



# Creation

FALL 2012

## MU School of Art and Design to open Visual Arts Center downtown



Marshall University's School of Art and Design aspires to be the region's visual arts program of choice, recognized for state-of-the-art facilities, superb faculty, and adept graduates who are difference makers in their communities and chosen professions. The university recently purchased the Stone & Thomas building in downtown Huntington with the intent to convert that historic structure to an instructional space for the visual arts and create the state-of-the-art facilities that are central to the school's efforts to distinguish its programs. Edward Tucker Architects, Inc., a local firm, was hired by the Marshall University Board of Governors to lead the renovation project.

The downtown location will raise the college's presence and give the visual art program more space to expand, College of Fine Arts dean Don Van Horn said. "Increasing student enrollment by 20-25 percent over time is an attainable goal. The new Visual Arts Center will afford our students more opportunities to

become engaged in community initiatives to improve the quality of life for everybody. We consider this engagement to be an incentive as we go out and recruit students. Maintaining an edge in student recruitment is important, and we have to look for ways to distinguish our programs from those at other schools. Clearly this facility and the opportunities it affords us to create new programs and embed unique experiences in the curriculum position us to attract more of the best students to Marshall."

Byron Clercx, director of the School of Art and Design, believes moving the program downtown will be extremely beneficial. "Akin to the paradigm changing events Malcolm Gladwell cites in his book, *The Tipping Point*, converting the Stone & Thomas

building, a prominent downtown property, into a pulsing academic visual arts center will showcase and strengthen the School of Art and Design. These instructional facilities will benefit the students, college, university, city, state, and region by leveraging tremendous creative, cultural, social, and economic opportunities that strengthen and bring together each of these interdependent constituencies," Clercx said.

*"The benefits to Huntington's downtown and the College of Fine Arts will have ripple effects on both communities for years to come..."*

*- Ed Tucker*

Project goals include:

- Offering an accessible and welcoming facility that invites enlightened arts dialogue between campus and community populations

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The start of 2013 will bring sawdust swirling in the air and hammers driving nails as transformation of the Anderson Newcomb building (more recently known as Stone & Thomas) to the Marshall University visual arts center commences. To say this is an exciting time for that program, the college, and the university is something of an understatement. The art faculty, under the leadership of Byron Clercx, has done a masterful job of defining the space. Working with architects Phoebe Randolph and Ed Tucker of Edward Tucker Architects, Inc., they have collectively developed a vision for an instructional facility that I believe will exceed all expectations.

The new Visual Arts Center will be a model for state-of-the-art teaching spaces, and I believe our ability to recruit students will be enhanced significantly. The Marshall University visual art department was established in 1901, and this highly anticipated facility will afford the program its first-ever opportunity to truly showcase comprehensive instructional spaces to potential students. Combined with the extraordinary studios we have in the Art Warehouse that serve sculpture and ceramics students, the visual arts center offers a real chance for the program to move front and center as a destination for students seeking education and training in graphic design, photography, printmaking, fibers, painting, art history, and art education. The visual arts center downtown will be a game changer in so many ways for all the arts at Marshall, not to mention what it means to downtown Huntington and our community.

The College of Fine Arts restructured recently. Effective July 1, 2012, our three academic departments – art and design, music, and theatre – became two schools. We are now home to the School of Art and Design and the School of Music and Theatre.

Restructuring was the result of many months spent examining college leadership and contemplating how to maximize opportunities for our students. Following extensive discussions last spring with the faculty, department chairs, and the associate dean, I concluded that we needed to adopt a new structural model to best foster multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary experiences for our students. Twenty-first century citizenship requires, among other things, the capacity to see the world from multiple perspectives and the ability to work with diverse people. I believe that bringing the performing arts programs together as the School of Music and Theatre lays a foundation for the right kind of environment to build more collaborative experiences for students and faculty while also acknowledging the long-standing excellence the performing arts are known for at Marshall University.



## A Message from the Dean

With the potential for curriculum growth that moving into a new facility affords the visual arts, elevating that program to the status of the School of Art and Design more accurately reflects its stature as a leading force in visual arts education. The opportunities that lie ahead for the disciplines in the visual arts are boundless, and you can expect to see already vibrant programs flourish and new programs emerge as our students, staff and faculty occupy new space created specifically for the study of art and design.

