C. Donald and Sandra Soto Hatfield are part of the Marshall University family. They both attended Marshall for their undergraduate degrees, and their parents, siblings and children attended the university as well. Both Huntington natives, Sandy and Don spent 21 years in Tucson, Ariz., but have returned to their hometown with a commitment to make it a better place.

The couple has agreed to chair the newly founded COFA Dean's Council, which will include alumni, community, state and regional supporters of the fine arts, and members of the Marshall University community. The mission of the Dean's Council is to provide leadership in promoting sustained interest in and support of the College of Fine Arts at Marshall University. Members will assist in realizing and maintaining a distinctive, distinguished presence in the community, state, region, and beyond; promote public awareness; and enhance the college's role and programs by helping to identify and secure private funding. The council also will consult with the dean about the role of the college in our community and society and our responsibility in a changing world.

“Members of the council will attend quarterly meetings, support the college by attending its public arts events and promote public awareness of the college, its programs, and its students throughout the community, the state, and the region. "With the Hatfields' leadership and example, COFA anticipates an invigorated relationship with the community it serves and expanded success in efforts to increase private support for the mission of the college," Van Horn continued.

Both Sandy and Don were very active in the Huntington community during Don's tenure as publisher of The Herald Dispatch, serving on Huntington area boards and actively working in the local arts community. Marshall, and especially the College of Fine Arts, has been the recipient of several gifts that reflect both their devotion to family and love of the arts.

Sandy, with her sisters Tomasina Soto Michel and Shirley Soto Lusk, also Marshall alumnae, have established a scholarship in the Department of Music in memory of their mother. The endowment supports a student studying a stringed instrument. Don, to honor Sandy and her love of France and the French language, set up an endowed scholarship in modern languages as a birthday gift. In addition, the Hatfields have included Marshall in their estate plan with another endowed scholarship to be awarded to a student in the College of Fine Arts.

Now that they have returned, Tucson's loss is definitely Huntington's gain. Since their return, they have embraced COFA and its mission to serve students of the arts and the greater community. For example, Sandy and Don hosted a COFA showcase in their home in April of this year. "We wanted to show the community the

(Continued on page 2)
Joan Edwards would have been proud.

That is what I was thinking as I sat at the Petite Pinède stage in Juan-Les-Pins, France, as our 12.0 Jazz Ensemble performed for an enthusiastic audience at the 49th Jazz à Juan Festival on Sunday, July 12, 2009. This was the last of four concerts our students performed on their European tour, and they were outstanding. And it was Joan’s generosity that made it all possible. Without the jazz quasi-endowment Joan established several years ago, we would not have been able to send these students to the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and the Jazz à Juan Festival in France.

As I listened to our students and reflected on the trip, I realized at each of the four concerts I saw women from a distance who reminded me of Joan Edwards. Of course Joan was not there. She passed away in 2006. But she was definitely there in spirit and I thought about her often. This trip, and the wonderful performance opportunities it afforded her students, is exactly what Joan envisioned when she gave the gift that supports jazz studies at Marshall. She would have loved the music, she would have cherished the sight of Marshall students performing with such musicality and confidence, and she would have been delighted with the exposure our students brought to Marshall University and our community.

Yes, Joan would have been very proud. We all should be very proud of these students and how well they represented Marshall University.

The experience reinforces for me of the importance of providing our students with opportunities to travel and to share their art with people far and wide. The students who performed in Europe enjoyed a remarkable experience and it was a pleasure for me to witness the growth that occurred in many of them on that trip.

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The Art of Giving (continued from page 1)

wonderfully talented students and faculty from the college,” said Don. The evening featured performances by students of voice and a violin/cello duo as well as a piano performance by Sean Parsons, music faculty member.

“The arts are the legacy we leave for future generations,” Sandy Hatfield said thoughtfully. “I am worried with our economy and with the emphasis on science and technology that we are forgetting the importance of the arts in our society and culture. Marshall is blessed with a strong College of Fine Arts program. We want to assure that this continues – and strengthens.”

