I have spent considerable time over the past several months, particularly since Churchill began his fight against the disease that took his life, thinking about what he means to me. As I’ve thought about Churchill and reflected on my own life and the relationships I have had, I realized that since my early adult years, living far away from my parents and my hometown, there have been a select few men of my father’s generation living in the same community I happened to be in, with whom I had become very close. The wisdom, insights, perspective, and guidance these men afforded me, while never taking the place of those of my father, have been and will always be instrumental in everything about my life.

Churchill Hodges was one of those men.

I respect and admire Churchill Hodges as a man of great courage, intellect, and curiosity. His advice, sometimes asked for and other times offered whether you wanted it or not, was always given with love and the genuine belief that he was being helpful. And he was. His vast life experiences, with all the ups and downs he weathered, informed his views and brought credibility to his insights. We didn’t agree about everything, but I always knew where Churchill stood. He was always interested in what I thought and had to say. And whether we agreed or not, he always respected my opinion. He always made it clear he valued my opinion.

As generous a man as I’ve ever known, Churchill, along with Mary, the love of his life, touched more lives than many of us can imagine. As the dean of fine arts at Marshall, I see the impact that Churchill and Mary have had on our university every day. The breadth of their generosity on our campus is rarely matched and their support extends across our community, from the Huntington Museum of Art to the YMCA, from Cabell Huntington Hospital to their church. For their love of and support for Marshall, the Hodges were awarded honorary doctorates at Winter Commencement 2009. It was my honor to serve as their escort on that glorious day.

To my heart, Churchill and Mary have always been as one and I suspect the same is true for many of you: inseparable, caring for each other, working together to make our world a better place. That will not stop. Mary will carry on their work, she will continue to bring joy to all of us, and Churchill will live on through their many good works, past, present and future.

Ever the teacher, Churchill Hodges, through the way he lived his life, instructed all of us to never let go of that magnificent gift of wonder with which we were all born. His curiosity for everything around him, for people and cultures, was part of what kept Churchill young at heart until his death.

Through his life, Churchill instructed us to have compassion for others. His generosity was boundless. He gave his time, he gave his spirit, and he gave his treasure. That compassion will live on forever through his many gifts, and generations to come will be touched by his vision for a better world.

Through his life, Churchill instructed us to ask the hard questions and to take nothing for granted. There was an admirable streak

(Continued on page 2)
I am privileged to serve as dean of the finest college at Marshall, and a day rarely goes by that I don’t spend some time thinking about all the reasons I have to be thankful for the position I hold. We are moving into the season of thanksgiving and so it seems appropriate to express my gratitude for some of the things that make my job so rewarding.

The College of Fine Arts is blessed with as fine a group of faculty and staff as you will find anywhere in higher education. With their focus on students and student success, these dedicated individuals come to campus every day with one primary purpose – to provide the best education possible for Marshall students who are pursuing their dreams. I am extraordinarily fortunate to be associated with these professionals in COFA and I am so proud of the work they do on behalf of our students. Our faculty and staff are truly difference makers and we see evidence of how they impact the lives of students each and every day.

The College of Fine Arts is blessed with students who genuinely wish to grow as individuals and as artists and performers. The appreciation our students have for the opportunities afforded them runs very deep, and I am often reminded of how challenging some of the obstacles are that they have to overcome to take advantage of those opportunities. Our students are not afraid to take on big tasks and success is usually hard won and, as a result, extremely rewarding. The work ethic is admirable and the commitment to excel is ever present. Attend a student exhibition, a concert, or a theatre production if you have any doubt about the dedication Marshall University College of Fine Arts students have to present exemplary work. You can’t help but be impressed.

The College of Fine Arts is blessed with friends and patrons who support our faculty and students. Our dear friend, Churchill Hodges, who passed away earlier this fall, is a wonderful example of someone deeply invested in the work of the college. Every encounter I had with Churchill included a heartfelt discussion about what fine arts students were involved in, how the faculty and staff were facilitating the work of the students, and what resources were needed to make dreams possible. COFA is fortunate to have many people who, like Churchill Hodges, hold the steadfast belief that arts education prepares students for life and does it well.

