

Creation

Summer 2010

Marshall Artists Series continues outreach

The Marshall Artists Series (MAS) was created in 1936 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marshall College. 74 years later, the bylaws of the organization still state "To further contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community, the Artists Series will endeavor to present such activities as artists' residencies, master classes, tours and any other outreach programs as a regular and normal part of the Artists Series programs. The Artists Series programs shall be considered part of the educational function of the institution and supportive of the University's instructional program."

Today, the MAS continues to educate and entertain students, faculty, staff, local school children and community members with professional performing arts. Marshall University students attend events by presenting their student identification cards because a portion of student activity fees, which are paid as part of tuition, are allocated to MAS. Many students say attending an MAS event is the first time they have seen a live professional performance, particularly Broadway, ballet, opera or orchestral performances.

In order to reach the university students of tomorrow, a variety of outreach opportunities has been offered to school children of the Tri-State. These educational opportunities have ranged from jazz to classical music, full length Broadway productions such as *Peter Pan* and the *Wizard of Oz*, pre-show opera discussions, dance master classes, celebrity lectures, Q & A sessions, and international films followed by post film discourse.

As public schools experience reduced funding to meet the most basic educational

needs of their students, programs in the visual and performing arts are among the first to be cut nationwide. The school systems in our region are not immune to this trend. Enriching the lives of students through the arts enriches our entire region. Research indicates that exposure to and participation in the arts improves overall student performance in the classroom. Penny Watkins, executive director of the Marshall Artists Series, states, "Most times, quality opportunities must take place in a student's life before 3 pm or it doesn't happen. Therefore, it is our aim to provide outreach opportunities during the day, inform teachers of those opportunities, offer them at low cost, or many times at no cost at all. Thankfully we have had amazing support from generous corporate sponsors who have helped us to provide these opportunities.

"Outreach provides exposure to the beauty of artistic expression; it introduces children to the social expectations of attending cultural

(Continued on page 2)



RBC Grant

For the second year in a row, the College of Fine Arts has received a grant from RBC Wealth Management to support outreach activities through the Marshall Artists Series. Thanks to the leadership of R. Wayne Miller, senior vice president in RBC's Huntington office and MAS board member, we have successfully received two grants. "This funding has been very important in carrying out our mission for outreach to the region's school children," stated Penny Watkins, executive director of the MAS. "This support was critical to the activities we offered with the National Symphony Orchestra." These activities

included an instrument petting zoo, master classes for student musicians, a workshop as an immersion in the visual arts, dance, and music for pre-school children, a free community concert in an economically challenged neighborhood, an arts advocacy training workshop for area arts education leaders, and a full orchestra performance to over 2,000 people.

"These extra resources, support from corporations and foundations, make the difference in our ability to offer the extra outreach events that are integral to the mission of the Marshall Artists Series," Watkins continued. "We are proud of the program and grateful for RBC's continuing support."

I fondly recall a conversation I had years ago with now deceased faculty member Stan Sporny. I was relatively new in my position as dean of fine arts here at Marshall and Stan came to see me because he was upset about a state-wide, higher education cross-curricular initiative aimed at instilling values of citizenship in students. Stan proudly proclaimed, "I am here to teach painting, not civics!"

At the time, Stan was working with students on a project to beautify the various underpasses in Huntington with murals, and in response to his proud acclamation I asked, "Stan, if you are not teaching your students about citizenship through the mural project then tell me what you are doing?" After thinking about it for a moment, that famous Sporny grin crossed his face and he said, "Oh yeah, I guess you are right." Without even thinking about it, Stan Sporny was instilling in his students the best aspects of citizenship—civics by example.

With this issue of *Creation* we take a look at some of the work being done in the College of Fine Arts that speaks to issues of citizenship and what it means to be part of a community. Clearly, our mission is to prepare students as artists, performers, and educators. But equally important is our charge to contribute to developing the sense of civic responsibility our students must carry with them once they leave Marshall. Moreover, COFA, as an organization within the communities of the university and region, takes very seriously its citizenship responsibilities and we are ever mindful that what we do as a college serves as a model for our students.

Two student-driven projects during the 2009-2010 year that are discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this issue of *Creation* underscore a college-wide commitment to citizenship and the type of service that exemplifies being an engaged member of the community. The Birke Symposium Baskets for Branches campaign and the 7th annual Empty Bowls project are compelling examples



A Message from the Dean

of COFA students working to serve the community in which they live. Students involved in both projects have come away from their experiences with a much richer appreciation for those in the community who are in need, and they better understand what it takes to make a difference in the lives of people who are less fortunate.

The varied outreach activities of the Marshall Artists Series stand as excellent examples of the importance the arts have in making a community a vibrant and stimulating place in which to live, learn, work, and play. The MAS commitment to bring the arts to children of all ages is exemplary and it speaks of a special dedication to the region. Partnerships with the Kennedy Center for Young Audiences on Tour and the National Symphony Orchestra evidence an understanding of what the arts can do to lift the human spirit and, combined with countless other examples where COFA reaches out to the community, serve to remind us that we all have a stake in making this a better place to live.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald Van Horn".