The College of Fine Arts assisted over 70 students who were fortunate to travel abroad during the 2011-2012 year as part of the college's *Global Horizons* initiative. Brazil, Germany, France, Italy, and Scotland were destination countries for our students, and the opportunities ranged from performance tours to extended study. Providing our students with experiences that expose them to different cultures and people is, as I mention above, an essential element of our charge to prepare them for twenty-first century citizenship. What better way to do that than to get them out of the comfort zone of home and into places where they will find people who live very different lives in very different places? Our commitment is to continue to seek out similar opportunities for our students and, at the same time, to support them as they seek to broaden their horizons.

The development of the Visual Arts Center, the college restructuring, and the emphasis the faculty places on preparing students for their future through many initiatives including *Global Horizons* are indicative of the College of Fine Arts' commitment to excellence. Everyone who reads *Creation* is an important partner in our journey, and we appreciate all you do to further the effort to offer truly distinguished arts programs at Marshall University.

## The Marshall Artists Series brings Motown legend Smokey Robinson to the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center, Saturday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Smokey Robinson founded The Miracles while still in high school. The group was Berry Gordy's first vocal group, and "Shop Around" became Motown's first No.1 hit. Robinson continued to pen hits for the Miracles including "You've Really Got a Hold on Me," "Ooo Baby Baby," "The Tracks of My Tears," "Tears of a Clown", and "I Second That Emotion." Robinson became vice president of Motown Records, also serving as in-house producer, talent scout, and songwriter. He wrote and produced hits for other Motown greats including: "The Way You Do the Things You Do," "My Girl," and "My Guy". He has received the

Grammy Living Legend Award, the NARAS Lifetime Achievement Award, an Honorary Doctorate from Howard University, the National Medal of Arts Award, and the Kennedy Center Honors. He has also been inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame. For tickets call 304-696-6656 or online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)



## Art and Design

Byron Clercx, Director



I am truly overjoyed by the number of wonderful things happening in the College of Fine Arts and amazed at my good fortune to serve the School of Art and Design. It has made settling on a single theme of development for this issue of *Creation* very difficult.

Development, taken literally, as the act or process of developing (as evidence of growth or progress) or as an indicator of significant consequence or event, is quite

fitting. For example, one recent exciting development occurred this past summer when two of our talented undergraduates were awarded merit-based scholarships to nationally recognized summer residency programs. **Patrick Martin**, a senior visual arts major studying fibers, earned a partial scholarship to the esteemed Penland School of Crafts, in Penland, NC. During the 2012 summer program, Martin honed skills and ideas he plans to feature in his senior capstone project.

**Margaryta Seliverstova**, a senior visual arts major with emphases in painting and graphic design, also earned a competitive 2012 summer scholarship to attend the regionally acclaimed Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN. There she learned versatile Western method handmade paper techniques that both extended and evidenced her skills in illustration and painting. It is refreshing and rewarding to see Marshall students compete and succeed on the national stage.

There is also an unmistakable excitement that surrounds the college restructuring. Concurrent with the formation of the School of Music and Theater, the visual art department was elevated to the status of the School of Art & Design. Beginning January 2013, following a successful sabbatical, Professor Mary Grassell will debut as the school's new program director.

The design phase of the new downtown Visual Arts Center, set to open fall 2014, is complete. With expert guidance from the MU Facilities Planning and Management Office, School of Art & Design representatives—Danny Kaufmann, and Mary Grassell, and I, worked closely with Ed Tucker Architects, Inc. The results promise to be nothing short of spectacular. Consistent with the architects' sensitivity to the surrounding architecture, the exterior retains its Chicago style feel, while the interior has a contemporary flair, with high ceilings,

ample natural and interior lighting, and smartly conceived gathering and display areas that flank spacious classroom studios.

In the short term the Visual Arts Center provides much needed, properly outfitted spaces for our current students. This unique state-of-the-art downtown facility will also raise the program's visibility and viability by helping to grow enrollment. We anticipate it will be very attractive to talented prospective students throughout the region. In addition to these realistic qualitative and quantitative student recruitment possibilities, this building is also good news for local residents and businesses, visitors and cultural tourists, and prospective employers and their workforces. The increased pedestrian activity in the downtown core is conducive to sustainable, if not dynamic and recurring, cultural and economic development.