The College of Fine Arts is blessed to be part of a campus community that values the arts and appreciates what our students, faculty, and staff bring to the life of the academy. Our college offers nearly 200 live performances, exhibitions, theatre productions, and outreach activities annually. We are the centerpiece of creative life at Marshall, and the university acknowledges this with support and encouragement. The commitment Marshall University has made to the Stone & Thomas project – converting an abandoned department store in downtown Huntington to the home of the Department of Art and Design – stands as a resounding affirmation of the arts at Marshall. The Stone & Thomas building, when completely renovated, will be an instructional showcase and this is largely because of the vision of President Stephen Kopp and a number of like-minded members of our community. I am so thankful for their vision and support.

The College of Fine Arts is blessed to be a part of Huntington and the surrounding region. The support our students, faculty, and staff enjoy from those who live and work here is a source of strength and inspiration for all of us associated with the college. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of people serve on the COFA Dean’s Council, led by Don and Sandy Hatfield, who know how important the arts are to civil society. This group is representative of the larger community and, as my life is continually enriched by my interactions with all of you, I am reminded of why I found the possibility of coming to Marshall University as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts so exciting so many years ago. What I sensed was possible is a reality. This is a place where the arts are integrated with the community; it is a place where the work of our students, staff, and faculty is valued daily across campus and throughout the region; and as a result it is a place where I get excited every day I arrive on campus.

\[Signature\]
Dean

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**Churchill Hodges (continued from page 1)**

of stubbornness in Churchill, and those of us who had any occasion to work with him knew that our decisions would be more insightful because of that unrelenting persistence of his to get things right and to do the right thing.

Through his life, Churchill instructed us to remain loyal to family, friends, and institutions. All of us gathered here today were, as his friends, touched by Churchill in ways we can cherish for the remainder of our days. His devotion to Ohio State University, Marshall University, the Huntington Museum of Art, his church – this church Trinity Episcopal – and numerous other institutions was unwavering. And he never stood by anyone or anything indifferently. He was a true champion of the people and institutions he believed in and loved.

Most important, through his life Churchill instructed us to hold very tightly those most dear to us. He loved and cherished Mary. She was the center of his universe and the light of his life. Their devotion to each other and the causes they so strongly support stand as an enduring tribute to two people who have showered each other with love and generosity and have in turn shared that love and generosity with countless others.

As I said earlier, I think of Churchill and Mary as one. I will miss Churchill, but I also take comfort in knowing that the other half of the one – Mary – is here with us today, tomorrow, and beyond.

Thank you.
Marshall Artists Series, a Huntington tradition for 75 Years

By Jim Casto

The audience that gathered at Huntington City Hall Auditorium on the evening of Oct. 15, 1936, came to see and hear one of the best-known Americans of the day – Admiral Richard E. Byrd, the famed polar explorer. As they listened to Byrd and watched his films recounting his adventures, few if any in the audience could have realized they were taking part in a historic event. Byrd’s appearance was the first presentation in what would become a Huntington tradition – the Marshall Artists Series.

This year the Marshall Artists Series is celebrating its 75th anniversary. That’s decade after decade of bringing the finest of world-class entertainment to the campus and community. During that time, literally hundreds of actors and actresses, singers, dancers, musicians and other talented individuals have performed in Huntington as part of the Artists Series.

Broadway musicals such as Cabaret and The Sound of Music, dramas such as Agnes of God and The Diary of Anne Frank, pop stars including Johnny Mathis and Liza Minnelli, folk singers such as Harry Belafonte and Odetta, jazz greats such as Dave Brubeck and Stan Kenton, dancers such as Agnes de Mille and Dame Margot Fonteyn, symphony orchestras from across the nation and around the world – all these and many, many more have appeared on the Artists Series.

As Marshall College president James E. Allen explained in introducing Byrd that memorable night in 1936, his appearance was the first in a series of programs that had been planned as part of the college’s 100th anniversary. The school traces its origin to 1837.