“Forming the Dean’s Council allows us to bring together individuals from the greater university community to build the future of the fine arts at Marshall,” she continued. “We look forward to the challenge ahead – and to the future of COFA.”

Speaking about the Hatfields, Dean Van Horn said, “They value the arts and demonstrate all the time their heartfelt belief that the arts are at the core of a vibrant and successful community. They also understand the importance of the university to the community, and vice versa, and they see the arts at Marshall as a critical link between the two. I can’t imagine two people more suited to the leadership role we’ve asked them to assume for the Dean’s Council.”

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David Castleberry
Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts

David Castleberry comes to the position of associate dean of the College of Fine Arts after serving nineteen years as director of choral activities in the Department of Music. During his tenure, he has led performances of more than fifty major choral-orchestral works with the MU Choral Union and MU Orchestra. He has conducted concert tours with the Chamber Choir (including ten performances at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina), been featured in an award-winning WPBY broadcast, Choral Fusion, taught conducting at graduate and undergraduate levels, and guided a host of other performances, festivals, broadcasts, and recordings. He is a recipient of the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award, has participated in team-taught courses for the Honors Program, led a Birke Fine Arts Symposium entitled Extra-Musical, and collaborated with other departments on special projects. As a leading figure in the choral
Dangerfield awarded prestigious Fulbright Fellowship

Dr. Joseph Dangerfield, Marshall University alumnus and assistant professor of music at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach and compose in the Russian Federation during the 2009-2010 school year. Specifically, Dangerfield will serve as composer-in-residence for the Studio for New Music Ensemble at the Moscow Conservatory.

Dangerfield began studying composition at Marshall with Michael Golden and John Allemeyer, and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1999. He then completed his master’s degree at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, working with Marilyn Shrude and Mikel Kuehn, and received a doctorate in 2005 from the University of Iowa, studying under David Gompper.

Reflecting on his studies at Marshall, Dangerfield said, “Michael Golden, my first composition professor, really opened my eyes to new music, and John Allemeyer helped me to hone my craft. He also introduced me to the music of David Gompper (University of Iowa). As a result, I came to Iowa to work with Gompper and complete my PhD.”

Dangerfield’s lifelong fascination with traditional Russian music led him to pursue the Fulbright Scholarship opportunity.

“My parents are musicians and exposed me to Russian music beginning at a very young age,” said Dangerfield. “For some reason, this music has always spoken to me. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue my lifelong journey with Russian music at the Moscow Conservatory during the next school year.”

While at the Moscow Conservatory, Dangerfield will be teaching composition, presenting lectures and papers about the history of American music, and helping Russian students learn about the American educational system. In addition, the music professor will be guest conducting and expects to write a new composition to be premiered in Russia.

“I often use the folk and liturgical music of Russia as a source of creative inspiration,” noted Dangerfield. “I am also enamored with the music of Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Schnittke, Tarnopolski …[as well as] composers now living in Russia.”

At Coe, Dangerfield teaches music composition and theory, and serves as the director of the Coe College Symphony Orchestra. Over the past several years, Dangerfield has garnered much attention as a composer, with performances of his works throughout the United States and abroad. American presentations include the Society of Composers, Inc., the Music X Festival at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, the San Francisco New Music Festival, and the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music. His instrumental and chamber compositions have also been performed at such international venues as the Moscow Conservatory, the Frankfurter Kuenstler Klub and the Conservatorio di Giuseppe Tartini (Trieste, Italy), as well as in Cairo, Egypt.

Originally trained as a pianist, Dangerfield is active as a performer and conductor throughout the United States. Recently, he conducted a performance of his Piano Quintet in New York City.

