'm glad that I have a professor who goes above and beyond," Lanham said. "She'll spend an evening looking for shows that her students should enter, and customize the opportunities to our work styles. She really has put her all into us."

Lanham was thrilled that his work was accepted into the show, and noted the amount of talent of Appalachian ceramic artists.

"I was ecstatic," he said. "I didn't think I would get into this show—especially since I'm still a student. There are so many artists in the area who are amazing potters. I bought a pitcher from a guy who didn't even realize the extent of his talent – and to me it's a superb piece!"

Some of Lanham's pottery is available for purchase at the Red Caboose, the retail shop in the Convention and Visitors Bureau at Heritage Station near Harris Riverfront Park and Pullman Square. For him, it's about making something for someone – not just an object.

"I make pots for individuals and families to use, not to be placed on a shelf and forgotten. My interest is in how they are used in everyday life," Lanham said. "I want people to create memories around the use of my pots, even if it's just drinking that morning cup of coffee out of a favorite mug ... A beloved mug or bowl can have an intimate connection to memory through the ritual ways it is used."



in the news

Catching up with students, alumni, and faculty.

ART & DESIGN

With an outstanding core faculty, two new additions, and momentous curricular and facility initiatives underway, 2011-12 promises to be a thrilling and transformative year.

Professor Earline Allen (Ceramics) retired after forty-one memorable years. Her May/June, 2011 retirement exhibition titled **Becoming: An Earline Allen Retrospective** was a tremendous undertaking and success. Curated by MAT student Tommy Warf (BFA – Ceramics 2007) and skillfully displayed at Gallery 842 in downtown Huntington, the show featured innovative forms, styles, and glazes that reveal Allen's lifelong reverence for clay and the craft of vessel making and her love for teaching which was evident in the superb examples culled from former and current students.

Professor Frederick Bartolovic (Ceramics) earned an MFA in Ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Art in 2006. Currently teaching at Chautauqua Institute of Art, following three years at SUNY – Oswego, Bartolovic will assume responsibility for the ceramics program at Marshall in Fall 2011. Frederick brings indispensable classroom and ceramic tile industry experiences to our program and we are thrilled to have him join our ranks.

Professor Heather Stark (Art History) returns to Marshall equipped with several years of valuable hands-on and lecture-based teaching experiences. Most recently at Doane College (preceded by a multi-year stint in COFA), Dr. Stark earned a PhD in Interdisciplinary Arts from Ohio University in 2006. In the wake of art history professor Dr. Margaret Richardson's departure, Heather's familiarity with our program and students will be a welcome asset.

Professor Brent Patterson (Graphic Design) and Dr. Maribea Barnes (Art Education) earned two of the three Pickens-Queen Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2010-11.

Both strive for, expect, and help foster excellence in arts practice and pedagogy.

MUSIC

After 24 years as a professor of piano in the Department of Music, **Dr. Leslie Petteys** retired at the end of the spring 2011 semester. Everyone in the department thanks her for her years of dedicated service and wishes her nothing but the best in her retirement!

Her departure allows us to welcome **Dr. Henning Vauth** to our department.

A native of Germany, he was on the faculty at Auburn University prior to his appointment at Marshall. Dr. Vauth is a laureate of the Concours Grieg International Competition for Pianists in Norway (Schubert Prize) and the Ibla Grand Prize International Competition in Italy. He has appeared on leading stages across Europe and the United States, including Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center in New York City; the Konzerthaus in Berlin; Salle Munch in Paris; and Salle Molière in Lyon, France.

He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music and earned further degrees and diplomas in piano performance and pedagogy from the Hochschule für Musik & Theater Hannover, the École Normale de Musique de Paris "Alfred Cortot," and Western Michigan University. His principal piano teachers and mentors were Nelita True, Nelson Delle-Vigne Fabbri, and Einar Steen-Nøkleberg.