The yearlong series was the brainchild of Curtis Baxter, then a young English professor at Marshall. The series was conceived to last for just the anniversary year but proved so popular that Allen asked Baxter to continue it. Baxter did so in spectacular fashion for year after year, serving at the program’s helm until 1972.

A year after he organized the Artists Series, Baxter asked Mrs. Will Mount to direct ticket sales for it, an important task she undertook with an almost missionary zeal. She would be secretary/treasurer of the Artists Series for nearly 30 years. Today, the Artists Series honors those two pioneers by offering events in two categories each season, the Baxter Series and the Mount Series.

Although the Artists Series was born at Huntington City Hall Auditorium, its success quickly created a demand for more seats and a bigger stage; soon, the Keith-Albee Theatre (now the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center) became its home. Over the years, some events have been staged elsewhere, but the grand old theater and the Artists Series just naturally seem to go together.

Founder Curtis Baxter saw the Artists Series as a way of bringing Marshall and the community closer together. Penny Watkins, a Marshall graduate who’s been executive director of the Artists Series since 1997, notes that many other schools have similar “town-and-gown” arts programs but only one – at the University of Michigan – can claim a longer history than the Marshall program. Watkins has warm praise for the MAS Advisory Board and the 30 or so volunteers who usher at each program, helping patrons find their seats. “We can’t begin to thank our volunteer ushers enough for what they do,” Watkins said.

James E. Casto is the retired associate editor of The Herald-Dispatch and the author of a number of books on local and regional history. This is an excerpt from an article in Marshall Magazine, summer 2011.
in the news

Catching up with students, alumni, and faculty.

ART & DESIGN
Byron Clercx, Chair

At the risk of being accused of using a cliché, there is truly so much to be thankful for in the Department of Art and Design I am not sure where to begin!

We are grateful for each of the scholarship opportunities that art and design students receive each year from the many donors who fund endowments and one-time or term scholarships. This year, it is especially important to recognize Dr. Leslie Petteys, professor emerita (COFA/Music), and her husband, Skip Campbell, who funded an endowment in honor of her parents. The Bob and Chris Petteys Awards in Art and Music are indicative of Leslie’s and Skip’s dedication to the students and fine arts and is one of the many things that make COFA and Marshall so special.

As we prepare for the 26th Annual Juried Student Exhibition, I am reminded by the donations, small and large, that we receive each year and which make this milestone event a huge success. In addition to furnishing meaningful cash awards for deserving art and design students, the event, in many cases, is the first juried art contest our students enter. This opportunity is essential because it impels them to strive for excellence in their craft and fosters a level of competitiveness essential to any successful career path in the visual arts.

Numerous donors responded to Dean Van Horn’s appeal for funding to assist COFA students seeking international study opportunities. This summer I had the great pleasure of leading 12 students on a three-week study abroad trip to Florence, Italy (five were from art and design and the others from theatre and music). It yielded remarkable interdisciplinary and cultural experiences and outcomes and we are eagerly planning next summer’s trip.

Thanks to the continued generous donations from Liza Caldwell and Dingess Rum Properties Inc., with administrative support from Melanie Griffis and the MU Foundation, we proudly celebrate the third year of Gallery 842 in downtown Huntington. Set in a highly visible downtown location, the gallery is a familiar fixture on 4th Avenue. Known for delivering high quality arts programming, G842 opening receptions are quickly becoming a downtown community cult destination that add a creative spark to our program and the downtown because they bring COFA, campus and the local arts community together to experience and celebrate the visual arts downtown.

The downtown visual arts center planned for the Stone & Thomas Building marks a truly unique point in the history of the department, college, university and city. In his book titled, The Tipping Point, author Malcolm Gladwell notes it is “the point in a community when it becomes apparent to many that all things that seemed impossible before seem possible now.” Positioning the unit and its students at the forefront of the cultural and economic development vital to the shared goals of the city and university, where our creativity and impact can reach new heights and audiences, is an exciting and enviable position; but it will take an unwavering collective commitment to make that happen. As COFA and the university embark on the Campaign for Distinction in the Arts, remember, no gift is too small...and no goal too high, if we all join together.