Donald Van Horn
Dean

Marshall Artists Series (continued from page 1)

events; it provides stimulus for further artistic and academic expression and achievement; and it enhances the cultural and educational climate in our community," Watkins said. "Evidence of the cultural and educational enhancement can be found in children's artwork and letters sent to us by grateful teachers."

This year, the MAS was fortunate to represent West Virginia as the 20th state in the nation to present the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) American Residencies program. This program is a unique national initiative encompassing the elements of education, outreach, chamber and orchestral performances. With American Residencies, the MAS and the NSO hope to ensure the future of orchestras and the arts in education by participating in a national interchange of educational artistic programs and ideas that integrate the lessons of the performing arts into daily life and keep an important part of our cultural heritage vibrant and growing.

As part of that partnership, the Marshall Artists Series offered a "family fun day" at Huntington's Weed and Seed office that was a collaborative effort with MU Department of Music, Media Promotion Enterprises, the Huntington Museum of Art, and many others. The outing was free of charge and featured free food, games and prizes. A "musical petting zoo" was hosted by MU music students who provided a hands-on experience with musical instruments for not only youth, but adults as well. The event culminated in a free chamber orchestra concert by three NSO members. Other NSO members participated in outreach events held at the Huntington Museum of Art, Marshall University and The Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

It is through this variety of programming, as well as the thought-provoking educational opportunities and outreach events, that the Marshall Artists Series will continue to fulfill its legacy and its mission. It won't be long until the Marshall Artists Series will celebrate its own 100th anniversary!

COFA Community Service Awards go to four deserving students for Baskets for Branches and Empty Bowls

In the Spring 2010 semester, the College of Fine Arts hosted two fundraisers and awarded the College of Fine Arts Community Service Award to four students.

The Community Service Award recipients are Lindsay DiFatta, Alli Forlines, Nikki Gilliam and Tommy Warf for their work with the outreach events Baskets for Branches and Empty Bowls.

Part of the 2010 Marshall University Birke Fine Arts Symposium, *Giving Voice: Social Justice and the Arts*, Baskets for Branches was a fundraiser for the Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, a nonprofit organization serving Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Mason and Putnam counties in West Virginia. In addition to providing advocate assistance to victims of domestic assault, Branches also provides free temporary shelter, food and clothing to anyone who needs assistance to flee a dangerous domestic situation. Marshall students collected baskets filled with essentials and personal items for individuals staying at Branches.

Lindsay DiFatta (music education), Nikki Gilliam (art and design) and Alli Forlines (art and design) were the student representatives of the Baskets for Branches committee. In their meetings, the group brainstormed ideas for a university-wide service project. Baskets for Branches evolved from those meetings. At least 115 baskets were collected, requiring a U-haul truck for delivery.

"I think all of us were amazed and excited about how much was donated," said DiFatta. "We had a truly amazing turnout. A campaign like Baskets for Branches is important because so many people look the other way at domestic violence," DiFatta said. "It's so common. You always hear about it on the news and people have been desensitized to this huge problem. We wanted to put the issue back in the front of people's minds and then provide them with a way to help someone affected by it."

COFA also hosted the seventh annual Empty Bowls campaign this spring. Two of Marshall University's student groups, Keramos Potters Guild and Out Loud Creative, worked together with B'nai Shalom Congregation and Christian Associates to host the event.

Keramos Potters Guild created a variety of bowls to sell at the event while Out Loud Creative helped with the advertising and public relations aspect of it. The fundraiser partnered with the Huntington Area Food Bank to raise awareness and funds for people in the area struggling to put food on the table.

For a \$12 donation, supporters were able to have a lunch consisting of soup and bread, donated from local businesses and organizations, and received a handmade ceramic bowl.

The 2010 Empty Bowls raised \$15,000 for the food bank. In the seven years Keramos has been participating in Empty Bowls, enough money has been earned for over 500,000 pounds of food to be distributed by the Huntington Area Food Bank.

Tommy Warf, president of Keramos, received the award because of his work for the past seven years with the Empty Bowls fundraiser. "This fundraiser is important on many different levels," Warf said. "There is such a need in our area for this, so many people going hungry every day. Another is that often the younger generation in our country gets a bad rap and this is a big way that we can show that we are a generation that does care about people and wants to help others."

The students earned the Community Service Award based on their dedication and devotion to each of the fundraisers.



Left: Lindsay DiFatta, Nikki Gilliam, Alli Forlines, and Dr. Vicki Stroehrer (chair of the 2010 Birke Fine Arts Symposium committee) are pictured at the 2010 Awards Convocation.

Right: Tommy Warf demonstrates how a ceramic bowl is thrown in the Art Warehouse for a press event to raise awareness of Empty Bowls



in the news

Catching up with students, alumni, and faculty.

ART & DESIGN

Last year was exciting and 2010-11 looks even better! **Ian Hagarty** (Painting) and **Margaret Richardson** (Art History) will join our department along with **Sherrie Knapp** (Administrative Secretary Sr.), who worked for us previously from 2002-05.

Professor Jonathan Cox (Sculpture) coordinated a student sculpture competition sponsored by Huntington Steel. The winner, **Sassa Nibert**, will have her 15' steel sculpture installed in a local park.

