

Creation

SPRING 2012

Janet Bromley

was six years old when her parents looked out the window and saw her in the yard, with one stick under her chin and another stick as her violin bow. She received a violin for her 7th birthday, and a legacy in the arts blossomed.



For Bromley, music was everything. "I thought dolls were dumb," Bromley quipped. "I played music. Music was my contact with others."

At age 15, she began taking lessons from Raymond Schoewe, conductor of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra. She had her first orchestra position, second violin, as a 9th grader at Marshall Lab School.

"I made it through high school, and did well," Bromley said. She continued her education at Oberlin College in Ohio – earning the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music Education degrees, "because my dad said I'd be able to support myself that way," she said. "Then the violin teacher at Berea College left, and they needed a teacher. The president at Berea called the president at Oberlin and said they needed a violin teacher."

Bromley interviewed, having breakfast with the chairman of the music department and his family—and hers. She was hired, and taught there from 1947-49. "Much to my surprise, I conducted the orchestra at Berea College," she said.

It was Bromley, along with like-minded Huntingtonians, who realized that many of the people in Cabell County did not have a history of listening to music performed live. She was instrumental in the formation of the Huntington Chamber Orchestra, and helped find it a home at the Huntington Museum of Art.

From these collaborations, the *On Line* program was created. Beginning in 1974, *On Line* was an hour-long immersion into live music, dance, and visual art for students in Cabell County. Bromley helped the program flourish, including scheduling the program, convincing

schools to attend, and choosing music and musicians. They started with a brass quintet and a small woodwind ensemble. After 35 years of performing with *On Line*, Bromley retired from the program, but the museum still hosts the project, bringing the arts to every 4th-grader in Cabell County.

Bromley's reach in the arts is extensive. She is a President's Club lifetime member at the Huntington Museum of Art, she was honored by TEAM for West Virginia Children for bringing music to school children, she serves as a College of Fine Arts Dean's Council member, as well as many other arts-related accolades.



"Janet's contributions to the arts at Marshall predate the creation of the College of Fine Arts," Don Van Horn, dean, said. "She has been a mainstay in the orchestral program for decades and

that dedication to music and our students is as strong today as ever. Janet was one of the first people I met when I came to Marshall, and I was impressed with her 'let's get it done and move forward' attitude. I recall the leadership Janet displayed when we worked with a small group of people to establish the Paul A. Balshaw Orchestra Program Enrichment Fund to honor Paul, the founding dean of the College of Fine Arts. After several discussions, the time came for someone to step forward and it was Janet. Within minutes we had the necessary commitments to establish the fund."

Always concerned about the needs of young musicians, Bromley has directed her support of COFA to assisting orchestral students with "extras" that would not be covered by scholarship assistance. She strongly believes

(Continued on page 3)

From time to time I reflect on the reasons my wife and I chose, 17 years ago, to make Marshall University and Huntington our home. Among many positives, the vibrant arts community we sensed was here during the interview process served as a compelling incentive. We have never been disappointed with our decision to join the Marshall family and the arts community is everything we hoped for and more. I am certainly proud of the arts leadership the College of Fine Arts provides the region and state and I believe the health of the arts in Huntington is stronger than ever.

There are many people who share the responsibility for the vital role the arts play in the lives of those who live here. Janet Bromley, however, is in a class of her own and we are pleased to feature Janet in this issue of *Creation*. For well over 50 years, Janet has been a leading advocate, perhaps the leading advocate, for all things “arts” in Huntington and our region, and her vision and persuasive influence certainly extend to Marshall. I recall with great fondness a series of meetings I had with Janet, Dorothy Polan, Sally Carey, and Becky Lepanto, to discuss the formation of an award to honor Dr. Paul Balshaw, the founding dean of the College of Fine Arts. I have vivid memories of Janet concluding, profoundly, that we must have an award in Paul’s honor and she truly set the course for that to happen.

Those who know Janet admire her no-nonsense approach, but many also appreciate Janet’s wry sense of humor and love for play and creativity. Her steadfast determination and wondrously imaginative spirit have given this community and our university rich traditions in the arts that make this place and our institution distinctive. We all owe Janet Bromley a debt of gratitude.

We accompanied the Marshall University Chamber Choir on its tour of France over spring break. It was a privilege for Diana and me to travel with the 39 students who sang a mass in Notre Dame in Paris and a series of concerts in 12th and 13th century churches in locales across the south of France. For me, it was one of the greatest experiences of my academic life.

I cannot find the words to describe how beautifully our students sang. Repertoire ranged from Renaissance to 20th century music, folk music, and African American spirituals. French audiences, with people from all over the world mixed in, were repeatedly overwhelmed and deeply



A Message from the Dean

moved by the performances of our students under the direction of Dr. David Castleberry. Numerous standing ovations (unusual for the normally reserved French) at the concerts featured rhythmic clapping, sending clear and unmistakable messages to our students that their audiences wanted more. These warm and genuine responses were equally overwhelming for our students and I swelled with pride each time they were showered with admiration from their audiences. The looks on the faces of our students as people leapt to their feet to acknowledge their artistry were priceless and those will be some of the most memorable moments of our trip for me.

A number of these Marshall students had never flown, and some had never been out of the state of West Virginia. The personal growth and character development we witnessed in our students over the course of 10 days spent traveling together in a different country where language is a challenge, and social norms vary from what they know from home, affirmed for me the importance of providing all our students with similar opportunities. All total, by the end of August, 2012, over 70 Marshall University students will have traveled abroad under the auspices of College of Fine Arts programs. Such transformative experiences, as opportunities for study, performing, and exhibiting in locations foreign to our students must become embedded in curriculum. This year we are taking major steps in that direction and I look forward to building on the growing momentum of our international efforts.