Lastly, to bring the theme of development full circle, our fall 2012 exhibition schedule fortuitously brought two accomplished visual art alumni back to Huntington, to showcase their current work, interact with our students, reflect on their respective careers, and pay tribute to the dedicated and talented faculty at Marshall that made it all possible. **Rebecca Gilbert**, exhibited with whimsical, well-crafted assemblages, drawings, and prints in the longstanding Birke Art Gallery on the main campus; and she visited with printmaking students and delivered a public presentation about her work. Gilbert earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts (2000) from Marshall University and a Master of Fine Arts (2006) from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. She is currently a fellow in the Career Development Program at The Center for Emerging Visual Artists, Art Futures Artist in Residence at Conwell Egan Catholic High School, and Senior Lecturer at The University of the Arts.

**Michael Paxton**, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art (1975) from Marshall University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia (1979) in Athens, GA. He currently teaches as adjunct faculty in the Department of Art + Design at Columbia College, in Chicago, IL. During a weeklong residency this fall, Paxton enlisted several talented undergraduate visual art majors to help him cover the walls of Gallery 842 (our downtown visual art exhibition venue) with his large-scale expressive paintings and drawings of the natural landscape, coal miners, and other laborers inspired by his Appalachian upbringing. While the scale, symbolism, and sincerity of his work was compelling, it was the empowering and authentic way he engaged our students that will leave lasting impressions.

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**Art and Design (continued from page 3)**

Paxton concluded his visit by remarking, "In some way I completed some sort of personal circle and past a milestone of some sorts. I have Don Van Horn, Byron Clercx and John Farley to thank for this wonderful experience. You should also be very proud of all the students who helped in the work, they showed a work ethic and art knowledge that points to the good day-in and day-out work you do at Marshall in the School of Art and Design. Thanks for this chance to come home and touch base as I move forward to new work and exhibitions. You should be proud of the work you are doing at Marshall, which really showed up in the very fine art students that I worked with. I was really surprised by their wonderful effort, openness and knowledge about this great mystery called art."



Art and design grad Michael Paxton returned to campus and for his exhibition in Gallery 842

**Music and Theatre**

David Castleberry, Interim Director



"Welcome to the Marshall University School of Music and Theatre." This is the new greeting you will hear when you phone us or visit the campus. But what does this change from

departments to schools mean? Well, right now it means some new names, structures, and procedures. Some familiar folks are filling new leadership roles and beginning to explore and realize exciting opportunities. I am honored to serve as interim director of the school and fortunate to work alongside

Dr. Martin Saunders, head of our music program and Mr. Jack Cirillo, head of theatre and dance. None of us is new to Marshall University, but we are all first-timers to roles that will undoubtedly evolve over time.

This new structure is an acknowledgement of several important facts. The fine arts are interwoven and interactive. Neither visual art, music, nor theatre operates independent of the others. Just as we consider the exciting prospects of a new facility that will house the School of Art and Design, we can also envision the types of presentations made by all of our programs that will draw our students together in common endeavors. As we consider important curricular reforms that will prepare students for the marketplace of the future, we engage in dialogue as a college, not just as individual academic units. Consider for a moment the ways music informs film, visual images shape theatre, or how set and lighting design transform our

entire visual experience. When it comes to collaborative possibilities, the sky really is the limit. If you haven't considered convergences such as these before, just chat with our students. They have. And the high school students I have visited with who are looking for outstanding university programs have too!

The new vigor we are seeing and sensing in the downtown Huntington community will help us position our students for new opportunities. Likewise, our programs will infuse new energy into the life of the community – a community whose borders are expanding quickly. With the College of Fine Arts' commitment to travel and study abroad, our students are seeing the world and bringing back experiences and ideas that will change education as we know it. When our music students receive standing ovations in

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Music and Theatre (continued from page 4)**

France or our theatre students play to packed audiences at the internationally renowned Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland; when we study alongside Brazilian students here in Huntington or on campuses in Brazil; when faculty and students present their work in Berlin or study in Florence; we gain not only the richness of other cultures, but influences that can place us at the creative cutting edge.