Professor Mary Grassell (Graphic Design) taught "Rendering the City of Florence," in Italy during the summer intersession and we have two graphic design students completing summer internships in Sydney, Australia.

Art and Design students **Alli Forlines** and **Nikki Gilliam** helped organize Baskets for Branches, a campaign to aid a local domestic violence shelter and COFA alumnus **Tommy Warf** was instrumental in the success of Empty Bowls 2010, a joint ceramics sale and soup luncheon that raises thousands of dollars each year for the Huntington Area Food Bank.

Two MU alumni who own and operate Hometown Sportswear funded a paid summer internship and a full-year scholarship – both for graphic design students.

Gallery 842, a COFA-supported community art gallery, celebrated its one-year anniversary last April. Gallery attendance and sales are rising and scheduled exhibits for next year look great.

MUSIC

Music students have long been known for wowing audiences with wonderful on-stage performances. But, did you know these same students contribute to the Greater Huntington area through community service events, as well?

In 2008, the department created a canned food drive at the end of fall semester for the Cridlin Food Pantry, a local non-profit agency that serves underprivileged families in our area. Each student organization took part in the event and over 500 items were delivered to the pantry. When seeing the work of the students, the pantry's director said: "when you throw a canned food drive, you really throw it!" Imagine her response when the 2009 drive brought over 700 items to the pantry during the holiday season. The 2010 goal is 1,000 cans!

Earlier this spring, music students had another community service opportunity during the **Neighborhood Super-Duper Outing** (NSO) which coincided with the National Symphony Orchestra's residency in West Virginia. Led by Delta Omicron, their president Mindy Kelle and their advisor **Dr. Vicki Stroehrer**, music students hosted a musical crafts fair and an instrumental "petting zoo" at the Barnett Center in the Fairlawn West area of Huntington as part of the pre-concert festivities. "Beginning" instrumental sounds filled the air!

So, the next time you are enjoying a student performance, remember that someone in the community is also benefitting – not only through the performer's talent, but through a calling to serve others.

THEATRE

In keeping with the Birke Symposium theme, the **Marshall Theatre Alliance** season was dedicated to social justice and Marshall students gathered together with the Huntington community to make and enjoy art in a time of change.

Our season opener, *Waiting for Lefty*, put a human face on the labor movement of the 1930s. Throughout the run of the show, students, parents, and community members shared family stories about the rich history of unionism in West Virginia.

In fall, **Pickled Pepper Players** performed interactive puppet shows in local schools.

2009 came to a joyous finish with the MTA production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, brought to life by our own **Jack Cirillo** and supported by student volunteers.

In 2010, local actors shared the stage with Marshall students in productions of *Memory House*, *Our Country's Good*, and *The New Works Festival*. Dancers from **aMUsed**, our new student dance company, joined the Jeslyn Dance Gallery to bring "art to the heart of Huntington" in a wonderful program of contemporary dance at the Jeslyn Performing Arts Center.

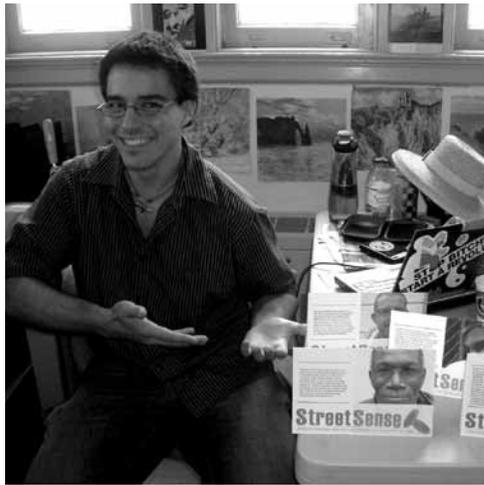
In February the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre was packed for a student initiated cabaret evening of contemporary musical theatre, and again in April for a concert production of *A Chorus Line*.

www.marshall.edu/cofa

Falquero using graphic design skills to help homeless in DC

An art and design student is using his design skills for good causes and landed a summer internship with a homeless newspaper in Washington DC.

Eric Falquero, 21-year-old graphic design senior from Charleston, WV, said he enjoys helping people and is happy he found a way to contribute to causes by doing what he loves—graphic design.



"Any good cause needs good design to make it stand out from everything else because we see all kinds of media every minute of every day," Falquero said.

The bi-weekly paper he is interning with, *Street Sense*, is based out of Washington DC and its mission is to raise public awareness on the issues of homelessness and poverty in the city and to create economic opportunities, according to the website. The paper is sold by vendors who are homeless or close to being homeless.

"Most of the content is written by the vendors that sell it and they write about issues that they face," Falquero said. "The vendors buy copies of the paper once it is printed for 35 cents a copy and they sell it for a minimum of \$1. It provides them a creative outlet and a job where they are pretty much their own boss because they choose when and where they want to go out."

He stumbled across the opportunity while searching on the Internet for internships in the DC area and it was the first one that caught his attention, Falquero said. "The internship actually had just been posted two days before I found it," he said. "So I replied to it and I heard back from them the next day. The more I looked into it, the more interested I was, so I was very excited when they picked me."