Donald Van Horn
Dean

We are trying to build our database of email addresses in an effort to be more “green” – and still keep you in the loop. If you’d like occasional updates from the college, email jaye.ike@marshall.edu so we have your current email address. You can also take this time to let us know what you’re up to. You might be featured in an upcoming issue of *Creation*.

GO GREEN...with COFA!



Alumni Update: Craig Johnson (BFA in theatre, 1984)

A&E Network will premiere the new original scripted drama series, Longmire on Sunday, June 3 at 10 pm.

Longmire, a contemporary crime thriller set in Big Sky country, is based on the Walt Longmire mystery novels by New York Times best-selling author Craig Johnson. Johnson, an MU theatre graduate, visited in the fall to work with theatre students. The students performed a stage reading of excerpts from his books.

.....

Cover story (continued from page 1)

it is important to develop future generations of musicians in the community and at Marshall and has done so through her work with COFA, the Huntington Symphony Orchestra educational programs, and as a section leader in the MU Orchestra for many years. She leads by example with dedicated practice, advice to the students in her section, through encouragement, and by passing the leadership on to the next generation of players.

"Having a regular place to rehearse music, in particular music I've never seen before, to use my own expression—it keeps the rust off the brain and the fingers," Bromley said. "Unless you have a place to play and play with direction, it is very easy for a person not employed in the arts to give up playing the instrument. You need rehearsals and the motivation to make the music better."

When asked her favorite part of being in the MU orchestra, she said, "the point is I have a place to play and come to terms with music regularly, as opposed to sitting at home and practicing for no purpose other than practice. Practice is not for fun – it is a challenge. And this gets me coming to Marshall and sight-reading the music for the first time, and then bringing it up to performance-level. This is a major motivation to get Janet Bromley in front of the music stand to practice. That's the truth. Unless I'm going to play it somewhere, it's hard to make myself practice."

Bromley said she volunteered to play the part that no one wants to play – principal second violin. "A second fiddle can be looked down upon,

but as a long-term person in that position, keeping the rhythm going for everyone else, is in fact, a very important position. We fill in when the first violin has the melody taken away from them."

And she enjoys playing under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Reed Smith.

"Reed has grown in her position," Bromley said. "She recognizes that the brass instruments have a regular place to play, versus only the violins. She balances a large brass and wind section against a smaller-sized violin section with technical means that she has learned when she was playing, I'm sure principal, in college orchestras as she was training."

But Bromley's assistance to the arts goes beyond playing violin. She's a part of the COFA Dean's Council.

"The Dean's Council is an honor to this person," she said. "Since I have basically no given responsibilities, I'm not taking classes, I'm not teaching classes, and so I'm sort of adding another point of view to the Dean's Council."

"Janet is a dear friend personally, and to the arts at Marshall and in our community," Van Horn said. "When I think of people who have contributed to the incredibly rich arts fabric here, Janet is at the very top of the list."





Recently we caught up with Pete Massing, printmaking professor and esteemed artist. Massing received a BFA in Painting and Drawing at the State University of Buffalo and an MFA at The Ohio State University with a concentration in Printmaking.

Q: So, is it fair to refer to you as printmaker Pete Massing?

A: My role in society is as an artist. I am referred to as a printmaker in my academic research and as a teacher. I do not find labels useful to define a person. I have realized that the term printmaker may be perceived as an artist that only makes prints or works as a printer. I do a variety of things in order to satisfy my creative endeavors. Printmaking lends itself to a broad range of processes that link intellectual and artistic disciplines. It is in the "Process" that I seek ways in which I might best realize the significance in what I do.

Q: What do you love about it?

A: What I find most interesting about printmaking is that the outcome documents the process and, when pulling a print there exists a mystery. Printmaking is a good way to experience how the process can guide one's direction when solving pictorial problems.

Q&A with printmaking professor Pete Massing

In many ways, artists seek problems to solve by exploring solutions to those problems. Often the problems bridge real life issues with imaginative scenarios. The "art and life" part of creativity is learning how to let the things that are out of our control dictate or inform the decisions we make. Printmaking does this for me.

Q: What would you say inspires you?

A: I find inspiration most often from others. People that are willing to share their experiences, their point of view or their vision inform a collective consciousness. When I reach a level of understanding about the world around me, I feel a sense of awakening and awareness. Sharing these kinds of feelings gives me insight about where I fit into the scheme of things. For me it comes from looking at works of art and talking to artists.

Q: Will you share some of your career highlights with us?

A: I have been very fortunate to take advantage of a number of opportunities that fuel my artistic output. Most memorable is having had the opportunity to travel while I was an undergraduate studying art in Italy, Greece, and the Aegean. Greek and Turkish islands have a very profound influence on the way I think. While in graduate school, I worked on collaborative projects with other students that involved a wide range of media and method. This exposed me to all kinds of possibilities and viewpoints.

For the past four years I have been very active producing and exhibiting my work. In 2010 I was invited to participate in a show called *Extra Dimensional Print* at Nexus Gallery in Philadelphia during an international printmaking festival called PHILAGRAFIKA. Philagrafika is a yearlong program that brought artists and printmakers from around the world to showcase their work in

museums, galleries, and arts institutions in the city of Philadelphia. It is an honor for me that I was invited to participate in one of the exhibitions. This recognition exposed me to additional opportunities to collaborate with nationally-acclaimed artists to produce prints for portfolios that were shown in exhibitions in a number of academic institutions in the continental United States. I am currently working on several editions for *The History of the United States in Print*, that is scheduled to be completed for exhibitions in 2017.

Most recently, I have benefited from working with a gallery and art dealer in Houston Texas. In 2008 I was artist in residence at the Texas Collaborative Workshops in Houston, Texas. This put me in touch with Dan Mitchell Allison, fine art dealer; that has provided me with solo and group exhibitions in Houston. In January 2012 I had a solo exhibition titled *Time and Time Again* showcasing recent prints and drawings that was quite successful and will result in a catalog in preparation for upcoming events for the next two years. The show was reviewed in the Houston Chronicle and a web-based regional arts magazine.