MUSIC
Jeff Pappas, Chair

I recently had the opportunity to tell three of our sophomore Bachelor of Fine Arts music majors that they had been awarded the Donald Harper Scholarship by the College of Fine Arts. In order to receive the award, each student was nominated by a Department of Music faculty member, based on the student’s outstanding work and leadership in our department. Each must have also met Harper guidelines regarding their grade point average and the number of hours completed toward their degree.

What transpired once each was notified was a pattern similar to past notifications. The students asked: “Who can I thank for this award?” and “I hope they know how much this means to me (both financially and personally).” It also struck me that the generosity shared between donor and recipient goes beyond this moment. Students will put these honors on their resumes for potential employers to see. Employers will take note that the student graduated with a degree from a program where people, who really didn’t have to, showed value in that program by financially supporting it. Students will take the news back to their high schools and communities – the circle goes on and on.

It is safe to say no gift is too small to make an impact on a student. But, when one thinks how that giving creates such a positive spiral in so many other ways, the gift becomes an on-going process that positively affects a student and influences a program more than any of us might ever know.

THEATRE
Julie Jackson, Chair

Theatre artists know the importance of giving and receiving at every level. This year, over thirty-five theatre majors received financial support from COFA and the Department of Theatre. Those who received have been generous in giving back. 2006 graduate Steven Horton, now a stage manager at Louisville’s Actor’s Theatre, received department support as an undergraduate and in his honor, his parents, Rick and Jean Horton, have funded an award for a theatre

(continued on page 5)
BFA in vocal performance

Aurelia Ward is earning a recent alumni, including Sean Watkins, Brandon McCoy, and Christian Whitt among others, regularly open their doors to MU undergrads who could not otherwise afford to attend in NYC, Washington, DC and LA. The Huntington Musical Theatre Guild made a generous award to theatre major Chase Likens and, in return, he performed with the Guild at the opening of the Huntington Museum of Art’s Steamboat exhibition. Busy theatre and dance students find the time to volunteer regularly for the animal rescue group Little Victories, the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Alliance, Toys for Hope, the United Methodist Student tutoring service and the Autism Service Center among many other organizations. Once again, the

Scholarships help Ward pursue her dream

When it comes to furthering one’s education, there is no greater contribution than the charitable donations to the Marshall University College of Fine Arts. These contributions, which are then awarded to the students as scholarships, are priceless when it comes to their future. As a recipient of a scholarship, the generosity of those that donate to the college is a way to further my education, realize a long-standing dream, and pay it forward as I am honing my skills. My personal gratitude is something that I’m reminded of every day as I get closer to my goals.

In 1998 I graduated from high school and immediately embarked on my journey to college and into the world of a voice performance major. However, due to the folly of youth and the unfortunate illness of my father, my college career ended after only one year. Then life just seemed to take over and my education was put on the back burner. I married and had a beautiful baby boy. Ten years rushed by in the blink of an eye. In the fall of 2007, after a long battle with cancer, my father passed away. He always pushed me to be the best I could be and his one wish was for me to go back to school and finish the dream of musical training. So the following August I re-enrolled.

Upon returning to school, I received a tuition waiver from the music department and the Stewart Smith Scholarship. These awards have not only helped with the financial aspect of my education, but have also enabled me to juggle the sometimes harrowing portions of my college career. Although I still have a part-time job, the awards have facilitated my ability to work less and spend more time with my family, music, and outside endeavors. I sing with a local church choir and have worked with private vocal students. I’m also in the Marshall University Chamber Choir and in the Marshall Opera workshop. It has also given me more time to spend working on my personal repertoire for my senior voice recital in the spring and prepare myself for graduate school. Though I will have a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree when I graduate, I will also have

(continued on page 10)
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Two art and design professors and a Marshall art and design MA graduate won awards in the 17th annual West Virginia Juried Exhibition 2011, hosted by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

West Virginia artists were presented with 18 awards totaling $33,000 in a ceremony this fall at Oglebay Institute’s Stifel Fine Arts Center in Wheeling. The exhibit features 72 works in the areas of painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, photography, mixed media and crafts by 60 artists from 23 West Virginia counties.