Currently the executive director has been focusing on marketing the paper and increasing the audience, Falquero said. A strong part of that is the brand and getting professional looking materials out, as well as a paper that is visually interesting so people want to read it.

"My long term project for the summer is to redesign the paper, which is what I am the most excited about," he said. "It will be time intensive and the biggest challenge but I like a challenge. It will be the longest lasting impression that I can leave with the organization as well."

Falquero will also be working closely with one of the vendors who puts together the layout for the creative section of the paper where vendors submit poems and photographs, he said.

"Right now there is not much design to the creative section and the director feels that there should be more to go along with the rest of the paper and to really highlight a treasure of the paper," Falquero said. "They want me to get to know the guy and help him with his design skills so that he can do it rather than just handing it off to me."

Street Sense has about 100 active vendors who sell about 16,000 papers every other week, with the average vendor earning \$45 a day, according to the website.

This is not the first cause to which Falquero has contributed his design skill, he said. He was also behind all the creative work for the Empty Bowls campaign this spring. Falquero was creative director of Out Loud Creative (student public relations/graphic design firm) who helped manage the publicity of Empty Bowls.

(Continued on page 7)

GOT NEWS?

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

Contact:

Jaye Ike
160 Smith Hall
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
(304) 696-3296 • Jaye.ike@marshall.edu

Creation

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the College of Fine Arts
Marshall University
Smith Hall 158
Huntington, WV 25755
304-696-6433 • www.marshall.edu/cofa

Dean
Donald Van Horn

Associate Dean
David Castleberry

Administrative Assistant
Peggy Egnatoff

Director of Development
Melanie Griffis

Special Projects Coordinator
Jaye Ike

Department of Art and Design
Byron Clercx, Chair

Department of Music
Jeff Pappas, Chair

Department of Theatre
Julie Jackson, Chair

Marshall Artists Series
Penny Watkins, Executive Director

Interns
Eric Falquero
Laura Hatfield
Tess Moore

MU alumni designate scholarship and internship

Brothers John and Jeff McKenna, owners of HomeTown Sportswear in Barboursville, recently committed to funding a scholarship and a paid internship for graphic design students in the College of Fine Arts at Marshall. Both are alumni of the university.

Jeff McKenna says he is happy to give back to his alma mater. "For John and me, the HomeTown Sportswear Scholarship and Internship are a way to support education and develop the talent of Marshall graphic design students," he said.

The annual \$3,000 scholarship will be designated for a student who is a graphic design major. The internship position is paid for 194 hours through the summer.

"By funding one of the department's top scholarships," observed Byron Clercx, chair of the Department of Art and Design at Marshall, "the McKenna brothers are reinvesting in talented students who may also choose to live, work and contribute to the Tri-State region's growing creative economy. For the winner the funding reduces the pressure to work odd jobs and allows more time to develop a top-quality portfolio."

The 2010 scholarship was awarded to Huntington native Levi Brumbaugh.

"It came as a great shock to me that I was chosen for this scholarship," Brumbaugh said.

"Our department has great graphic design work coming out of it all the time...with this I expect a lot more from myself and my work."

Brumbaugh aspires to work in illustration or animation. "One day I hope to work as an illustrator or an animator," he said. "I'd like to find a balance in either a publishing company or a video game company." Graphic Design student Jennings Estel was chosen for the internship at HomeTown Sportswear on the basis of an interview.

"This gift is exceptional in that it benefits at least two students every year and has two areas of impact," said Melanie Griffis, College of Fine Arts Director of Development. "First it offers financial assistance to a student who has excelled academically. In addition, it provides actual paid work experience for a student in the field, using the skills gained in the classroom! That experience is invaluable. By offering this scholarship and internship together, HomeTown Sportswear sets a meaningful example for businesses owned



Levi Brumbaugh receives his scholarship from Dr. Beverly Marchant and Byron Clercx at the COFA Awards Convocation.

and operated by MU alumni. What better way to give back to the university than to assist students with their educational expenses and to offer them the opportunity to intern in their field?"

HomeTown Sportswear, located at 3692 U.S. 60 E. in Barboursville, opened in 1994. The family-owned and -operated business offers MU products, wholesale screen printing and embroidery. It serves a variety of clients, including schools, businesses, churches and sports teams.

Marshall University Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Support Overview

Endowed scholarships require a minimum of \$15,000 in the corpus of the fund prior to distribution to deserving students. This may be achieved through a one-time gift, a pledge for a period of up to three years, or through a planned gift. Income distribution funds the scholarship award after the endowment has been invested for at least one year. Additional gifts may be added to the fund at any time.

An endowment of \$15,000 might produce an average scholarship award (depending on market conditions) of \$675 per year. Multiple students may receive awards from a scholarship fund if the donor makes this provision in the scholarship

agreement. The following chart indicates the potential scholarship awards to one student based upon the fund corpus amounts:

Fund Corpus (based upon 4.5% allocation)	Award
\$15,000	\$675
\$25,000	\$1,125
\$50,000	\$2,250
\$100,000	\$4,500
\$325,000	\$14,625

	Tuition	
	(Metro)	(Out of State)
(In-State)	\$8,030	\$11,702
\$4,598		

Expendable scholarships offer the opportunity to provide private support through expendable awards funded by annual contributions of \$1,000 or more. Some donors, like the McKenna brothers, set up their scholarship as an expendable account, giving an annual gift to provide funds for their scholarship.