Q: Let's talk about teaching...

A: I began teaching at Marshall University in 1989 as an assistant professor in printmaking to fill a void after a long-standing member of the art department retired. It was a one-year appointment that eventually led to a tenure-track position. I am currently a full professor in the Department of Art & Design and work with very talented, creative, and progressive-thinking faculty and staff. Marshall is a good place to be at this particular time. It is very exciting to teach and learn with art and design students. It is a wonderful experience to be a part of a growing process as a member in the department and prepare to inhabit new facilities. The most gratifying thing about this experience is to see the students develop as artists and learn about how they make their way in life.

The Marshall Artists Series receives Governor's Award for the Arts



Angela Jones, Donna May and Penny Watkins of the Marshall Artists Series accept their award from Governor Tomblin.

The Marshall Artists Series, celebrating its 75th season (1936-2011), was presented with the Distinguished Service to the Arts Award at the 2012 Governor's Arts Awards gala. The event was held March 8, 2012, at the Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston, WV, and was hosted by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. Penny Watkins, executive director of the Marshall Artists Series, accepted the award from WV Governor Earl Ray Tomblin on behalf of the Marshall Artists Series, Marshall University and the College of Fine Arts.

The purpose of the award is to celebrate excellence in various sectors of the arts. The awards focus attention on the importance of the arts both to human and economic development in West Virginia by honoring those who have major creative achievements or have made significant contributions to the state's culture.

A one-of-a-kind sculpture made of forged steel was given to each recipient. The award, created by Spencer, WV, artist and blacksmith Jeff Fetty, was created especially for the 2012 Governor's Arts Awards. Fetty is a well-known and accomplished artist, who has been forging steel for nearly 30 years, coaxing hard, cold iron into delicately wrought objects

Each year, the Marshall Artists Series takes its patrons on an artistic and intellectual journey by bringing outstanding arts, entertainment and educational events to the diverse community that supports the

program. Harry Belafonte has been on the bill as well as Yo-Yo Ma, Liza Minnelli, *The Producers*, Eleanor Roosevelt, Marcel Marceau, Isaac Stern, Tim Conway and Don Knotts. While about 25 to 30 percent of its budget comes from Marshall University, the rest comes from community support. The series, started in 1936 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Marshall College, is considered a showcase to celebrate the arts, history and culture of our state and is the second oldest "town and gown" organization of its kind in the country.

"It was an honor to receive this prestigious award on behalf of the Marshall Artists Series, Marshall University and the College of Fine Arts," said Penny Watkins, executive director of the Marshall Artists Series. "One can only imagine the lives impacted by the diverse programming offered by the Marshall Artists Series since 1936."

In a presentation during the awards ceremony, Randall Reid Smith, Commissioner, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, said, "We should thank our parents. Many times parents will make a sacrifice so that we may have a musical instrument, a singing lesson or an art class. Without them, we may not have become the artists that we are. And it is important now that we see ourselves as teachers and parents who can carry on that tradition, so that the artists of the future have the encouragement and nurturing they need to succeed."



Alumni Update

Joseph Hughes (BA, 1964; MA, 1967) of San Francisco, CA, recently exhibited his *Selected Paintings: 1990s – 2000s in Coming Home* at the Clay Center's Avampato Discovery Museum in Charleston, WV.

He also exhibited his recent paintings in *Vorsicht Farbe (Caution Paint)* at Galerie Katharina Krohn in Basel, Switzerland; and in *5 x 5 Invitational Exhibition* at the Westmont Museum of Art in Santa Barbara, CA.

Hughes' paintings are represented in numerous private and public collections, including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Jacksonville, FL; Amoco Corporation in Chicago, IL; and the Osthaus Museum in Hagen, Germany.

Hughes also has paintings in the permanent collections of the Clay Center in Charleston, the Huntington Museum of Art, and the West Virginia State Museum in Charleston.

For more information, or to view photos of Hughes' work, visit: www.josephhughesstudio.com



in the news

Catching up with students, alumni, and faculty.

ART & DESIGN

Byron Clercx, Chair

In addition to providing rigorous and relevant classroom learning experiences and internship opportunities that build career and life skills, the Department of Art and Design is committed to providing our students with opportunities to travel abroad and to major urban art centers.

Seeing great art in-person is truly a life-changing activity. Last year I had the good fortune to guide COFA students on a three-week study abroad experience in Florence, Italy. This summer the College of Fine Arts partnered with the College of Liberal Arts to send a faculty member from each college to guide a group of students from majors across campus to what is commonly referred to as the "birthplace of the Renaissance." Students will have passes to all of the major museums and religious sites, attend live musical and theatrical performances and have ample time to explore and enjoy the fabulous Italian cuisine, linger in cafes and city squares, conduct individual research, and take day hikes/trips to popular destinations within and just outside Florence.

The department also respects the rich homegrown arts and culture that exist stateside. Accordingly, we offer an annual four-day field trip to New York City. Students and faculty immerse themselves in visits to major museums and galleries, meet with representatives from top-rated design agencies, engage in private studio visits with artists, and enjoy all of the wonderful architectural, culinary, and performing arts offerings the Big Apple can, and does, deliver.

Likewise, we encourage and help foster weekend trips to major urban art centers throughout the region. Faculty and students have recently arranged trips to visit museums, galleries, schools, and design firms in cities that include: Chicago, IL; Cincinnati and

Columbus, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Lexington and Louisville, KY; and Washington, DC. These informal short-duration excursions are valuable because they reveal rich examples of top-rate art and design work produced throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions. This exposure helps our students appreciate where their work fits within the broader arts and academic communities and does not require large financial or time commitments. Of equal, if not greater importance, is the shared sense of purpose formed between classmates and faculty that strengthens interpersonal bonds and validates faculty claims that active ongoing professional involvement is a requirement for all successful art and design professionals and educators.