Daniel Kaufmann, photography professor in the College of Fine Arts, received a Governor’s Award for Rooms 13.

“It is so rewarding to have work selected for the West Virginia Juried Exhibition,” Kaufmann said. “I am flattered my work was selected to receive the Governor’s Award. As a professor, it is meaningful that our students see that we are actively participating in the field.”

Graphic design professor Mary Grassell won Award of Excellence for The Lace Stretchers, wood block print, a piece of art that depicts the artist and her sister helping their mother stretch lace curtains.

“The award was a surprise because it seems that printmakers are sometimes overlooked in juried competitions. But I am happy to have this award. The print is meaningful to me, and I am glad it was meaningful to others. I am also proud that artists of Marshall University were well represented in the awards for the 2011 West Virginia Juried Exhibition. This exhibition is an important one in the state.”

Recent MA graduate Nik Botkin’s Filter Feeders received the Merit Award which had a $500 prize attached.

“It was an honor to be even invited to participate in the 2011 West Virginia Juried Exhibition,” Botkin said. “When I found out I had received an award for my art, I felt truly privileged to be recognized in such a prestigious event for doing something I love. More importantly, the more exposure my environmental work receives, the greater the chance I may have in opening people’s eyes to how important it is to take care of our planetary home.”

The exhibition will remain on display through Jan. 2.

Artists donate $300 to Cabell-Huntington Coalition for the Homeless

Artists John Farley and Lorin Michki donated $300 to the Cabell-Huntington Coalition for the Homeless. The donation came from sales from their recent exhibition at Gallery 842, (re)discovery. Corey Whisman, Development & Public Relations Manager, was presented with the check.

“We are so grateful these artists chose our organization to receive funding and awareness from their exhibit. We are always encouraged when folks take an interest in a devastating problem we all see, but don’t always know how to help,” Whisman said. “While no one person can solve the crisis of homelessness, everyone can find something they can do to affect change. John and Lorin have proven that helping in your own way and ability can cause a significant impact. We are blessed to have these talented artists and Marshall University assist us in ending homelessness in our community.”
Barnes, Patterson earn Pickens-Queen Award

Two Department of Art and Design professors were chosen for the Pickens-Queen Award, which honors outstanding junior faculty and comes with a $1,000 stipend. All faculty members teaching on a full-time, tenured or tenure track appointment who are at the instructor or assistant professor rank and who have completed one to five years of service at Marshall are eligible.

Maribea Barnes, who has been at Marshall since fall 2007, says teaching visual art is her true passion. She said she knows that her role as a teacher can have a tremendous impact on the direction of her students’ lives.

“We serve not only as a teacher, but as a mentor and advisor,” she said. “At Marshall, I have the opportunity to serve in each of these roles.”

Barnes is committed to advancing arts education not only in the classroom, but in the community as well. For the past two years, she has worked with the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Children’s Arts Festival Extravaganza (CAFÉ) event.

“In all honesty, this event would not be the educational, creative and fun project it has become without Maribea’s artistic input and genuine interest in making sure children are introduced to the visual arts,” said Leah Clark Payne, a communications specialist at Marshall, who worked alongside Barnes in helping organize the event.

Hannah Kinker has taken two classes taught by Barnes, and Barnes has been her advisor. Kinker said Barnes played the major role in helping her choose a career in Art Education.

“Dr. Barnes has taught and encouraged me to meet challenges that I had never before thought possible,” Kinker said, “and I will forever be grateful for my time as her student.”

Byron Clercx, chair of the Department of Art and Design, said he holds Barnes in high esteem.

“As a classroom teacher, field supervisor, student advisor/mentor, scholar, program advocate/recruiter and community volunteer (she) is the consummate colleague and team player,” Clercx said.

Brent Patterson, who has been at Marshall since fall 2006, has been teaching in the area of New Media at Marshall since fall of 2006. Jonathan Cox, a professor of art who has worked with Patterson, said Patterson is a truly gifted teacher and creative artist.

“I am pleased and proud to teach, work and serve with Brent Patterson,” Cox said.