As a scholar, he has co-authored articles in performance studies in the peer-reviewed American journals **Human Movement Science** (2009) and **Movement Disorders** (2004). Dr. Vauth is a member of the national music honor society Pi Kappa Lambda, the College Music Society, the Music Teachers National Association, and has served on the executive board of the Alabama Music Teachers Association as Collegiate Chapter/College

Faculty Forum chair and as faculty advisor of the Auburn University MTNA Collegiate Chapter.

We are confident that Dr. Vauth will continue the fine reputation established by Dr. Petteys and her predecessors in the piano area, and we look forward to his leadership of this area. Please join us in welcoming him to the Marshall University Department of Music!

THEATRE

This summer, many theatre students are scattered across the country in roles on the stage –and behind it. We're proud to list some of them!

Nathan Mohebbi
Equity internship, Flat Rock Playhouse, NC

Josh Meredith
Company member and featured player, Equity contract, Weathervane Playhouse, Newark, OH

Ethan Treutle
Professional internship at Highlands Playhouse, NC

Rebeka Todd
Professional internship at Highlands Playhouse, NC

Jade Stanley
Professional internship at Black Hills Playhouse, stage management

Chuck Herndon
Professional internship at the Paramount Arts Center, KY, box office

Shelby Brewster
Professional internship at Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre, CO

Kaitria Resetar
Box office, Lost Colony Theatre, NC

Bradlee Jordan
SECOA Stage Equipment Company of America in Minneapolis

Graphic Design Grad Mike Dawson Lives his Dream

Mike Dawson, a 2008 COFA graduate originally from Nitro, WV, started his college career in the College of Science but later switched to the College of Fine Arts after attending the art exhibition of a relative.

An avid snowboarder, Dawson is now living his dream, working as a graphic designer in Ski Town, USA – or Steamboat Springs, CO.

"I chose graphic design because to me that was what struck me as being the most logical," Dawson said. "By that I mean just the nature of what you were designing was to be practical and communicate ideas on the most basic of levels."

Dawson said his time at Marshall helped with the transition from being a student to being an adult in the "real world."

"I still haven't completely figured everything out, but the professors and faculty definitely gave me a great foundation to start out with," Dawson said. "As a student, sometimes your belief may be that you know everything about that current subject, even when you don't, and I'm glad that the professors kept pushing us to learn and go further."

Dawson said that while all of the professors in the art department impacted him greatly in some way, graphic design professors Mary Grassell, Hayson Harrison and Brent Patterson were truly influential.

"Mary Grassell helped me in so many ways, not only from shaping my design, but also my writing and doing everything to make sure I graduated with a good head on my shoulders," Dawson said. "Hayson Harrison was definitely one to keep on me and push me towards better concepts and ideas. Brent Patterson introduced me to the vastness that is the technology of the web."

Dawson's professors are quick to return the praise.

Patterson said "Mike has a natural aesthetic sensibility that he was able to couple with a talent to absorb complex technical concepts. This is a necessary combination for digital creatives."



Grassell said Dawson has been one of the students she invites back to Marshall to inspire current students.

"From the first time I had Mike Dawson in class, I knew that he would be a successful designer someday, and I have been proven correct," Grassell said. "Mike could combine good design with good writing and research."

"He knew from the start that it was a combination of these things that would make him a designer, instead of a graphic artist. His thinking, writing and imagery, along with a positive attitude, caused him to excel as a student and now as a professional."

After graduation, Dawson went to work at Snowshoe Mountain Resort as a graphic designer.

"It was there I got my first taste of the real world with all its deadlines, multiple projects, budgets, etc.," Dawson said. "It was definitely a learning experience and a process; I loved every minute of it."

After working at Snowshoe for nearly two years, Dawson left and spent nearly a year freelancing. He said throughout that year he applied for several jobs but knew he wanted to get back into resort life.

Dawson recently accepted his position as graphic designer and web content developer with a company called Resort Group, a real-estate and vacation company.