MUSIC

Jeff Pappas, Chair

I wrote this department update, while on a bus travelling with our Chamber Choir to board a flight to Paris. Over the next 11 days, the choir performed throughout France, with time to enjoy all the nuances of the country from Paris, through the Dordogne region and ending up on the French Riviera.

This spring, we have had over 400 high school students on campus for our high school band festival. Our New Music Festival featured the Ankara (Turkey) University String Quartet world premiering a string quartet by our resident composer, **Dr. Mark Zanter**. World-renowned English hornist, Tom Stacy, recently retired from the New York Philharmonic, presented a master class and recital as a Joan C. Edwards Distinguished Professor of the Arts.

In recent events, **Dr. Michael Stroehler**, trombone, performed at the Eastern Trombone Workshop, accompanied by **Dr. Henning Vauth**, piano. **Drs. Ed and Ann Bingham**, saxophone and clarinet

respectively; and **Steve Hall**, percussion, performed at the North American Saxophone Alliance in Tempe, Arizona.

We had a record number of students on campus for our Chamber Choir Festival, where regional choirs perform and receive comments from Dr. Pam Elrod, Director of Choral Activities at Southern Methodist University.

The common theme? Each of these has the potential to be life changing experiences for those involved and for the audiences that hear them. Unique? I would argue, no. Every day, talented and dedicated faculty meet for classes, conduct rehearsals, research various topics and perform in many venues with the same intent: to change someone's life through music.

Paris, Tempe, Ankara, Huntington – all with a common bond!

THEATRE

Julie Jackson, Chair

In March, nine students and four faculty members attended the annual Southeastern Theatre Conference in Chattanooga, TN. Four went to interview and audition for professional jobs and graduate school, with lots of call backs (interest) and two confirmed offers so far. Junior **Chris Crawford** got his dream offer – an internship with ZFX – a provider of all types of theatre flying effects.

27 students attended the annual Humana Festival of New Plays College Days in Louisville, KY, for three days of new plays, workshops, theatre tours and mixers with theatre professionals and students from all over the country. This year the favorite show was by hip hop spoken word artist Idris Goodwin. Look for it to tour regional theatres and a possible NY run next fall.

(continued on page 7)

Theatre in the news (continued from page 6)

Also in March, we offered a two-night run of the musical *Urinetown*, directed and choreographed by Nicole Perrone. They had a full house each night. It was rehearsed in summer stock style, fast and furious, with only a few props and boxes for setting. Nicole was

also in Berlin, Germany, to perform *I Ca\$\$ie* at the English Language Theatre. Senior **Shelby Brewster** was able to participate as stage manager thanks to financial support from COFA and the Department of Theatre.

National Art Education Association Conference



NAEA - Art education students with Dr. Maribea Barnes at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Conference in NYC, March 2012.

L to R: Maribea Barnes and undergraduate art education students Hannah Kinker, Mary Arritt, Rachel Cochenour.

Art Education students promote quality instruction

Art education students participated in several activities that enhanced their professional knowledge and promoted quality art education instruction. In February, art education club members participated in Marshall University's 16th Annual Boy Scouts Merit Badge College. This year over 500 Boy Scouts participated. Our art education club members assisted art education faculty member, Maribea Barnes, with two class sessions centering on general art. Students ages 11-17 completed a series of specific requirements to obtain their art merit badge.

In March, three art education students, Mary Arritt, Hannah Kinker, and Rachel Cochenour, attended the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Convention in New York City. This year marked the 65th anniversary of NAEA and the 52nd NAEA National Convention with the theme Emerging Perspectives: Connecting Teaching, Learning and Research. The conference provided hundreds of sessions and registration numbers were record breaking with more than 6,500 art educators in attendance. One of the highlights of the conference was the Chuck Close and Irving Sandler presentation.

Art education club members also participated in Youth Art Month (YAM) activities. YAM is observed annually each March and promotes quality art programs. The West Virginia Art Education Association (WVAEA) organizes several YAM activities including a 2-D show and 3-D show. Marshall University hosted both the 2-D exhibit, which included over fifty works created by students in grades 1-12, and the awards ceremony. Students provided assistance with organizing the artwork, installing the show and giving tours of our art & design facilities to both student award winners and parents after the YAM ceremony.

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

Creation is published by
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
Cherie Davis and Danielle Goodman

Theatre student makes top 24 on American Idol



Marshall University's College of Fine Arts was represented by a theatre performance major, Chase Likens, on nationally known *American Idol*. Likens is from Point Pleasant,

WV, and began his music career at a talent show in kindergarten. He advanced to the top 24 performers on season 11 of *American Idol*.

Likens said, "My favorite thing about the process would have to be meeting those contestants. When they share the same dreams as you, it's an amazing feeling! I'm still very good friends with just about everyone I met. Colton and I have been best friends since last year, and Skylar and I are also very close."

Likens had previously auditioned for season 10 of *American Idol*, but was cut soon after "Hollywood Week."

Likens received the support of the community and Marshall. Jack Cirillo, associate professor of theatre, said, "Chase had been through much of this experience before and he's been involved in the music industry for a while now. I tried to be a sounding board for him and let him know that the MU Theatre was behind him and rooting him on."

The dream of becoming a well-known performer inspired Likens to audition for *American Idol*.

"The audition process, plain and simple, is long and grueling, but the people involved and

knowing how big of a deal it was through every step made it all worth it," said Likens.

Cirillo said "I have a sneaking suspicion that Chase is going places—big places. He has so many things going for him that will create opportunities for success: talent, charm, looks, desire, a thick skin and, most importantly, tenacity. You have to think big in order to get big. Chase wants the dream and is willing to work for it."