With both endowed and expendable scholarships, the donors participate in establishing guidelines and in naming the award. All gifts are made to the Marshall University Foundation. Scholarship selection requirements must meet all university policies for academic acceptance and progress.

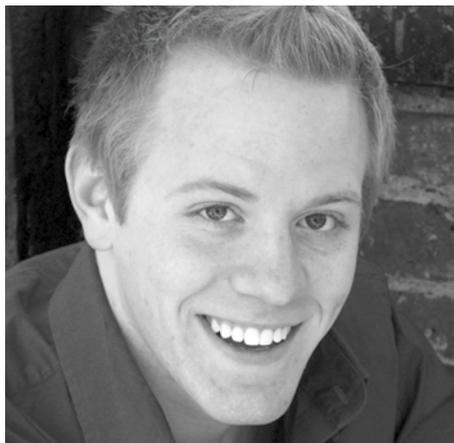
Q&A

with Sean Watkins

Sean Watkins, a 2009 Theatre performance and Spanish graduate, got the chance of a lifetime when he was offered a part in the Broadway-bound musical *Bruce Lee: Journey to the West*. The workshop of the musical took place in New York City at the brand new 42nd Street Studios right in the heart of Times Square. Sean explained that a show is "workshopped" to see if there is any interest in the piece, and to somewhat create a shell of the show. It provides the producers and possible backers an opportunity to see what it will look like before millions of dollars go into it. *Bruce Lee* is scheduled to open in NYC in the fall of the 2011 Broadway season.

Q: So, Sean, you're doing pretty well professionally since graduation – what are you up to now?

A: I am currently doing *The Producers* at Flat Rock Playhouse in Flat Rock, NC. It's a show that I absolutely love, and a role that I have done before –and will hopefully continue to do for as long as the show is being done. The show will run July 16 - August 15. You can check www.flatrockplayhouse.org for more information.



Q: What's next?

A: Well, the fall holds a lot of great opportunities, the greatest of which will be signing with an agency in New York. Once that happens, a ton of doors will open. Also, there is a chance that I will continue to work at Flat Rock Playhouse in their next production which will be *The Drowsy Chaperone*. In addition to the singing and dancing, martial arts is going to be creeping back into my life again as I will begin a series of Karate and Tae Kwon Do classes for New York professionals. It's called "Martial Arts for Broadway," and will be catered to actors, singers, and dancers.

Q: How did your theatre education at Marshall prepare you for where you are now?

A: I firmly believe that for an undergraduate

degree in theatre, Marshall University is one of the few BFA programs that truly helps prepare you for the "real" world. The actor training that people will receive from MU is absolutely invaluable because they give a conservatory approach to the art form, which is extremely rare in a public institution. Of course, one could pay tons of money and go to Julliard, Penn State, or NYU, but MU provides the same education on a much more intimate scale.

Q: What do you miss about Huntington?

A: The thing I miss most about Huntington is being at home with friends and family. There is something to be said about an actor's support group from his home, and I have one of the strongest and most loving people to keep me going.

Q: Any advice for our current theatre students?

A: Go out and audition. Be actively involved in hunting down the work, and do not be ashamed of what you are doing. But, most of all be easy and fun to work with once you book a job. It's the best way to get hired back again!

Q: And when you're not working, what are you doing?

A: I've just been having fun living in the city and auditioning and getting to network with people. I have been very blessed to be working as much as I have with such talented people. I am thankful for that every day!

Falquero using Graphic Design skills to help homeless in DC (continued from page 5)

The purpose of the campaign is to raise money for the Huntington Area Food Bank to feed the hungry by selling lunch and bowls made by Keramos Potters Guild (the student ceramics club) of the College of Fine Arts.

"The Empty Bowls project was probably the most fulfilling project I worked on as far as anything affiliated with college," Falquero said. "At first I designed a letterhead and made it on a word document so anyone who needed it could use it for stuff affiliated with the campaign. Then from there I found out they wanted a website and I just kind of fell into working on the whole campaign."

Falquero worked with COFA's special projects coordinator Jaye Ike to create a design for the campaign.

"Eric is such a pleasure to work with," Ike said. "He's an excellent graphic designer – but

more than that, he shares the passion that we all have toward the Empty Bowls mission. He worked tirelessly for this campaign, I'm very grateful for all of his help."

Brooke Ash, the assistant director of the Huntington Area Food Bank, said this year's Empty Bowls campaign raised nearly \$15,000.

"For every dollar donated to the Huntington Area Food Bank, we can distribute seven pounds of food to help feed hungry people," Ash said. "So, the 2010 Empty Bowls proceeds can help us distribute approximately 105,000 pounds of food."

Ash said it is very important to have a designer on the campaign to make the media visually interesting.