"I'd say the job in itself is my favorite part," Dawson said. "Not only am I working on the look and feel of all the print and web material, but I'm also helping the social media for them as well. I get to enjoy the great views and amazing activities that the mountain next to me offers."

Dawson said art students have to be persistent and dedicated to their interests. "Dedication applies to everything from your work to finding a job," Dawson said. "Great art and design isn't made overnight."

GOT NEWS?

Let us know where you are and what you're doing. We'd love to include you in an upcoming edition of *Creation*.

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75TH ANNIVERSARY

75 years of legendary performances - looking forward to 75 more years of history making entertainment



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Avenue Q



Dizzy Gillespie



Helen Hayes



Duke Ellington



Itzak Perlman



Bolshoi Ballet



Whoopi Goldberg



Bette Davis



Agnes Moorehead



Marcel Marceau



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Hairspray



Bill Cosby



Erma Bombeck



The Producers

MARSHALL ARTIST SERIES PRESENTING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AT

The Marshall Artists Series promotes the educational and cultural life at Marshall University, while contributing to the cultural enrichment of the community.



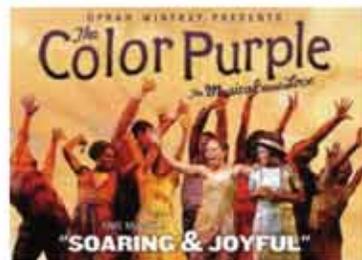
MARSHALL ARTISTS SERIES



Little Richard



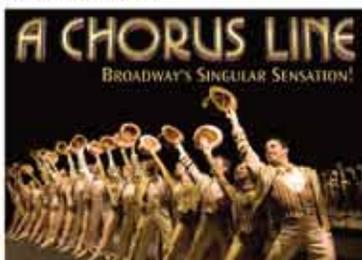
Arturo Sandoval



The Color Purple



Dance Theater of Harlem



A Chorus Line



B.B. King



Harry Belafonte



The International Film Festival



Carrot Top



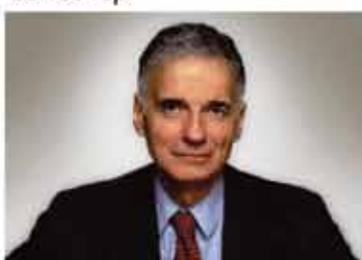
Willie Nelson



Rent



Liza Minnelli



Ralph Nader



Margaret Mead



Johnny Mathis



Yo-Yo Ma



Tyrone Power



Carmen



Dave Brubeck Quartet



Tom Jones



Florence

as visitors, students, faculty, and make a visible contribution back to the city that gave us so much. The response from store keepers and residents was overwhelmingly positive, ranging from applause and cheers to handshakes and warm smiles. Perhaps, more importantly, the effect on the students was measurable. Hopefully this civic action will translate when we return stateside on the Marshall campus, the Huntington community and for the rest of the students' lives wherever they travel and reside."

For Briana Blankenship, music education major, this trip offered a once in a lifetime opportunity – a lesson with one of the premier trumpet players in the world. Briana tells the story...

The College of Fine Arts hosted a three-week-long study abroad trip to Florence this summer. Twelve students accompanied art and design chairman, Byron Clercx, to Italy to study many aspects of the arts, in the birthplace of the Renaissance.

Donald Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts, said the COFA faculty and administration find it important to have international experiences in the student curriculum.

"Exposing students to other cultures is important as we work to prepare them for world citizenship, and a three week residency program in Florence, Italy, is one effort in achieving that goal," Van Horn said.

In addition to the academics – and seeing operas and visiting museums – the group also did some community service.

"As part of their academic experience abroad, our host, CAPA International Education, provided an opportunity for Marshall University students to volunteer for the Angeli del Bello international cleanup project in downtown Florence, Italy," Clercx said. "We spent a little more than an hour once a week sweeping and picking up trash on the plaza surrounding the Duomo, which draws thousands of tourists daily to Florence and had a measurable impact on the city center. It was refreshing to step outside the classroom, beyond our role

When asked how the trip to Florence, Italy was, my immediate reply is "perfect."