Likens will be moving to Nashville, TN, for the summer and working on writing music, seeing shows, and making contacts.

"My ultimate career goal is to become a successful chart-topping country artist who eventually goes on to win a CMA for Entertainer of the Year, and then Grammys. I have multiple inspirations, but who first influenced me was Elvis Presley."

Cirillo gave Likens tips and tricks on appearance, stage presence, and an overall outlook on what *American Idol* is about.

"Marshall University has taught me how to perceive my body's physical appearance in such a way that I am aware of the intricacies, in turn opening my mind to a more focused sense of how I will perform before it even takes place," Likens said. "But of course, there's always that element of spontaneity that comes with performance."

Cirillo credits the department with a strong desire to mentor students. "Talented students are attracted to COFA because of our outstanding faculty and the fact that students can receive careful mentorship here," he said. "Young artists need a balance of tutelage and room for personal growth and it is something that I think we do very well."

COFA Student Leadership Council created

This spring, COFA students created a new student organization – the COFA Student Leadership Council (SLC). Theatre production student Bradlee Jordan approached Dean Van Horn with hopes of starting a student organization that would encourage interdisciplinary support of the fine arts. In essence, he hopes for theatre students to attend art and music events, for music students to attend art and theatre events, and so on. The group was assembled in the spring and hosted an event coordinating with already-scheduled performances or exhibitions from art, music, theatre, and the Marshall Artists Series.

According to the group's constitution, "through peer support, encouragement for performances, exhibits, and other event attendance, and promotion of the many activities available, the COFA SLC organization supports the fine arts within and beyond the Marshall University community."

Next year the students will identify events in advance, and invite their college peers to participate as well. In addition, the group plans to host a service project in the fall.

Charter Members of COFA SLC:

Mallonee Basham (art ed. major)

Co-Director, Art and Design

Shelby Brewster

Clerk, Co-Director, Theatre

Nathan Bohach

Co-Director, Music

Shey Dillon

Co-Director, Music

Bradlee Jordan

Chairman, Theatre

Chelsey Moore

Co-Director, Theatre

Margaryta Seliverstova

Co-Director, Art and Design

Theatre grad Shelby Brewster receives A. Mervin Tyson Award

The A. Mervin Tyson Award is given annually to the Outstanding Student in the Honors College. Shelby Brewster, a theatre graduate, has been named the 2012 recipient of the award. Faculty members who have taught honors in an academic year are invited to nominate students they've had in honors seminars. The criteria are described as: *A graduating senior who has demonstrated consistent academic excellence in addition to leadership and service, whether to the University or community.*

For Brewster, the award was a surprise – and an honor.

"I am very honored to accept this award from the Honors College," she said. "I'm so grateful for the generosity of the college and those who make this award possible."

According to Dr. Mary Todd, Dean of the Honors College, Brewster is a deserving recipient.

"Shelby has served this year as the Yeager student representative on the Honors College Curriculum and Policies Committee (HCCAP), she's demonstrated leadership in the theatre program, she has achieved a 4.0 GPA at Marshall, is a member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, and, as a double major in theatre and history, is one of two Yeagers graduating with degrees from two colleges — the College of Fine Arts and the College of Liberal Arts," Todd said. "In addition, she was co-chair of the Yeager Symposium last fall."

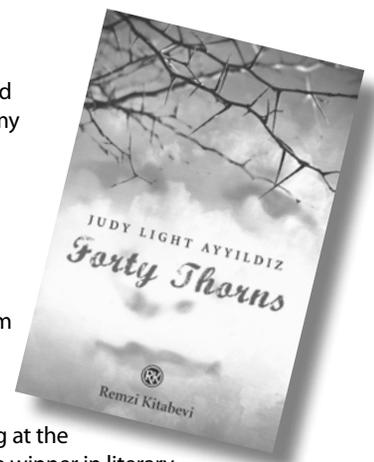
Todd added that Brewster is a model student. "Shelby is an exceptional student whose enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity serve both as a model for other students and an inspiration for faculty," Todd said. "She's made a real mark on Marshall, and we wish her much success as she graduates."

Shelby Brewster performs in the *Last Night Ballyhoo*, during the 2011-2012 MU Theatre season.



Alumni Update: Judy Light Ayyildiz

"With this global enterprise of publishing in another country and marketing on two sides of the ocean, from Istanbul, I continue my spring book tour of *Forty Thorns* and its translation, *Kirk Diken*. There's a new website, a distributor to make the book available in the U.S. and Canada, several good reviews and more on the way. Events are lined up back in the States, while here, I have lectured and conducted writing workshops at two universities and promised another, spoken to university women and done signings and will sign more and attend a book festival in Bodrum and talk at a restaurant bar on the Mediterranean beach in touristic Kalkan and attend two events in Izmir on the Aegean. It has been astounding and well-received. Yesterday, at my flat, I was having a brunch for an American contratenor who will sing at the American Consulate when I got the news that *Forty Thorns* is the winner in literary fiction and a finalist in historical fiction in the International Book Awards 2012. This little girl from West Virginia is very grateful!" – Judy Light Ayyildiz



Chamber Choir performs in France



The Chamber Choir just before its concert in Sarlat, France.

The forty-voice choir, known for outstanding performances of music from the past five centuries, began the trip in Paris, where they sang mass at the famed Notre Dame Cathedral. "This was an extraordinary experience for our students, singing in one of the world's most important and historic churches," Castleberry said. "To think of over seven hundred years of history that rest in this building, the millions of visitors each year from all over the world, and to know that our students from Marshall University were featured throughout a Sunday-morning service is an honor and a privilege."