In Patterson’s classes, students “read, watch, write, discuss and practice with practice being the principal activity,” Patterson said. He said he is constantly revising and experimenting with his pedagogical methodology with the goal of creating a better environment of respectful and mutually beneficial discourse supported by carefully planned and evaluated assignments, discussions and personal guidance.

Stephanie Lloyd has taken several courses from Patterson, who she says is “passionate about teaching.”

“Teachers like Professor Patterson, who inspire students to be passionate about a subject, are rare,” Lloyd said.

Van Horn said Patterson has distinguished himself through his efforts to develop exciting curriculum and opportunities for Marshall students in the area of electronic media while also invigorating the department with his “intellectual rigor.”

“He is an exemplary teacher who is in command of the ever-changing technology that defines his area of expertise,” Van Horn said.

Patterson received his BA in fine art/multimedia from Ohio State University in 2001 and his MFA in fine art/multimedia from Washington State University in 2004.

A New COFA Initiative: Global Horizons

Since 2009, the College of Fine Arts has offered students opportunities to enhance their education by participating in learning options away from the Marshall campus. Now called Global Horizons, these opportunities represent our commitment to present fine and performing arts students with travel and study abroad options. The program develops vital global awareness in our graduates. Our priority is to instill appreciation of global awareness in all our students.

Imagine having the opportunity to perform for an appreciative audience at the world’s largest jazz festival in Montreux, Switzerland; Marshall students have done just that. During the 2011-2012 academic year, fine arts students will have study and performance opportunities to sing a mass at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris; perform on a stage at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland; and to study art in the shadow of the Uffizi Museum in Florence, Italy. Graphic design students will intern in Australia and the Music Department will continue to participate in our exchange program in Brazil. These exciting international destinations are complemented by numerous regional and national venues to which our students travel annually for study, exhibition, and performance opportunities that are hallmarks of a quality fine arts education.

We are committed to assisting our students with the costs of these programs and invite you to participate. If you would like to support these unique and life-changing study opportunities with a contribution, please contact: Melanie Griffis, Director of Development. (304) 696-3686 or griffism@marshall.edu.
Baskets for Branches

Lindsay DiFatta (left) and Nikki Gilliam (right) stand with Amanda McComas, director of development for Branches, in the U-Haul truck before delivering the baskets.

On November 17, 2011, students from the College of Fine Arts hosted the third Baskets for Branches event, collecting items for individuals who are staying at Branches Domestic Violence Shelter. For the third time, collection required a U-Haul to deliver the items. We gathered more than 150 baskets full of essential items including pillows, hairbrushes, toothbrushes and more.

Baskets for Branches benefits the Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, which served more than 2,000 women, men and children in 2010 in Cabell, Putnam, Wayne, Mason and Lincoln counties. The facility serves clients as a safe haven against further abuse, whether physical or emotional, for them and their children. In addition to providing housing, Branches offers legal assistance, counseling and case management to ready its clients to become independent.

Marshall students Lindsay DiFatta (music education), Nikki Gilliam (art and design) and Nathan Mohebbi (theatre) will serve as student representatives on the Baskets for Branches committee. DiFatta and Gilliam are part of the original student committee that came up with the idea. Mohebbi represents the newly re-established Marshall chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the honorary service fraternity for theatre.

"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."

The shelter’s needs are great: personal items such as underwear, pajamas, toothbrushes and hairbrushes; pillows, books, toys and even paper goods such as toilet paper and paper plates and cups are often in short supply. Adults who are rebuilding their lives also need products that will boost their self-esteem and confidence as they search for jobs or confront their abusers in court. Thus, even make-up, hair care products and professional-looking clothes are important needs.

Byron Clercx, chair of the Department of Art and Design, noted the deep meaning behind the baskets.

“Students, staff, faculty and friends filled laundry baskets with basic necessities to help women escaping from domestic abuse environments care for themselves, and any children with them, during an unimaginably difficult transition often without money or other means of support,” Clercx said. “While seemingly composed of small things – toothpaste, shampoo, a hairbrush — this ‘survival kit’ is greater than the sum of its parts. These acts of human kindness demonstrate sound character and provide comfort, restore dignity and rebuild courage. These fundamentals are at the core of the COFA and Marshall experience.”