Studying abroad in Italy during the month of May was a life-changing experience. It was nerve-wracking, exciting, adventurous, wonderful, and everything good in-between. Florence is one of the most beautiful cities in the world that is rich with architecture, abundant in art, and true to its history and culture.

Just to name a few things, we explored several art galleries and museums, two Medici family palaces, and all of the major historical markets of the city. We attended two operas of contrasting styles, the Orchestra of Tuscany concert, the Festival of Gelato, a Florentine soccer game, a performance of Oedipus Rex in an old Roman amphitheater, a fashion and design festival, and several free concerts as part of their annual Classical Music Festival. We hiked 463 steps to the top of the Duomo, watched the sunset over Florence from Piazzale Michelangelo, and enjoyed all of the pasta, paninis, pizza, and gelato one could devour in a month.

We also participated in a volunteer project called "Angeli del Bello" in which we wore bright orange vests and swept the streets and picked up trash around city-center. Having the opportunity to give back to the city that was enriching my life so much was an awesome and rewarding experience.

During our time abroad, we were given opportunities to take side trips to other places in Italy. I went to Pisa, Cinque Terre, and Rome. Cinque Terre was one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen, but my trip to Rome was definitely a major highlight of the entire experience for me, not for the sights, but for the sound.

In preparation for my trip abroad, I was determined to find someone to give me a trumpet lesson. I began researching local universities and conservatories to see if any had music programs, but I wasn't having much luck. Dr. Martin Saunders, professor of trumpet at Marshall University, had a better idea. He got in touch with one of his good friends and colleagues, Lacey Hays, who had studied trumpet in Italy before, to see if she could provide suggestions. Next thing I know, I was confirming a lesson with one of the finest trumpet players in the world, Maestro Mauro Maur, in his personal studio in Rome.

Maestro Maur, former principal trumpet player of the Orchestra of the Opera House in Rome for twenty-five years, is one of the most sought after trumpet players in all of Europe. Although he is retired from the orchestra, Maestro Maur spends most of his time touring all over the world performing and giving master classes at major conferences and Universities.

After getting very lost on my journey to find his studio and just being very nervous about meeting him, Maestro Maur made me feel welcome right from the initial greeting with a big smile, a loud hello, a hand shake, and a hug. He introduced me to his fiancé, a world-renowned pianist, who seemed just as excited to meet me as I was to meet them.

We began the lesson by just talking. I have to admit, I was beyond nervous for this lesson for the fact that while studying in Italy, my daily practice time was very limited. I did not have practice facilities, it wasn't appropriate to play in my apartment, and just making time was extremely difficult with my busy schedule. What few times I was able to practice, I had to play with a practice mute and play very softly so I didn't disturb my neighbors. I've always been taught that

honesty is the best solution for anything. I told Maestro right at the start of my lesson about my limited practice time and his first response was, "I've been there—many times."

At first, we did a lot of "call and response" exercises so that he could get a feel for my abilities. He played a passage and I would copy him and vice versa. Then, he had me play a piece for him that I recently performed for my junior recital. He said he was very impressed with my playing and told me that I played everything perfectly but then looked at me and said, "That was very, very good. However, what makes that performance different from any other performance of this piece?"

It was an interesting thing to think about. As he worked with me on this piece of music, we worked on finding my own "sparkle" and how to tell the story of this piece to the audience through my playing alone.

Maestro Maur challenged me to not be afraid to take risks in my playing. He also challenged me in my practicing to discover what makes me unique as a player and what separates me from the rest of the world. However, when practicing, he told me to never practice, always perform. Treat every single time I play like a performance.