"A campaign needs eye-grabbing, attention-getting pieces to help it stand out but also

continuity," she said. "Eric did a fantastic job designing pieces for this year's campaign. The Empty Bowls campaign was lucky to have such a skilled designer."

Falquero said once he found out how much money the Empty Bowls event raised it was phenomenal. Just being at the event, and seeing it all come together, made him happy to be a part of it.

Falquero also designed COFA's fall 2010 event calendar seen in this issue of *Creation*.

To learn more about *Street Sense*:
www.streetsense.org

To learn more about Empty Bowls:
www.emptybowls.net

Coming Home: Music Alumna Reconnects with Marshall University

Marshall University alumna Judy Light Ayyildiz has practiced the fine arts throughout her careers as a musician, teacher and writer, and has given generously of her time and talents in service to her community. For her lifelong dedication to the arts, education and community, Ayyildiz was recognized in June, 2010, in Roanoke, Virginia, as the YWCA's Woman of Achievement in Education. The YWCA of Roanoke Valley's Women of Achievement Awards recognizes women of the area who have made significant contributions to the community through their educational achievements, leadership and volunteer activities.

On a recent visit to the Marshall campus, Ayyildiz related her Music Department experiences to her work as a writer and teacher.

"I've been writing poems, songs, stories and plays since second grade." Her poetry was first published in the Marshall University campus literary journal and featured in the Herald Dispatch. In 1979, having decided to become a professional writer, she received an MA Liberal Arts degree combining the art of song and writing; then she was awarded a scholarship to the MA in English/Creative Writing program, both from Hollins University. Before graduation, her second poetry collection won a national contest and was published. That book, *Smuggled Seeds*, focused on her trip to Poland with the National Alliance of Arts Educators where she presented a paper on "Organizing Community Choirs." In 1980, Ayyildiz directed sixty young people touring Poland singing, dancing and doing gymnastics.

Ayyildiz has numerous publications. Her third volume of poetry, *Mud River*, includes a collection of poems about her family and was acclaimed by *New York Quarterly* founder, author William Packard. *Nothing but Time* is a memoir of a physical trauma in her life when she was paralyzed from the mysterious Guillain-Barre autoimmune disorder. The book is about gaining courage, remembering who you are by finding the stories within yourself. The stories connect to the progression of the disease and Ayyildiz's recovery as she learned to sit, crawl and walk again, and are humorous, spiritual, colorful and insightful. They are cast in colloquial West Virginia language and spirit of survival that Ayyildiz knows so well. This book is now in its second edition.

Ayyildiz and 50 other prospective music teachers entered Marshall University in 1959. Her uncle, the late Jon Light of Saint Albans, received a music degree from Marshall a generation before. "Uncle Jon, an accomplished tenor soloist," she said, "sang the national anthem before games at Fairfield Stadium and at the Memorial Field House." Ayyildiz struggled to keep up with her peers; her family did not own a piano until she was 16. "However, the faculty in the old music hall was a nurturing family, and the warm and skilled professors such as Leo Imperi, Lee Fiser and Jane Hobson inspired beyond the classroom", she said. Only 8 of the original 50 completed four years of music study. Academic and performance expectations were grueling.

Ayyildiz graduated from Marshall University in 1963, having that spring broken a West Virginia law that no pregnant woman could teach in public schools. Married in November to Dr. Vedii Ayyildiz, an immigrant from Turkey and resident physician at Cabell-Huntington Hospital, she was pregnant in February. Graduation with her BS in Music Education required completion of student teaching. She kept



her pregnancy secret and completed teaching under mentorship of Janice Chandler (Gold). Following graduation, she sang leading roles on stage; directed and participated in church and secular choirs, directed stage productions, and taught music. Two years later, teaching in Buffalo City Schools, she took the New York state board for teachers. She passed but two New York teachers failed, ending teasing about her being "...just a West Virginia girl." Her husband became a citizen and they settled in Roanoke, Virginia, where he had a private practice for 34 years and she continued to be both an active participant and an advocate leader in the arts. Ayyildiz founded and directed for 15 years the "only-ever" medical wives' choir which received awards and was invited to sing at the national American Medical Association convention. Among participation in many organizations, she was a music minister at churches and director and singer in Roanoke's Showtimers Theater.

With three children at home and a surgeon husband who worked long hours, Ayyildiz as a writer had to deal with the demands for success. She moved all she had learned and loved about music into the art of writing. Her work is described as fluid and tonal. Critics say that she moves the reader inside the scene—a trick she learned from her study of composers such as Schubert, Schumann and Debussy.

Since the 1980s, Ayyildiz has taught writing, is an avid supporter of women's rights, and presents workshops at women's centers and conferences, and her work appears in international anthologies. She

(Continued on page 11)

Smith Music Hall

Fall 2010

MU Orchestra

October 12 | 8 p.m.

Choral Festival

October 15 & 16

Jazz 12.0 Ensemble

October 21 | 8 p.m.

*Homecoming Concert**

October 30 | 8 p.m.

Jazz 12.1 Concert

November 1 | 8 p.m.

University Chorus

November 4 | 8 p.m.

Chamber Choir

November 14 | 3 p.m.