He is the recipient of many awards and recognitions, including The Young and Emerging Composers Award (2002), ASCAP Standard Awards, and the Henry and Parker Pelzer Prize for Excellence in Composition (2005). Dangerfield was selected for a three-week independent residency in the Leighton Studios of the prestigious Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, which was completed in January 2008. Recordings of his works are available on the Albany Records label, and many are published by European American Music and PIP Press Music Publications.

Dangerfield’s award is part of the Fulbright U.S. Scholars Program, which sends approximately 1,100 American scholars and professionals per year to approximately 130 countries, where they lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. He joins several other Coe faculty members who have received Fulbright Awards during their careers.

Established in 1946 and sponsored by the United States Department of State, the Fulbright Program aims to increase mutual understanding between Americans and the peoples of other countries, through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills. The Fulbright Program provides funding for students, scholars and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research and teaching.

Dangerfield met his wife, Ami Gray Dangerfield, who also earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Marshall in 1999, in the music library at Marshall. They have two children, Conner, 5, and Piper, 3, who will accompany them to Russia.

Castleberry (continued from page 2)

As associate dean, Castleberry will retain ties to the Department of Music and will continue to lead the Chamber Choir, but will now broaden his efforts in serving as an advisor to students in the BFA programs in art and theatre as well. He will have contact with fine arts students from their first inquiry to Marshall University until well after they graduate. His work will focus on recruitment and retention, and on advising students as they seek to complete degree requirements and plan for opportunities beyond graduation. A mentor and advocate for students, he will be continuing in a new role the work he has enjoyed at Marshall University for the past two decades.

A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Dr. Castleberry holds degrees from Furman University (BM in church music) and The University of Texas at Austin (MM and DMA in conducting). He is married to Dr. Barbara Ladner, who chairs the Department of English at West Virginia State University. They have one son, Ian, and share their household with a Dandie Dinmont Terrier named Lark.
in the news

Catching up with students, alumni, and faculty.

ART & DESIGN

The Department of Art and Design is balanced, teeming with excitement and proudly welcomes three new tenure-track assistant professors: Miyuki Cook (Textiles), Daniel Kaufmann (Photography), and Natalie Larsen (Foundations). They join a dynamic team of eleven returning full-time faculty, a dedicated department secretary, and a pool of talented part-time faculty, staff and graduate assistants wholly committed to Marshall, COFA and our students.

Art and Design students lead departmental tours for prospective students because they want to be surrounded by the best and they undertake internships, join clubs and professional organizations, attend lectures, enter art and design competitions and participate fully in campus and civic life because they strive to be the best.

While art and design BFA and MA graduates work as professional artists, designers, teachers and in related industries throughout the region and beyond, three recent alumni, John Farley (2007), Seth Cyfers (2008), and Natalie Gibbs, (2009), along with new adjunct faculty member Kristin Zammitti, associated with Create Huntington (http://www.createhuntington.com/) and assumed leadership roles that helped transform a vacant Huntington storefront on Fourth Avenue into a downtown community art gallery. Gibbs and Zammitti curated a new exhibition at 842 when Huntington and MU hosted the 2009 Create West Virginia Conference in October.

MUSIC

Montreux, Switzerland. New York City. Indianapolis. Huntington. The Department of Music has been active with appearances internationally, nationally, regionally and locally during the 2008-09 academic year.

In July 2009, the Jazz 12.0 Ensemble wowed audiences at the Montreux and Jazz à Juan (France) Jazz Festivals. The Fife and Drum Corps appeared at the closing concert of the National Flute Association’s International Conference in August, an event where flautist James Galway received a lifetime achievement award. Last fall, the Marching Thunder was the first collegiate band chosen to appear at the new Lucas Oil Stadium as the halftime entertainment for the Indianapolis Colts game. And, of course, students and faculty remain committed to our university, college and departmental mission of enhancing the cultural richness of our own locale, with over 125 events on campus last year and a substantial number in our locale, with over 125 events on campus last year and a substantial number in our city, state and region.