Getting a lesson with Maestro Mauro Maur in Rome was definitely one of the neatest things I have ever done. He is one of the nicest, most genuinely humble individuals I have ever met. Even though Maestro spoke very good English, at times, there was still a bit of a language barrier. However, we were always able to easily work past it. Music truly is the one and only universal language and it was very humbling for me to see and experience that firsthand. I am eternally grateful to Marshall University and the College of Fine Arts for providing me this opportunity to study abroad in Italy, to CAPA for providing me a scholarship to help pay for this experience, to Dr. Saunders for always doing whatever he can for the betterment of his students and especially for helping me get a lesson set up in Rome, and to Maestro Maur, for proving to me that with the right attitude, you can do anything your heart desires.

COFA will offer the Florence study abroad trip again next summer. Students can get help with funding in the financial aid office. The college has also made a commitment to assist fine arts majors who choose to pursue study abroad opportunities.



THEATRE GRAD

Theatre grad to attend Loyola Marymount for graduate studies

2011 graduate in theatre performance Erika Lawson is heading to California to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree. Erika caught us up on her upcoming endeavor – and search for an apartment!

Q & A with Erika Lawson

Q: Where are you going?

A: I am going to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA.

Q2: What are you doing there?

A: I am entering the school of film and television to earn my MFA in Writing and Producing for Television.

Q: Why'd you choose Loyola Marymount University?

A: LMU is the only school I applied to. I chose LMU because it is in Los Angeles and I wanted to go there no matter what. Also, they have a large screenwriting department and are the only school with separate television and feature film programs.

Q: What are you hoping to achieve?

A: Fame and fortune.

Q: Short-term plans?

A: I plan to go to school, meet Conan O'Brien at Whole Foods, and get a tan.

Q: Long-term plans?

A: Long term, I plan to produce, write, and act for the screen.

Q: Have you found a place to live in LA yet?

A: I have to move in order to attend grad school. It is rather stressful apartment-hunting long distance. I don't know where I will live yet. If anyone has a spare tree house in the greater Los Angeles area, it would be greatly appreciated.

Q: How has studying in the College of Fine Arts prepared you for grad school?

A: The professors from the theatre department taught me many valuable lessons. Working with Bruce Rous taught me to never compromise myself. Gene Anthony helped me to find my entertainment niche (the world of sitcoms). Kellie Bean helped to identify my writing strengths and the value of careful editing. Working with Jack Cirillo taught me to believe in myself even when no one else would. Joan St. Germain encouraged me to follow my many interests. Jamez Morris-Smith inspired me to be fabulous. Marshall University gave me great opportunities to explore my creative depths and for that I am grateful.

Gilliam grateful for scholarship Support



Nikki Gilliam, scholarship recipient, with a drawing she is currently completing

Charitable donations awarded to the Marshall University College of Fine Arts are altruistic and important gifts to the students receiving those scholarships. The contribution to a student's education provides invaluable support to help them succeed in college as well as later in life. As a recipient of a scholarship, I know that the generous efforts of philanthropists directly impact my life, and the benefits are clearly visible for both myself and my peers.

I am honored to receive a scholarship. I appreciate the award for more than the financial assistance to my education; to me, it's more than a charitable contribution to my college costs. It means that someone has enough confidence in my commitment and creative abilities to invest valuable resources into my education. It is a generous gesture that offers the opportunity to achieve more and that motivates me to pursue a higher degree of accomplishment in my education.

The additional funding of this scholarship award comes at a very important time, allowing me to invest more time and effort on my artwork and into improving my knowledge and skills. It does make all the difference when you do not have to divide your time and energy between coming up with creative artwork and working during the school year to make ends meet. Student loans do help, but increase the worry about how deep in debt you are going to get before you get your degree. Now that I am entering my senior year, as an art major with a printmaking emphasis, I can now devote more time towards preparing a competitive portfolio to gain entrance to graduate school as well as afford the tools and supplies to achieve the effects I want my artwork to have. The extra time that would ordinarily go towards odd jobs will be dedicated to more in depth research for the content of my work as well as improving the form it takes.