These are exciting days, at times scary, often uncertain, but definitely replete with possibilities and rewards for our students, our faculty, and our community. Visit one of our more than a hundred on-campus concerts this year in music. Attend a theatre presentation of *The Crucible*, *Arabian Nights*, *Doubt*, or *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Enjoy one of the art exhibits at the Birke Gallery or at Gallery 842. I think you will find the excitement contagious!

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**Cover story (continued from page 1)**

- Establishing a downtown visual arts presence that builds on existing strengths and helps promote Huntington as an evolving and creative community to residents, tourists, and prospective creative class workers and employers
- Increasing pedestrian activity downtown, especially in the Pullman Square area, which appeals to residents, tourists, property owners, the city, and Marshall because it is conducive to new opportunities
- Creating a climate of inclusiveness and inviting investment
- Advancing critical thinking, creativity, and new knowledge

- Cultivating a culture that values innovation and embraces change
- Striving to make a lasting difference in our community by helping others discover their unique interests and creative abilities to bring out the best in everyone.

Ed Tucker, from Edward Tucker Architects, Inc., said the design maintains some of the historic character of the original building.

“We are very excited to be the architects for the new Marshall University Visual Arts Center in Huntington’s Downtown Historic District, Tucker said. “The benefits to Huntington’s downtown and the College of Fine Arts will have ripple effects on both communities for years to come. We are embracing the opportunity to integrate new technologies and materials into the historic fabric of a 100+ year-old commercial building. By contrasting the old and new in innovative ways, its historic character is both preserved and transformed. Yet above all, our goal is to create cutting-edge art education facilities that are second to none. Such a place will foster growth, improve curriculum delivery, and provide an effective recruitment tool for students and faculty alike.”

To assist with planning, Clercx conducted site visits at schools including the Savannah College of Art and Design, North Dakota State University, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, and Columbus State University, where similar projects were undertaken. Representatives from these schools indicated their new downtown visual art facilities helped them secure commitments from preferred faculty and student applicants and had a stabilizing effect on commercial and cultural development. In each case, they said the university investment stimulated private and public investment in the surrounding areas,

and the influx of pedestrian traffic generated by their arts facilities engendered positive perceptions of personal safety and a sense of connection between the university (students, staff and faculty), local community, and the downtown business community. Marshall University projects similar successes for Marshall students and employees, Huntington residents, businesses, and visitors once the building is renovated and occupied by the School of Art and Design.

“Housing the visual arts program in the Stone & Thomas building will strengthen Marshall’s presence in downtown Huntington while also improving a number of quality of life factors essential to recruiting and retaining critical, creative class businesses and their workers,” Clercx said. “Moreover, this multi-purpose facility will advance the ongoing revitalization of downtown Huntington by building on the success of Pullman Square Plaza and the adjacent enhancements to buildings on the south side of 3rd Avenue, on 9th street, and on 4th Avenue (Old Main Corridor). New and existing businesses will be able to depend on, and cater to, the new creative class student and community client base the university presence attracts to the area.”

He added, “Because our students will be working and studying in downtown Huntington, it will be easier to engage them in local problem solving. Likewise, this highly visible location makes cultivating, solidifying, and sustaining a strong broad-based arts community more probable because student creativity will be more apparent to local business and community members. This integrated urban arrangement in the heart of downtown Huntington will be infinitely more attractive to prospective students and parents than our current disjointed and hard to find spaces on the main campus.”



## Catching up with students, alumni, and faculty



Acclaimed violinist Anyango Yarbo-Davenport is currently serving as a sabbatical replacement in Marshall's School of Music and Theatre, as an instructor of violin, viola, and chamber music. In 2010, Anyango appeared twice at Carnegie Hall, both times receiving 1st Prizes at international competitions. She won the "Most Distinguished Violinist Award" and received the "Special Mention Award as Composer" for her piece *In Memoriam of My Father*, from the 2010 IBLA Foundation World Competition in Italy. She has performed in esteemed venues, including: the Munich Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, Detroit Orchestra Hall, and Mozarteum Salzburg, as well as via broadcast by PBS and WXXI.