Locally, our Woodlands and MUsic Alive concert series continue to flourish. The first gives our students an opportunity, not only for additional performing opportunities, but also a sense of involvement and service to our community. The MUsic Alive concerts, presented in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church, showcase a roster of acclaimed artists that includes both guest musicians and Department of Music faculty.

Whether in Huntington or a few thousand miles away, the Department of Music is committed to continuing its presence in the arts and the strong educational experiences these opportunities bring for our students. So, don’t be shocked if you see us somewhere near you, soon!

THEATRE

The 2008-09 Marshall University Theatre season opened to the thundering beat of tapping feet in a spectacular production of George M. Epic Proportions brought the season to a close with a screwball romp in the desert and the happy echoes of irrepressible laughter.

The Department of Theatre introduced new classes in music theatre performance, brought exciting visiting artists to the department, adapted and staged the campus One Book selection, The Things We Carried, and sponsored professional workshops in the Playhouse.

Our majors spread across the wide world to complete challenging internships, The Pickled Pepper Players toured local schools, we sent two regional winners to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival competition and every student who auditioned at the Southeastern Theatre Conference landed a professional gig for the summer of 2009.

As always, the 2009-10 season promises innovative programming for our students and patrons. This year our production wing has a new look and a new name, Marshall Theatre Alliance. Without a doubt, we’re the same university theatre that has served our community for so many years, but by forming alliances with university and community partners, we seek to better serve our students with new experiences and to catalyze ever broader support for the arts. This season we bring you: Waiting for Lefty; Almost, Maine; Born Yesterday; and Our Country’s Good.

In addition, we will offer a special holiday performance of A Christmas Carol and a spring dance concert.
Emerging Artist -- Erin White accepts award from Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History Randall Reid-Smith

MU alumni showcased in Emerging Artists exhibit

Seven Marshall University art alumni and graduate students had their work showcased in the Emerging Artists of West Virginia Exhibition in Charleston, June 20 through October 25.

Seth Cyfers, Seth Davidson, John Farley, Leona Mackey, Ben Robertson, Rebecca Robinson and Erin White were all selected to participate in the show, which was sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. A juried exhibition, Emerging Artists was the opening art exhibit in the newly renovated State Museum at the Culture Center in the State Capitol Complex.

“It is fitting that this unique show is a key element in the reopening of the State Museum,” Betty Gay, MA, 2007, and exhibits director at the Culture Center, said. “As we open a new beginning for the museum, we also unveil a new group of flourishing artists. There is something from almost every medium in this show, from post-directorial photography to wall sculpture, a must-see for art enthusiasts and collectors.”

Allison Leigh Smith, a painter from Scottsdale, AZ, served as juror for the show. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Columbus College of Art and Design and her work is considered contemporary realism.

For Marshall University graduate student Erin White, being selected to showcase her work in this exhibit was another step toward a career in art.

“It’s exciting to be included,” White said, “and start working toward the future of my art career.”

White, of Huntington, explained, “The pieces that are in the show are part of a series I worked with for a while, visualizing emotional space. The spaces are those that exist between the mind and the tangible reality of where we live and work daily. The piece Multiply specifically deals with dreams, and Rhythm deals with how music can influence us.”

Marshall University’s Birke Art Gallery Director John Farley is a graduate of MU’s Department of Art and Design and an adjunct member of the art faculty. Farley is a prime example of an artist balancing an administrative art position with the challenge of continuing to make art.

“For a young professional artist, exposure and recognition is vital to jump-start one’s career,” Farley explained. “Any opportunity to display one’s work should be met with enthusiasm and pride. These are lessons we seek to impart to the art students here at MU that carry over into the professional world.”

Farley’s drawing, A Meeting of the Minds, was selected to be displayed in the show.

“My work is inspired by the innate principles and patterns, the dynamic formations found throughout nature,” he said. “It is a graphic expression of the delicate complexity, design and aesthetic sensibility of the structures that define our world.”