"Looking Glass" Concert

November 15 | 8 p.m.

Jazz 12.0 Ensemble

November 29 | 8 p.m.

MU Orchestra

December 1 | 8 p.m.

Wind Symphony

December 2 | 8 p.m.

Choral Union

December 4 | 8 p.m.

Choral Union

December 5 | 3 p.m.

Symphonic Band Concert

December 7 | 8 p.m.

* held at the *Jomie Jazz Center*304.696.6656
www.marshall.edu/muartsr

Gallery 842

Fall 2010

Fall Invitational Exhibition

August 6 - September 9

Reception August 6 | 6 - 9 p.m.

*Curated by John Farley, BAG & G842 director

MU Art & Design Faculty Exhibition

September 17 - October 21

Reception September 17 | 6 - 9 p.m.

MU Sculpture Students Exhibition

October 29 - December 2

Reception October 29 | 6 - 9 p.m.

get the most up-to-date calendar of events at www.marshall.edu/cofa
or e-mail questions to Jaye Ike, jaye.ike@marshall.eduMARSHALL
THEATRE
ALLIANCE

Fall 2010

*Saturday, Sunday, Monday*by Eduardo de Filippo
October 6 - 9 | 8 p.m.*The Good Doctor*by Neil Simon
November 10-13 | 8 p.m.*10 Minute Play Festival*

November 19 | 8 p.m.

Birke Art Gallery

Fall 2010

Sixteen Hands Ceramics Exhibition

August 23 - September 9

Closing Reception September 7 | 5 - 8 p.m.

Design in the Fourth Dimension

September 20 - October 7

Reception September 21 | 5 - 8 p.m.

Foundations Portfolio Review

October 18 - October 28 | 5 - 8 p.m.

* provides students the opportunity to professionally
present their foundations level artwork*Student Exhibition 1*

November 1 - November 4

Reception November 2 | 5 - 8 p.m.

Student Exhibition 2

November 8 - November 11

Reception November 9 | 5 - 8 p.m.

Student Exhibition 3

November 15 - November 18

Reception November 16 | 5 - 8 p.m.

Student Exhibition 4

November 29 - December 2

Reception November 30 | 5 - 8 p.m.

*student exhibitions will include BFA Senior Capstone
and MA Graduate Exhibitions

page design by Eric Falquero, graphic design senior

A year in development for COFA

COFA alumni and friends continue to increase their support of the college through generous donations. Through May 2010, giving has increased 13.6% over the same period in 2009. This is remarkable given the economic downturn and the common perception that philanthropic support is diminishing in our nation. How have your donations made a difference this academic year?

In **July** 2009, 27 students, music faculty and friends traveled to Switzerland and France to perform in the Montreux Jazz Festival in July 2009

In **August**, 2009, the College of Fine Arts received a challenge grant from the Huntington Foundation to assist in raising funds for the completion of the Marching Thunder Band Complex. This gift allowed COFA to leverage this gift with band alumni and friends of the college to successfully raise funds needed to complete the renovation of the Henderson Center Auxiliary Gym into The Marching Thunder Band Complex –through private donations to COFA

In **September**, 2009, students, faculty and community members gathered to celebrate the life and work of the late Stan Sporny who founded the Annual Student Juried Exhibition with the help of donors who provided prizes for student winners. That tradition continues to this day with the 24th ASJE held in January 2010.

In **October** 2009, the Department of Art and Design opened Marshall University's Gallery 842 – a student, faculty and community exhibition space in downtown Huntington made possible by the generous donation of space by Liza Caldwell and Dingess Rum Properties.

On **November 2**, 2009, Sandy and Don Hatfield chaired the first meeting of the College of Fine Arts Dean's Council. Members of the council serve as ambassadors for the college in the community and beyond and assist in identifying and securing funding sources to help distinguish COFA's programs.

In **December** 2009, The Marching Thunder held its annual banquet in the new band complex and celebrated by naming the rehearsal hall for Monica and Mark Hatfield, who were very generous donors to the complex. Other naming recognitions at the banquet were the Bart and Doris Andrews Band Office and the Churchill and Mary Hodges Director's Office

Beginning in **January** 2010, the Birke Fine Arts Symposium, *Giving Voice: Social Justice and the Arts*, extended through the spring 2010 semester. 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. The 2010 symposium included community-building workshops, a juried art exhibit, as well as bringing nationally-acclaimed performers to Marshall.

In **February** 2010, arrangements were finalized to hold the first Huntington Steel Corporation Sculpture Competition for students at Marshall University. Huntington Steel will offer materials and a commission for the winning design and will assist in fabricating the sculpture for installation (see related story).

Thanks to the generous support of the Greater Cincinnati Alumni Chapter, the MU Chamber Choir toured northern Kentucky and the Cincinnati area in **March** 2009, performing in area high schools and offering a special performance for alumni and community. Thirty choir members were hosted in the homes of alumni.

Seventy-three students received scholarships at the COFA Annual Awards Convocation in **April**, 2010. COFA has 48 named scholarships funded by donations from generous individuals. Next year, three new scholarships will be awarded making 51 scholarships available to our students in art and design, music, and theatre, as well as scholarships awarded on behalf of the College of Fine Arts.