Highlights of Yarbo-Davenport's 2012-13 concert season include her debut as the new Assistant Concertmaster of Ensemble Du Monde (NYC/Paris) and as first violinist of its quartet, Quatuor Mahogany.

Yarbo-Davenport was born and raised in Munich, Germany, the daughter of African American soprano Africa Yarbo-Davenport and the late Austrian conductor Hans Peter Jillich. She is dedicated to the

### Q&A with Anyango Yarbo-Davenport

musical education of underprivileged and handicapped youth and collaborates with non-profit organizations for equal opportunity.

**Q: What is your position here at Marshall?**

A: I am teaching as a sabbatical replacement instructor in applied violin, viola and chamber music during the fall 2012 semester.

**Q: What brought you here?**

A: My longtime friend and colleague from the Eastman School of Music, Dr. Henning Vauth, suggested my name when he heard of a sabbatical leave replacement opening. Teaching the students of Marshall was an opportunity I personally did not want to miss.

**Q: What is your educational background?**

A: I was born and raised in Munich, Germany, studied at the music academies of Munich throughout elementary school and gymnasium (high school) and attended the University of Salzburg 'Mozarteum' for my undergrad. After meeting Professor Castleman (my and Dr. Smith's teacher) I transferred to the Eastman School of Music where I am currently finishing up my Doctor of Musical Arts degree in violin performance with minors in music education research and viola performance.

**Q: Where are you from, originally, where did you come to Marshall from, where's home?**

A: I'm originally from Munich, Germany. My mom is from Cleveland - Shaker Heights - and my dad from Graz, Austria. I moved to the US in 2005 and travelled to Marshall from Rochester, NY where Eastman is located. "Home" is currently split between Huntington and Rochester I would say...and wherever my violin takes me.

**Q: What are you enjoying most about Marshall and Huntington?**

A: It has caught me off guard how quickly I have become attached to the Marshall community and Huntington. The faculty and staff have given me such a wonderful, warm welcome. It feels like I have been part of this community for more than just 2 months. I love the students I get to work with - they are hardworking, tenacious, well brought up young professionals. Huntington has beautiful nature and a lot of sunshiny fall days - similar to my hometown Munich, Germany. People are very embracing here - regardless how busy they are, they don't forget to ask how you are doing with a smile.

**Q: What is your teaching style, and what do you hope to instill in your students?**

A: My teaching style varies for every student - I will try out an infinite number of things - whatever is needed to get the best results. My teaching philosophy is: You can do it. Treat your instrument skills like an athlete does - disciplined, consistent practice and keep yourself in good physical shape. As a teacher I am here to give you the tools to progress, grow and become independent. It does not matter where you come from—I will have succeeded as a teacher if I was able to guide you on: how to solve a technical and/or musical problem, how to educate yourself on the stylistic background/ nature of the piece, how to prepare for and succeed through the professional challenges lying ahead (performance and music business-wise), and most importantly - still love what you do.

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**To read more about Yarbo-Davenport, visit her website: [www.anyangomusic.com](http://www.anyangomusic.com)**

# Galloway performs on cruise ship



One Marshall University graduate is living the dream while he travels the world and plays the instrument he loves.

John Galloway, trombonist, plays in an orchestra onboard the Celebrity Cruise Line's ship, The Millennium.

He has travelled up and down the United States' west coast and will spend time in Central and South America, Hawaii, Australia, and New Zealand before heading back home in November.

Galloway said he spends a lot of time working, but does get the chance to enjoy himself when the ship pulls into port.

"In ports we usually just explore," Galloway said. "We were in Alaska for three months so we saw the same five ports every week, and we would do something new each time. We would go zip-lining, hiking to a glacier, and kayaking to see whales and other sea life.

"Most of the time it is just nice to get off the ship and sit in a coffee shop with free wifi and talk to family and friends back home. This is especially the case for those crewmembers who are not from the States as this is the only time they get to contact home."

Galloway emphasized the importance of utilizing in-port time for web browsing. He said Internet access is available on The Millennium while out to sea, but it is expensive. He said there are plenty of ways to entertain himself when he is not entertaining others.

"On board during our free time we either go to the gym or socialize with fellow crew members by playing board games or just relaxing in our cabins," Galloway said. "There are often themed parties for the crew that the management puts on to help people relax and enjoy themselves."