For Rebecca Robinson, a graduate painting student, this is the first time she has entered her work into a competition.

“Two oil paintings of mine will be shown in the Emerging Artists of West Virginia show,” Robinson said. “The first is entitled ‘A Special Place.’ It shows a tree growing on a small island in a creek with light coming from the forest behind it. It is a place I visited while hiking in western North Carolina several years ago. The second is called Leaf Study in Reds. It is a square painting of a pile of red maple leaves. Having never entered my work in any type of competition before, I was very excited and honored for both paintings to have been accepted.”

“The West Virginia Division of Culture and History is presenting a variety of pieces ranging from conceptual mixed media to realism,” Gay said. “As the Culture Center opened the doors to the new West Virginia State Museum, we wanted the public to understand that we look forward to being a place for both contemporary and traditional styles of art and a progressive place to showcase West Virginia’s artistic talents.
College of Fine Arts alum Craig Johnson looks like a character out of his Wyoming-based crime novels. He came to visit Marshall in jeans, cowboy boots, and a 10-gallon hat with his booming voice and hearty laugh filling the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Johnson, BFA in Fine Arts with an emphasis in acting/directing and a minor in psychology, 1983, jokes that before his time at Marshall, his interests were girls, motorcycles, and beer. But when the popular western mystery author recently visited the campus, he recalled how attending Marshall University helped shape his future.

Johnson currently makes his living writing a series of Viking/Penguin novels with lead character Wyoming Sheriff Walt Longmire. “The general studies classes were a boon for me and kind of opened my eyes as to how much was out there, but I have to admit that as I look back it was the words that were the keys to my new awareness,” Johnson said.

“Foreign language classes, creative writing classes, history classes; they all led to the words, but it was in the theatre department that I learned about stories and how they were interrelated with human emotion. It was the intimacy of plays—how people relate to each other and to society and how to transfer that onto the written page and to an audience—that was my passion. After I left Marshall and went to Actors Theatre of Louisville, it became even more apparent that’s where my interests lay. I was never really comfortable with the performance aspect of theatre, but the literary part has served to be a strong suit in my work as an author. I think the transition from playwright to novelist was an easy one for me and provided a strong basis in dialogue and an understanding of character and motivation.”

Considering himself fortunate to have had many great professors at Marshall, Johnson singled out one in particular. “I had a lot of really wonderful professors, but one of the ones who really stood out was N.B. East over in the theatre department,” Johnson said. “N.B. was a crusty old cuss even back then, and he was one of those instructors who intimidated a lot of people. I am not intimidated by much, and I loved the man. I was about as much of a rube as you could be, but he believed in me, believed that maybe I could do something. One of the classes that everybody dreaded was his History of Theatre class, because he was so meticulous in his knowledge of both history and theatre, but it was one of my favorites.”

(continued on page 7)
Craig Johnson (continued from page 6)

One highlight of Johnson’s visit to the Huntington campus was visiting the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

“I’m afraid most of my favorite spots on campus are now gone,” he said. “All of my beloved places were in the proximity of the theatre in Old Main. I used to love sitting up in the balcony and doing my class work or just reading. You’d be surprised how many impromptu performances I witnessed while just sitting up there quietly. But the last time I was in town I was able to get an abbreviated tour of the Joan C. Edwards with an old buddy, James Morris-Smith. It’s a beautiful facility, and something we only dreamed of back in the day.”

Johnson’s life has not been a clear linear path from MU to authorship. After leaving Marshall, he was at Actors Theatre of Louisville for a year and then went to Chicago for another. Then Johnson went out on the road, his Kerouac period as he calls it, where he lived mostly in the western states just trying to get a feel for the country. He rodeoed, cowboyed, drove a truck, picked strawberries… “You name it, I did it—you name a place out west, I lived there,” Johnson said. “It was another period of learning for me, albeit not a formal one, and it enabled me to ‘sit in all the chairs’ as my buddy Ron Carlson calls it—seeing things from other people’s perspectives.”