While in Paris, the choir visited areas such as Montmartre, where artists like Van Gogh and Toulouse Lautrec painted, the Latin Quarter, where legendary poets, philosophers, and musicians have made their homes, and the Marais, an area that preserves much of the feeling of a Paris from centuries gone by. From Paris, the choir continued to the Perigord region of France in the south, home to Roman ruins, ancient cave drawings, and towns and fortresses carved into the sides of mountains. Destinations included La Roque-

Gageac, literally built into the side of a cliff overlooking the Dordogne River; Sarlat-la-Caneda, a perfectly preserved medieval town, Rocamadour, a center for pilgrimages in the Middle Ages, Arles, with its Roman amphitheatre and beautiful St. Trophime Church; and Nice, where the choir concluded its trip with a stop on the French Riviera. During the tour, the students presented six concerts, including two performances hosted by local French choirs.

"For our students to sing and interact with French choirs will be a memorable part of our travels and really represents the best kind of cultural exchange I can imagine," Castleberry said.

The Chamber Choir performed a good deal of American music during the tour, along with a sampling of sacred music from the renaissance. "When our choirs perform in Europe, audiences want to hear some American music," Castleberry said. "So, we took a large sampling of folk songs, spirituals, and some newly composed works by American composers."

In addition, the choir prepared six pieces by Paul Hindemith to be sung in French. "Hindemith was not born in America, but he did spend an important part of his career here, teaching and composing at Yale University," Castleberry said. "We felt it would tie together the experiences of America and France to perform music in French by an American composer. We worked exceptionally hard to be sure that our French pronunciations would be accurate and easily understood.

Castleberry said that the students were very excited for the trip – and for some, it was the first time they've left the country.

"For many of our singers, this was a first trip outside the United States," he said. "For some, it was their first time on an airplane. We were indescribably excited about all that this trip represented and offered. The opportunity owes so much to the Department of Music, the College of Fine Arts, and members of our community, who have shown such generous support to help make this trip possible.

The recognition reflects the high artistic standards this choir has maintained over the years. These experiences have opened eyes and changed lives, as the world is about to get much bigger for this wonderful group of students. I am so grateful to them and to all those who have helped make this happen." For Laura Campbell, choir student from Logan, singing in Notre Dame may have been the best part.

"I was actually dying from excitement for this trip," she said. "I couldn't wait to see the people, experience the culture, and sing in Notre Dame! As a singer, I couldn't wait to travel to France and perform with this amazing group of musicians. I feel so lucky!"



Hawkins grateful for financial support

Being a member of the Marshall University Chamber Choir has completely changed who I am. It has given me many opportunities including this year's chance to travel to France. This experience was the chance of a lifetime.

This experience was especially important to me because I almost did not get to go and then some donations and financial assistance came through and allowed me to have my dream come true. I was humbled by the fact that people cared enough to help me to go on this trip that they would give their own money to help me make this happen.

Every day there was something new that happened to me that became even more important because I was so grateful that I

was experiencing it. I never fully realized how much people really cared about the fine arts and the Chamber Choir until my trip was made possible by others.

I am truly blessed and humbled to have been awarded this opportunity and I sincerely hope that kids in the future get a chance to have an experience such as mine. None of this would have been possible if it were not for the donors and the financial assistance I received and for that I am forever grateful.

Thank you to everyone who made this trip possible!

Corynn Hawkins is a music education major from Morgantown, WV.

More study abroad planned for COFA students

This summer, two more groups of students will study abroad in Europe.

"Exposing students to other cultures is important as we work to prepare them for world citizenship", Don 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."

FLORENCE, ITALY

For the past two years, and again this May, a group of students are studying in Florence, Italy. This year the group is traveling with painting professor Ian Hagarty, and Dr. Kateryna Schray, English professor.

Byron Clercx, chairman of the Department of Art and Design, said the students will be learning about thousands of years of art and culture first-hand. Studying art, music and theatre in the birthplace of the Renaissance represents a unique opportunity for a truly immersive, interdisciplinary, international experience," he said.

"Florence is an incredible city and the opportunities for exposure to and study of historical as well as contemporary examples of the arts are endless," Van Horn said.

The art students, along with the faculty advisors of this trip, hosted an art auction in April at Black Sheep Burrito and Brews, in Huntington. The group raised more than \$3,000 to help fund travels while they are in Florence.

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

In early August, 13 theatre students will travel with theatre professor Jack Cirillo to Edinburgh, Scotland, to participate in the Fringe Festival. They will perform *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*.

According to the International Collegiate Theatre Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival is a uniquely exciting event that's held every year for three weeks in August. During the festival, Scotland's capital city is transformed into a magical, unpredictable, thrilling world. The city bursts at the seams, as Edinburgh becomes the largest stage in the world and every theatre, church hall, and sports center plays host to an array of international performers. With over a thousand performing companies from all over the world, the Fringe

is the largest arts festival in the world. Hand-in-hand with the International Festival, the Book Festival, the Film Festival and the Jazz Festival, Edinburgh attracts an audience of over a half million with its unrivaled range of music, theatre, comedy and visual art.

The Iliad, *The Odyssey*, and *All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*, by Jay Hopkins and John Hunter, is set on a simple stage. Cirillo explains the piece, saying, "With the clock ticking, a cast of 10 bring to life a zany and hilarious world of gods, goddesses, man, myths and monsters. In this telling of the ancient classic stories, the Gods walk the red carpet, tales of love get the *Dating Game* treatment, and the Trojan War is reduced to a slap fight! A madcap, lightning-fast retelling where everything is covered and nothing is sacred!"





Music professors perform with Landau Murphy

"I have learned so much from doing shows with these guys. We have incredible musicians who have played with everybody from Frank Sinatra to Tom Jones to Wilson Pickett to Buddy Rich and more in this group. Grammy and Emmy winners, Broadway show veterans, man it's just unbelievable how talented they are! Most of them are music educators, and they teach me something every time we perform together. Plus, they're just great fun to work with... very professional, with terrific attitudes. It just goes to show how much incredible talent we have right here at home."