Galloway said it took a lot of hard work to prepare himself for his job. He credited Dr.

Michael Stroehrer, professor of trombone and euphonium, with being a key figure in his growth as a musician.

"When I got on board for the first time, I had one rehearsal where I sight-read all the music for the show that night," Galloway said. "So all the sight-reading work I did with Dr. Stroehrer really helped in that situation. Also his guidance in style and technique helped immensely with the shows since each show is different and within the show there are a variety of styles."

Stroehrer said he believed Galloway's diverse education and experiences while at Marshall was also a large part of his success.

"I've known John since he started studying with me in high school," Stroehrer said. "He was always motivated, dedicated, and dependable. While he was here at Marshall he performed with just about every ensemble he could, including the orchestra, wind symphony, jazz ensemble, jazz-rock ensemble, brass ensembles, and trombone choir. He also worked professionally, playing with the rock band City Heat, in the pit orchestras of a number of musical theater productions, and substituted with the Huntington Symphony Orchestra."

Galloway said he spent time doing various odd jobs before landing his gig onboard The Millennium.

"As I was waiting for this job, I looked into furthering my education with the thought of band instrument repair," Galloway said. "I was also working part time at the Recreation Center, in the outdoor pursuits center, along with performing local music groups, such as the Huntington Symphony and with the band I'm in, Jabberwocky."

Galloway said it is important for recent graduates, or those graduating soon not to get too caught up in one idea for the future – because you never know what life will throw your way.

"My biggest advice would be to not set your mind on one goal or job," Galloway said. "Look at several different things, or fish with dynamite as I like to say. You can put one goal or one job at the top of the list, but don't put all your chips in that one gamble."

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## 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

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Marshall University  
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304-696-6433  
www.marshall.edu/cofa

Dean  
Donald Van Horn

Interim Associate Dean  
Vicki Stroehrer

Administrative Assistant  
Maura Conway

Director of Development  
Melanie Griffiths

Special Projects Coordinator  
Jaye Ike

School of Art and Design  
Byron Clercx, Director

School of Music and Theatre  
David Castleberry, Interim Director

Marshall Artists Series  
Penny Watkins, Executive Director

Interns  
Shane Arrington and Laura Hatfield

## Photography student wins Hallmark competition



Hallmark began using a Marshall University student's work online in November, as part of a graduation card contest.

Colleen O'Shea, sophomore photography student from

Columbus, OH, said she took a chance and entered a picture she took at a friend's graduation into the contest. O'Shea entered the contest for fun but her photo was then chosen to be sold online.

"I had taken the picture just before all my friends went off to their high school graduation the weekend I came home for summer from Marshall," O'Shea said.

O'Shea's card reads, "From the turn of the tassel, to the toss of the cap, friends until the end, nothing's better than that."

O'Shea said she became interested in photography during her sophomore year of high school when she took action photos of her sister's softball games. She then moved on to photograph graduating seniors, toddlers, families, and weddings.

"Photography is definitely something I want to do in the future," O'Shea said. "I hope to open my own studio one day and continue shooting all types of portraits and sports."

O'Shea said she still gets overwhelmed with excitement that her artwork was chosen.

"Some people try so many times to get a Hallmark card with their own design, and I got one entering a contest for fun on the first try," O'Shea said. "When I got the call from Hallmark saying that I won I called all of my family and friends screaming, and was dancing and running down the sidewalk of 5th Avenue. As a photographer, I have entered a lot of contests and have won a few awards, but this is definitely one major highlight for me."

Natalie Larsen, assistant professor in art and design, said O'Shea was very passionate about photography, even as a new student at Marshall.

"It's very impressive for anyone to win a national design competition, but it is especially impressive for a student like Colleen, who is just beginning her studies," Larsen said. "We are all very proud of her, and expect great things from her during the rest of her time here at Marshall and beyond."

Larsen said it is no surprise that O'Shea has accomplished something of such great importance.

"She is motivated, curious, and she has a good eye for design," Larsen said. "I'm not surprised she has already experienced success."