Johnson finally landed in Philadelphia where he was doing some post-graduate work. “Philly is only ninety miles from New York,” Johnson said. “I’d lived just about everywhere else, so I decided if I was going to take a bite out of the big apple, now was the time.” While looking for cheap apartments, he spied an ad for a civil-service/police officer’s course. “I thought what the heck, I’ll take it, and the rest is history,” he said. Johnson was a senior special officer in Central Park for two and a half years. He explained, “It was an interesting and informative time, but I knew that I wanted to write, that law enforcement work was not a lifetime desire, and I started to get a jones for going back out west.

“I finally convinced the little redhead from New England whom I married to move to Wyoming, bought property, built a ranch, and after a false start which included a nine-year hiatus of writer’s block, started writing novels on a drawer-less desk I built myself. As I look back, it seems like a logical progression, but that is probably a massive rationalization on my part. My family seems happy with the result, however. I think, with all my travels, they thought I was just going to end up homeless.”

Far from homeless, Johnson says that during those nine years of building his ranch, the story for his first novel was never very far away. “I think I was rolling the idea for The Cold Dish over and over in my head, and when I finally pulled those two first chapters out of a desk—I decided I better burn them and stop torturing myself, or get busy.”

The desk Johnson built then and where he writes his award-winning novels now doesn’t have any drawers, “Because that’s where novels go to die.”

Craig Johnson is the author of five novels published by Viking/Penguin—The Cold Dish, Death Without Company, Kindness Goes Unpunished, Another Man’s Moccasins, and The Dark Horse. They are available everywhere books are sold.

Jazz in July

Marshall University Jazz Ensemble’s tour of Switzerland, Italy and France in July was an experience to be cherished for a lifetime by students and faculty alike.

Directed by Dr. Edwin Bingham, the jazz ensemble performed four concerts, two at the renowned Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and two at the Jazz à Juan Festival in Juan les Pins, France—Europe’s longest-running jazz festival.

Europeans generally have a great appreciation for American jazz; the band was received warmly and enthusiastically. Students were delighted to perform for audiences that greeted their playing with heartfelt cheers and applause, standing ovations and, at times, sat out in the rain to hear them.

We became aware how widespread the greater Marshall University community is when a recent College of Fine Arts graduate appeared at a concert in Montreux. The young lady, Elizabeth Tomlin, a graphic design major now living in Switzerland with her husband, read of the concert in the newspaper. We all enjoyed catching up; the dean, Don Van Horn, brought her up to date on the art department.

We faculty enjoyed watching our students develop self confidence as they realized they could function in unfamiliar cultures. Students who studied French conversed with local people and translated for friends. Students learned about both “classical” and “popular” cultures of cities. They discovered how “classroom” language differs from informal slang. They learned local customs and appreciated and respected cultural differences. They experienced new foods, new music, new sights, met new people, and learned that similarities between people far outnumber differences.

One highlight of the tour was the opportunity to eat backstage with main stage performers at Jazz à Juan. Many musicians heard Marshall’s Jazz Ensemble en route to their own concert and were extremely complimentary. It was a real treat to talk to professional performers in an informal setting as fellow musicians.

The breadth of geography was astonishing. We saw Swiss Alps and glaciers, stopping once for a snowball fight—a remarkable activity for West Virginians in mid-July! After traveling through Italy to the French Riviera, we spent free time on Mediterranean beaches. We visited medieval castles and towns, a perfumery, a Picasso museum, and Bocci games with a local club, among other things.

We finished our tour with great pride in the musical accomplishments of the Marshall Jazz Ensemble, a greater appreciation and understanding of European culture, and strong, long-lasting bonds of friendship and camaraderie. This experience was invaluable for all involved!

Ann Marie Bingham is Associate Professor of Music (clarinet, oboe and twentieth century music history).
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New Developments

Department of Music awarded $250,000 grant

Marshall University’s College of Fine Arts and Center for International Programs are participating in a new program designed to develop and implement a model international undergraduate program in music.