—Landau Murphy

Over the past semester a few of Marshall University's very own music professors have had the opportunity of a lifetime to tour and perform with *America's Got Talent* winner, Landau Murphy. The professors touring in Murphy's band are Dr. Ed Bingham, Dr. Martin Saunders, and Dr. Michael Stroeher. They have performed over twenty-five shows in four states so far and are booked through November. All three professors are excited to perform with Landau and continue touring on the road with him through November.

Bingham, Saunders, and Stroeher all said that Murphy is a warm, down-to-earth human being, unlike a lot of celebrity performers. Saunders says, "He's very down to earth, and what you see on stage is what you get all the time." According to the professors, Murphy thinks highly of his band and audience at shows. "He sometimes rides the bus and eats dinner with us and is very considerate of the members of the band, again, unlike a lot of stars. He is usually the last one out of the theatre because he is meeting the audience and signing autographs," Stroeher said.

Murphy's band consists of musicians from this area. Musicians in the band are faculty from Marshall University, West Virginia University, Ohio University, and Morehead University.

For Murphy, this has been a learning opportunity.

"I have learned so much from doing shows with these guys," he said. "We have incredible musicians who have played with everybody from Frank Sinatra to Tom Jones to Wilson Pickett to Buddy Rich and more in this group. Grammy and Emmy winners, Broadway show veterans, man it's just unbelievable how talented they are! Most of them are music educators, and they teach me something every time we perform together. Plus, they're just great fun to work with...very professional, with terrific attitudes. It just goes to show how much incredible talent we have right here at home."

It is not only performing with a celebrity that is exciting and rewarding for the music professors, but the music as well. "Most importantly, the music is gratifying," Bingham said. "We're given the opportunity to contribute to the creative product. The players in the band are top rate."

According to the faculty involved, performances like these help Marshall University students aspire to be like their professors and performing with Landau Murphy gives these musicians more credibility. The Marshall faculty hope this provides students with the goal to have careers as performing musicians because it is still possible to be a performer. Dr. Saunders could not have said it any better, "Seeing we faculty-types perform also allows students to see that the music business is still very much alive! The human element is what makes music special, and that shouldn't be replaced by canned (pre-recorded) music!" This is what Landau Murphy has provided for individuals in this area and America."

graduate

Q&A with Ashley Baylor, art ed. graduate who will teach in Uganda this summer



Member of Marshall University's Invisible Children chapter and 2010 art education graduate Ashley Baylor, will apply her unique talents to help make children of war visible to a larger world and change their lives when she takes off this summer for a humanitarian mission in Africa. Baylor, a teacher at Barboursville Middle School, will spend her summer teaching in Uganda.

Q: Why Uganda? What drew you to this organization and program specifically?

A: During college, I was a part of the Invisible Children group on campus. Every Fundraiser and event we held supported IC's "Schools 4 Schools" program, which funded 11 different schools in Gulu (teacher training, textbooks, renovation, etc.). Now, with this teacher exchange program, it's sort of coming full-circle, I will be teaching at one of these schools that we helped support! And during college, I felt as though I was a small part of the movement by being involved on campus.

Also, I've been a Tri member for a few years now (a monthly donor), but, as a first year teacher, fresh out of college, I really don't have that much to give. I've always wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself, and have dreamed of being directly involved with IC since 2005, so with this teaching exchange opportunity, I feel this is finally my way of supporting. If I can't give my money, I might as well donate my time and skills and talents, and I am so thrilled to have this opportunity.

The reason I am so supportive of and drawn to IC specifically is because they don't just hand out money; they create jobs, educate, train, and much more. Like I mentioned before, they not only helped remodel the school structure of 11 different schools, they gave the teachers opportunities and materials to further their education and teaching skills. Right now, some of the Ugandan teachers are team teaching in NYC, same as I will be doing in Uganda. Also, they helped create jobs. They noticed the skills and talents that people already had (making jewelry, clothes, etc.) and taught them how to basically create their own business via the web and in their community. Another huge thing IC did for the community and neighboring communities was install a radio tower/radio system. This way, they could send out radio signals whenever there was a Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) issue. Perhaps because of this radio tower and the involvement of IC working with the Ugandan community, the LRA has moved on to other regions.

Also, while we are over there, we will hire people to help us, for example, with transportation, laundry, and various day-to-day needs.

Q: Who will you be teaching? Which subject?

A: My classroom will most likely be S1, which here translates to 7th Grade. In Africa, the school system is different, so the age range of my students will be between 13-19 years old. My experience while I'm there will be one that is similar to my experience as a student teacher here. I may have as much responsibility in the classroom as I like, with an end goal of a portfolio documenting my time and work, but at the same time, I will be team teaching alongside a teacher who is already currently teaching in a classroom. And I am allowed to teach whatever subject I prefer/am most educated in/most comfortable with, so I will be teaching art! This will be the first time since graduating college that I will be in an art classroom and I cannot tell you how thrilled and thankful I am not only for that opportunity but also for the amazing unique opportunity of this first time being abroad!

Q: What does it take to teach with Invisible Children? You're raising money to be able to go, right?

A: I have to raise \$6,000 to cover the costs associated with the trip, which includes travel, meals, lodging and the conference. Invisible Children covers the cost of the supplies for the classrooms. I've raised more than \$3,500 so far. I have a website, www.abaylor.stayclassy.org, where I'm able to collect funds, and people have been so generous. I'm so grateful for all of the support I've received.



Peggy Egnatoff retires after 29 years with COFA



After a tenure of nearly 30 years as the administrative assistant in the College of Fine Arts, Peggy Egnatoff is retiring June 30.

The Florida native was living in Pittsburgh when she met and married her husband Karl. His transfer to New York resulted in their moving to a New Jersey bedroom community.