In addition to having more time to focus on my education, I can continue other activities that are important to me as well. I will have a bit more time for volunteer work which is incredible for me, as I will be able to pass along the generosity of a kind deed. The donation to a scholarship enables me to spend more time helping the less fortunate in our community. I am also the secretary of the Art and Design Ambassadors club, so I will be able to apply myself more wholeheartedly to those duties and activities. We give guided tours to high school students, as well as their families, who are considering attending Marshall University, we meet with potential new faculty members as well as visiting artists, have recently put together a departmental newsletter to be released quarterly during the year, are working on an undergraduate student handbook and many other projects to benefit our department and hopefully the art community in the area.

The financial assistance of an award is not just about money, it is an example and inspiration to help others, motivation to do more. I am currently enrolled in summer classes, made more affordable through scholarships. The ability to attend these classes now will enable me to graduate on time this spring while maintaining honors while taking on the extra course load of an honors student..

A charitable donation is a generous gift, but to truly appreciate that gift, one must think about the gesture behind it, the intent of the offer, and keep that as an example and incentive. Helping others to attain their goals and improve their lives is an altruistic act of special significance, a kindness that could and should be carried on. I hope to achieve more now as a student, and be successful in the future so that eventually I can give back, like those who have supported me, and eventually be able to help others in such significant ways.

Nikki Gilliam is a senior in the Department of Art and Design, with an emphasis in printmaking, from Ashland, KY.

She was awarded the Department of Art and Design Endowed Scholarship for 2011-2012.

giving

COFA Pledge/Giving Form

I want to help the College of Fine Arts with my pledge/gift of: \$2,500 \$1,000 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____
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Please send me information about establishing scholarships for COFA or including the College of Fine Arts in my estate plan.

Keeping the beat -- African Drumming & Dance Ensemble

Steven Hall, percussion coordinator in the Department of Music, said the African Drumming and Dance Ensemble course is an ensemble dedicated to performing traditional West African music.

The one-credit course is open to all university students. Hall said most members enter the class specializing in drumming, dancing or singing.

"This music is similar to Appalachian music for me because it usually occurs in rural areas," Hall said.

The ensemble uses material that is the musical emotions of people who have suffered slavery, colonization, exploitation, and other experiences dealing with cultural traditions and civilization.

"This music is highly functional on many levels from the social interaction of dancing to the preservation of oral history in lyrics, rhythms, and dance moves to sending a group of drummers to play for workers in the fields," Hall said. "I personally love the layering of static rhythms with rhythmic signals triggering changes of dance moves, tempos, and sections of music."

Hall said the course brings more diversity and "a non-European approach to music and culture" to the university. He enjoys teaching the class not only for the "great exercise" but because his students enjoy the class. "Students take this class because they want to," Hall said. "My students are highly motivated to learn new things off the beaten path."





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Artists to host exhibition, donate to Cabell-Huntington Coalition for the Homeless



John Farley



Lorin Michki

Huntington artists John Farley and Lorin Michki will exhibit recent drawings, paintings, prints and other works exploring questions of the "human condition" at Gallery 842, in Huntington, WV August 19 - September 23. Entitled *(re)discovery*, this exhibition is organized in collaboration with the Cabell Huntington Coalition for the Homeless, whose mission and vital civic services improve the welfare – the human condition –

of so many in our community. A percentage of any money generated from the sale of artwork will be donated directly to the CHCH. The opening reception will be Friday, August 19 at 6 pm.

Farley, director of both COFA art galleries, was recently named the Herald-Dispatch Arts Citizen of the Year. Michki is an art major with an emphasis in printmaking. The two presented a project at a CAFÉ Huntington event, where they explained the connection between themselves and CHCH. Last summer, Michki lost his home and belongings in a house fire. Farley, who frequently buys lunch for Steve, a homeless gentleman who searches for food downtown, took Michki in. They were awarded a CAFÉ grant to subsidize the cost of the exhibition – mainly to produce prints of their original artwork which will make the art more affordable, and therefore accessible to many in the community.



Primordial, by John Farley



Emergence Variation in Red by Lorin Michki