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) in the U.S. Department of Education has awarded $250,000 to Marshall University for the Department’s Music’s new program: Music Abroad Generating New Experiences for Talented Students (MAGNETS). Ninety percent of the $277,587 project will be funded by FIPSE, with the remaining 10 percent funded by the Music Department and the Center for International Programs.

“We are indebted to Dr. Ben Miller, the principal investigator, and Mr. Julio Alves for their work on this project and to Dr. Clark Egnor for bringing it to our attention and his support in the grant-writing process,” said Dr. Jeffrey Pappas, chair of Marshall’s Department of Music. “FIPSE grants are highly competitive and we should be proud that our department has been chosen to receive one. It is another testament to the work our faculty does on a daily basis and the strong reputation they have established for this department. All of us are winners, and our students will once again prosper and have a unique opportunity, thanks to this program.”

Marshall Provost Dr. Gayle Ormiston said receiving the FIPSE grant is quite an accomplishment for the university.

“We are extremely proud of our College of Fine Arts and its Department of Music for being one of eleven institutions in the nation to be awarded this FIPSE grant,” Ormiston said. “These grants are highly competitive, and it is with great esteem that we announce our award. Of those eleven programs chosen, ours was the only arts initiative to be funded.”

In the planning stage since July 15 of last year, the MAGNETS project includes Morehead State University in Kentucky and Goias Federal University and Santa Catarina State University in Brazil.

The objective of this project is to develop and implement a model international program in music, utilizing an integrated curriculum that will contribute to educational excellence and innovation in the field and better prepare students for the competence level required by the modern global job market. The program of study will utilize the strengths of each partner university.

During the implementation phase of the project, 18 students from the U.S. will study in Brazil for one semester or one academic year at one of the two Brazilian universities. During the same period, 18 students from Brazil will spend one semester or one academic year in the U.S. at either Marshall or Morehead State. Six faculty members from each of the U.S. institutions will participate in the project by carrying out lecturing and performance assignments at the partner institutions.

In addition to the knowledge and skills in music, during their study abroad experience, students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of international, political and economic issues. They will gain transnational competencies, cross-cultural communication skills, understanding and familiarity with local customs and traditions, and an ability to adapt to new circumstances and deal constructively with difference.

Department of Art and Design goes “Downtown”

Through the generosity of Dingess Rum Properties, Inc. and Liza Caldwell, the Department of Art and Design is extending its exhibition space to include a storefront gallery at 842 Fourth Avenue in Huntington. The new space offers students, faculty, and community artists an opportunity to exhibit and offer for sale their original work. The gallery will operate as an artists’ cooperative promoting the artistic relationship between our community and the college.

“The opening of the Marshall University’s Gallery 842 expands our students’ experience. Part of the process of becoming a professional artist is to learn about pricing, marketing, and selling their creations. They can get that experience at Gallery 842,” stated John Farley, director, Birke Art Gallery.

Marshall University’s Gallery 842 opened November 1, 2009. It is located at 842 Fourth Avenue in downtown Huntington.

Give and Take: The Patron’s Outstanding Theatre Student Scholarship Fund

Patrons of Marshall Theatre Alliance enjoy great entertainment by our students. We believe that watching our student thespians enhances the lives of our patrons and our community. In each playbill, patrons can find the means to invest in assuring that these experiences continue. The Patron’s Outstanding Theatre Student Award was created to instill not only a sense of excellence in our students, but also to reward commitment to their community and fellow students.

The award is given to an undergraduate theatre major in good academic standing who demonstrates leadership skills, community service and commitment to the Theatre Department.

In return, the recipients inspire their fellow students to take on roles of leadership not only in roles of leadership not only in the Theatre Department, but also in Marshall University and the greater Huntington community.