She and Karl came to Huntington from New Jersey, when he became Vice President for Administration

at MU. Later, in 1982, she applied for and got a job in the newly formed School of Fine Arts (then under the umbrella of the College of Liberal Arts), working for Dr. Paul A. Balshaw, its founding dean. Roberta Walters, Director of the Institute for the Arts, completed the staff and the college got off to a good start. In 1984, as planned, the School of Fine Arts left COLA and became the College of Fine Arts. Balshaw left the deanship in 1995 to become a Distinguished Professor, and was succeeded by Donald Van Horn.

"I've been lucky to work with the two best-ever deans at Marshall," Egnatoff said.

She had been a stay-at-home mom for a long time and enjoyed working full-time again. When her husband took early retirement, she stayed on at MU. "When you love your job, it's easy," she said. And before long, 29 years had passed.

Don Van Horn, dean of COFA, noted that having Egnatoff in the office for the entire life of the COFA office has been invaluable. "I think one of the things that people who don't work in the office may not truly understand is the continuity that Peggy Egnatoff has provided the College of Fine Arts," Van Horn said. "Her sense of history is remarkable and that has been a big help to me over the years. I recall when I first came to Marshall how helpful she was to me as I made the transition to a new institution. I have no doubt that transition was made much easier because I had Peggy to rely on. She could tell me which offices would be most helpful as we went about solving problems, meeting mandates, and providing resources for our faculty and students. We have continued to work together over the past 17 years to figure out how to best accomplish the many tasks and challenges we face, and replacing her won't be easy. Her association with the college goes back

nearly 30 years and to think that she is the only clerical person we've had is testimony to her love for the college and institution. It is also a testament to her fortitude! It hasn't always been easy but I know she has to be very proud of where the college is. She is certainly a big part of the success we've enjoyed over the years."

When Michael Cornfeld, former associate dean of COFA, reflects on Egnatoff as a colleague, the foundation she provided is one of the first things that come to mind. "Peggy has been the backbone for COFA for almost 30 years," he said. "Whenever I needed help in my position as chair of the art department or as associate dean of the college, I knew right where to go and I always got the best information and assistance and even proof-reading. I can't tell you how much it meant for me to work with her. It meant everything."

For many, it's Egnatoff's professionalism that resonates with them. Roberta Ferguson, MU's Registrar, was quick to express that sentiment. "Peggy Egnatoff is the consummate professional as is evident in her dress, demeanor, communication and work ethic," Ferguson said. "Her positive attitude and unflappable poise allow her to interact effectively with students, parents, faculty, staff and administrators. In addition to her pleasant disposition, Peggy's attention to detail makes her invaluable to the College of Fine Arts and its students. She will be sorely missed by all."

Kay Wildman, friend and former colleague of Egnatoff, has lunch with her weekly. "I didn't really get to know Peggy until we began lunching together once a week—oftentimes in a small conference room off of her office," Wildman said. "There were several of us Thursday lunchers – all of whom were on Weight Watchers. It was a central location for those involved, and we figured we couldn't be tempted by sinful foods there! We met our short-term goals, and gradually the group dwindled down to just three, but we three have continued our Thursday lunch schedule, by now venturing off campus for that hour."

"I knew Peggy to be very capable in her job," Wildman said, "and the first place many people—including me—went for COFA information. She is cheerful and has an optimistic outlook about life.

Wildman also recognizes something that many of us love about Peggy Egnatoff – the twinkle in her eye. "Peggy can be very mischievous, although she's often subtle about it," Wildman said. "If you notice that twinkle in her eye, you can guess something's up! But ultimately, she was always delightful to work with and has become a very good friend. Marshall has come to depend on her wealth of knowledge, her sense of service to the school, and her ability to get things done. That, along with her ready, quick smile will be greatly missed!"

(continued on page 7)



COFA Pledge/Giving Form

I want to help the College of Fine Arts with my gift. Please designate my gift for: COFA Priorities Marshall Artists Series Other
 \$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.

Egnatoff story (continued from page 14)

For Egnatoff, there are many highlights within her career. She noted several, including “the convocation for the new college—the new beginning. The new Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts opened, with a gala event, and later the Jomie Jazz Center, with Joan Edwards and Phil Washington singing a bit New Orleans jazz to the crowd. And now there are plans for a new art facility.”

When it comes to the part she will miss the most, it will be the people, saying, “Marshall people are like a family, and they’ve been wonderful to me.”

Egnatoff says she’s unsure of what the future holds. “For now, the future is wide open,” she said. “Spending more time with family will be important, of course. I plan to explore the possibilities.” She also said she hopes to attend more of the music, art and theatre events now.

Please join us for Peggy’s retirement reception, Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 3:00 pm in the atrium of Smith Hall and Birke Art Gallery.



Melanie Griffis, Director of Development for the College of Fine Arts, receives documents establishing the *Jane Hobson Shepherd/Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Award for Vocal Excellence*. Shirley Dudley, President of the Buford Chapter, DAR, and Sally Cyrus, chapter member make the presentation at the Chapter’s headquarters in Huntington.

The fund was established through a generous gift of the Chapter in recognition of Jane Hobson Shepherd’s service. The award recipient must be a voice major and exemplify vocal excellence as demonstrated in the life and career of Shepherd, a mezzo-soprano who joined the Department of Music faculty after retiring from the opera stage.





Marshall University
College of Fine Arts
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755-2200
www.marshall.edu/cofa

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 206
Huntington, WV

EMPTY BOWLS

The 9th Annual Empty Bowls was held on April 27, 2012. COFA and community partners raised more than \$18,000, which was donated to the Huntington Area Food Bank. Empty Bowls is a national initiative to raise money and awareness about hunger. Ceramic students, along with some area ceramicists, donated more than 1,200 bowls to the event – and in the end, there were only 6 bowls left. The event was a huge success and we're grateful to all of the people, organizations, restaurants, and businesses who made it possible.