Jaye Ike, special projects coordinator for COFA, said she is always overwhelmed by the amount of support this project receives.

“Last year, we were fortunate to have the help of organizations getting involved. Local businesses, doctor’s offices, the residence halls and Greek organizations at Marshall – several groups worked together to collect items at their locations. This year we saw even more participation from community businesses and organizations. It was truly an amazing event.”

Jennifer Borda, executive director of Branches, said the staff looks forward to this event each year. “We are always so humbled by the success of this College of Fine Arts event,” Borda said. “We are very grateful that they hosted this event again this year.”

Scholarship (continued from page 5)

an English minor. My dreams of being an educator in either field have been furthered by these donations.

These generous contributions mean more than just financial stability. The contributions also mean that my commitment and fortitude towards my musical education have not gone unnoticed and that someone has enough faith in my capabilities to invest in them. This in turn motivates me to work harder and encourage others to do the same. Inspiration comes in many forms and sharing that inspiration with others makes the work worth the effort. These are qualities that I hope to instill in my son as I guide him through his endeavors in life. I hope to share the sentiment, with each life I touch, that it is never too late to follow your dreams if you are willing to work for them.

The gratitude I feel for those who have helped me further my scholastic endeavors is immeasurable. The kindness of the benefactors who help all students like me is an inimitable gift that provides incentive to keep moving forward and to share that gift of kindness with all that come in contact with our lives.

Aurelia Ward is a student in the Department of Music and the recipient of a tuition waiver and the Stewart Smith Scholarship. For more information on donating to a scholarship fund, contact Melanie Griffis, (304) 696-3686 or griffism@marshall.edu
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Q: What are your plans for your theatre degree?
A: I am a freshman theatre performance major and after I get my BFA I am going to get my teaching degree so I can teach theatre.

Q: What is the dulcimer?
A: The mountain dulcimer is a fretted string instrument of the zither family, typically with three or four strings. It is native to the Appalachian region of the United States. The body extends the length of the fingerboard, and its fretting is generally diatonic.

Q: How did you get started playing?
A: I have a friend that I heard playing one day and I loved the sound of the dulcimer. So I asked him for lessons and I have been playing ever since. That was about 3 years ago.

Q: How did you rise to WV state champion?
A: A lot of practice! Sometimes I didn't want to practice but I had to make myself, if I wanted to get any better. Then I started to love practicing and I wanted to learn many more things.

In 2010 I won 5th in the West Virginia State Dulcimer Contest and in May 2011 I won 1st. I was very proud of myself for going from 5th to 1st in one year. It feels great to have won 1st but the competitions aren't why I play the dulcimer. I love to play the dulcimer just because. I don't care if I win or lose. I love to play the dulcimer for the art – not for the glory.

Q: How does that title feel?
A: I am very proud of myself, but like I said, I love to perform and to play for people, not to win the competitions.

Q: How does your theatre background tie into this?
A: My first time getting on stage to play in front of people I was very, very scared. But, I noticed that as soon as I got up there I was fine. I have been acting since I was 8 years old, so I had a feeling that my acting experience did help me get up on stage and play the dulcimer.

Q: Is there anything you'd like readers to know about playing the dulcimer?
A: The mountain dulcimer is the only true American instrument. One of my dreams is to play the dulcimer in Ireland.

Recently, we caught up with Emily Pritchard, freshman theatre performance major from Beckley, WV, who recently won first place in the West Virginia State Dulcimer Competition. In addition to winning first place in the state competition, Pritchard won second in the region, which includes seven states, and third in the Virginia State Dulcimer Contest. In addition to playing the dulcimer, Pritchard is a professional spoons player and a drummer. She has also recently begun playing the hammer dulcimer.
CRAIG’S VISIT

Theatre students pose with alumnus Craig Johnson who visited campus to work with them this fall as a Joan C. Edwards Distinguished Professor of the Arts. Johnson (BFA 1983) is a New York Times bestselling author of seven books which have been adapted for television by the A&E network and slated to air this summer. Students performed staged readings of excerpts from his books on October 19 at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.