The Patron’s Outstanding Theatre Student Award is funded directly through generous contributions made by season patrons of Marshall Theatre Alliance. For information

(continued on page 11)
Developments (continued from page 10) about contributing to this scholarship fund, or to other scholarships in the College of Fine Arts, contact Melanie Griffis, director of development at griffism@marshall.edu or 304-696-3686.

Home Sweet Home:
Marching Thunder Band Complex Dedicated at Homecoming 2009

The members of the Marching Thunder officially dedicated their new home at a ceremony on October 2 attended by members of the Marching Thunder, parents, alumni band members, the greater community and donors who made the complex possible. The rehearsal hall, located in the Henderson Center, was completely funded through private support. It is complemented by a turf practice field and building for storage of band equipment – all within close proximity to the football stadium.

In remarks delivered at the dedication, Donald Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts, commented, “For years the Marching Thunder has performed first class shows, and now we have first class facilities to support the band. This is truly a green letter day for the band program, the Department of Music and College of Fine Arts, and for Marshall University.”

MU President Stephen Kopp stated, “You are the sound of Marshall University… It fills me with pride in our accomplishment when I stand alongside the parents of band members watching practice on the Multi-Purpose Field. They have told me what a difference this field and facility make to their students and their participation in the marching band at Marshall.

Also in attendance at the dedication were MU band alumni attending Homecoming and the Band Reunion. Each year former Marching Thunder members gather to relive the experience and to play in the pre-game show for homecoming. Among the 27 alumni in attendance was Al Sowards. Al is a regular participant in the Alumni Band. After completing his degree in music education from Marshall, he spent several years as a band director before moving into school administration. When he was at Marshall, the band was 60 members strong. Today’s band has nearly 300 members. Al gets his trumpet out each year a few months before homecoming and starts to warm up for the game. Last year was a challenge because he had to get dentures (he finally lost the front four teeth he was told needed to be pulled when he was an undergrad, but didn’t because he had a recital to prepare). So he had to learn how to play without breaking the seal on his dentures!

The new facilities offer current, past, and future Marching Thunder members a home for rehearsal, and a place to gather for celebration of the special relationship with each other and to the University that only band members can truly share.
Reflecting deep personal interests in cultural and educational activities in the Tri-State area, and recognizing the leadership role of Marshall University, Mrs. Helen Birke and her daughter Julie established, in 1979, an endowed fund in the Marshall University Foundation creating the Birke Fine Arts Symposium.

From its earliest beginnings, the Birke Fine Arts Symposium has offered public performances, lectures, exhibitions and conferences for the university and the community it serves.

This spring, we proudly present Giving Voice: Social Justice and the Arts, the 2010 Marshall University Birke Fine Arts Symposium. A committee of faculty and students, led by Dr. Vicki Stroeher, an associate professor of music, has formulated a stimulating series of events contributing to the broad theme of social justice.

As a both a reflection and critique of societal values, the arts have long been at the forefront of the issues of social justice: fairness, freedom and equality

The 2010 Marshall University Birke Fine Arts Symposium examines the role of the arts in revealing social injustice. Featured events include lectures and performances that explore the connection between social justice and the arts in history, exhibits and performances of new works that address contemporary issues, and workshops and service projects that put social justice into action.

Events are to include:
- Social Justice: Art in a Time of Change, a juried university student visual arts competition and exhibit in the Birke Art Gallery (Department of Art and Design)
- “Veterans Tell Their Stories”, a series of workshops by authors James Mathews and Richard Currey (Department of English)
- Series of performances and hosting the SCI Student National Conference (Department of Music)
- Workshop with Michael Rohd, an accomplished performer/creator and artistic director at the Sojourn Theatre in Portland, OR. (Department of Theatre)

In addition, a student committee has been formed and they are currently working on planning a university-wide service project. All events will take place during the spring semester.

For more details on any of these events, please contact Jaye Ike, special projects coordinator for COFA, (304) 696-3296 or jaye.ike@marshall.edu.