Art and design students received partial support for a study trip to Florence, Italy, in **May**, 2010. Graphic design professor, Mary Grassell, led 12 students on a trip to study art and architecture. Check out the blog at: <http://www.marshallcofa.org/>

June, 2010, COFA announced the establishment of the HomeTown Sportswear Scholarship and Internship for art and design students with an emphasis in graphic design (see related article).

These extraordinary accomplishments are made possible only through the generous support of donors to the Marshall University College of Fine Arts. On behalf of the students, staff and faculty, we THANK YOU.



Mark and Monica Hatfield unveil the sign for the new rehearsal hall.

education



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 _____
 One time gift Monthly Quarterly Annually

Method of Payment: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express Check

Name _____

Address _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

**Please make your tax-deductible gifts payable to:
The Marshall University Foundation, Inc.
Mail to:** College of Fine Arts, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755

Please send me information about establishing scholarships for COFA or including the College of Fine Arts in my estate plan.

Coming Home: Music Alumna Reconnects with Marshall University (continued from page 8)

spends 3-4 months a year in Turkey and continues her work there. No matter where she is, she never forgets her roots. She is currently working on a new memoir that includes her life in West Virginia.

"I lived one life as a musician and in 1980 I decided to be a published writer," Ayyildiz said. "I could not practice two areas of fine arts with three children at home. I've had a marvelous career with music, I have sung, acted, danced, directed and done just about everything I wanted to do. Then what I did was transfer everything I'd learned about music, teaching, sense of drama, music, imagery, how to create mood – transferred it so rapidly into writing. Almost immediately I started getting work published, and soon after I won a contest out of a small press in New York that published my complete book of poetry."

Her advice for students in the arts today: "You need to be careful about giving your talent away. My professors at Marshall taught us that. I ended up doing it anyway, and later found out that they were right. Get paid something," she urged. "Someone has to start the standard. But still, you have to do plenty of internship-type work – it's called practicing. And you're practicing what you are going to do for the rest of your life."

For Marshall, Ayyildiz serves as a member of the College of Fine Arts Dean's Council and participates on the Student Travel committee. She is committed to helping Marshall fine arts students receive a distinguished education and believes that travel for study, performance and exhibitions are integral to this experience. "Students need to look beyond their backyard and see the wider world to be truly able to appreciate their education. That has been important to me over the years, and I want to help make it possible for students today." Ayyildiz also supports the university through a planned gift that will benefit the Department of Music at her death. "No one likes to think about that – dying isn't something we talk about – but by making this provision for Marshall in my estate plan I can leave a legacy for future students."





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College of Fine Arts
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Giving to COFA, a student, and the community

Huntington Steel and Supply, Inc. established a competition for Marshall University students participating in the "Monumental Art" or public sculpture class. The competition began this spring with the selection of a design by Sarah "Sassa" Nibert, a senior art and design major with an emphasis in sculpture. Huntington Steel and its employees are assisting Nibert in fabricating her sculpture in their shop. The finished design will then be moved to a site selected by the City of Huntington in Harris Riverfront Park.

"This competition offers our students invaluable experience," stated Jonathan Cox, professor of sculpture at Marshall. "Each student developed a design, a scale model and artist's statement to support their choices. They were then required to present their ideas and justify them to a panel of individuals from the university, the city, and the Huntington Museum of Art. Just that process is an essential experience for a student hoping to make her living as an artist."

Nibert will take that learning further. As the result of this competition, she has been awarded materials, funds for fabrication and a stipend to complete her work. "The winning designer must manage her own project from budget to construction to installation. Sassa is getting real world experience in bringing a project to life," noted Cox.

Nibert's design is a simplistic, abstracted form, representing a child and an adult figure in a scene of playful interaction. It is bright, inviting, and gender-neutral so that viewers could potentially see themselves or loved ones when they see the sculpture.

"I want a mother to see herself and her child, but also want a father, grandparent, babysitter, or a child to see themselves and their families in the art," Nibert said. "I believe that if individuals easily and warmly

identify with the piece, not only will the sculpture itself be embraced by our community, but it will also serve as an inspiring example for interactive play." She continued, "Public art absolutely has the power to inspire and influence people, and an issue that I feel is prominent in our area currently is overall health and activity level, especially for children.

As the parent of a six year old, I am aware of the increasing sedentary lifestyles that our children are adopting, and can see days of fresh air and imaginative outdoor play disappearing. Busy daily lives of parents can add to the problem, making healthy, interactive, health and relationship-strengthening playtime scarce."

Huntington Steel's President, Mike Emerson, says of the project, "We are gratified by this competition and the responses of the students. Our entire company is invested in this project with Sassa. Our employees take pride in knowing that Huntington Steel is involved in a project that means so much to students – but also a project that will mean so much to Huntington. When the sculpture is installed, it means that Huntington Steel and its crew have dedicated themselves to our product, our craft, and to our community. We are very pleased to be able to make this possible."

The finished sculpture is scheduled to be installed and dedicated at Harris Riverfront Park on September 11, 2011.