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O'Shea's photo was chosen to be a Hallmark card

## Theatre students perform in Scotland's Edinburgh Fringe Festival



Theatre students and Professor Jack Cirillo traveled to Scotland in August

A group of Marshall University students left the mountains of West Virginia for the Highlands of Scotland this summer to hone their acting skills and broaden their knowledge of the world.

Thirteen theatre students and their professor, Jack Cirillo, left Huntington for Edinburgh, Scotland, after being invited to participate in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. While there, they not only performed their craft in a different country, they also had the chance to see other troupes perform as well as take part in various cultural activities.

"We were there for 12 days total," Cirillo said. "We performed and saw a variety of performances while there. We stepped outside of the theater as well and had the chance to experience the military tattoo at Edinburgh Castle, we toured the Highlands and visited a number of castles."

The trip was formed out of a special topics class. Cirillo said the class was designed with the festival in mind.

The International Collegiate Theatre Festival, held in every August in Edinburgh, Scotland, brings theatre troupes from around the world to one place to showcase their talents.

Jordan Bean, trip participant, said she enjoyed the trip – not only for the acting experience, but also the experience of seeing a new place.

"My favorite part of the trip was when we climbed to the top of Arthur's Seat," Bean said. "We could see all of Edinburgh, and it was such an awesome hike."

"I think that this show, more than anything, taught us how to adapt quickly to new situations. The theater we performed in was a lot different than the one at Marshall, and we only had one quick rehearsal in it before our performances started. We had no choice but to just try and figure it out as we went."

Bean emphasized that adaptability is important in theatre as the profession can put actors in different places very frequently.

Nicole Peckens, costume designer and wardrobe crew, agreed with Bean that seeing different theaters is an important part of their craft.

"A mentor once told me the best way to learn about theatre is to see theatre," Peckens said. "The Fringe Festival allowed me the opportunity to take in a plethora of productions – 26 in eight days. Participating from an audience standpoint allows a theatre practitioner to refresh her eyes and gain new insight into how things can be done differently. The trip cemented and confirmed my decision to go into this field. It allowed me to re-center and re-focus mentally, emotionally and spiritually."

This renewal was a key aspect of the trip according to Peckens. She said she had been toying around with the idea of touring with a company, and the trip showed her it is a life she could live.

Cirillo said the effect on the students was obvious, and this trip helped open their eyes to some of the opportunities offered to them through theatre.

"Clearly the opportunity to explore a new city, country, and culture while at the same time creating art is an extraordinary opportunity," Cirillo said. "As a teacher it was wonderful to see how the trip changed the way my students looked at the world and how it opened their eyes to so many different things. We had the opportunity to see so many different kinds of theatrical presentations - plays, musicals, stand-up, performance art, dance, children's theatre, Shakespeare. With over 4000 performances to see in such a short amount of time there was literally something for everyone."

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## Edinburgh (continued from page 9)

Ryan Gallerani, trip participant, said he loved having the opportunity to see so many shows, and that some will always stick out.

"My favorite part of the trip was the wide variety of shows we got to see," Gallerani said. "These shows ranged from a one man show about Oliver Reed to a WWII adaptation of Macbeth with witches on stilts. You never really know what you're going to get. You could stumble across a gem that changes your whole viewpoint in regard to theatre or a complete dud. The best part of it all is coming out of a show and saying 'Wow!'"

"My favorite show was *Macbeth: Who is That Bloodied Man?*, but the Oliver Reed show inspired my acting. The actor who played Oliver captured his essence perfectly, and I actually thought I was watching the man himself come back to life. To be able to become another person is extraordinary enough, but to portray someone who was actually real is an astonishing feat."

While they spent a lot of time watching others on stage, when it came time for their own performance, Bean said the troupe was ready.

"We all started meeting as a group fall semester last year," Bean said. "Then the class where we put the show together started in the spring. We were with this show for almost a whole year before we performed it in Scotland, so we all knew it really well."

Cirillo said travelling abroad is habit forming, and he knows he, and his students, have been affected by all the different things they saw and experienced during their trip to Scotland.

"The art, culture, history, architecture, food, sounds, and sights of this experience will have a profound impact on all we do from this time forward."



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## Study abroad in Florence

Marshall students will again have the opportunity to study in Florence, Italy, during the intersession in May 2013.

This marks the fourth consecutive year students will have the chance to study in Florence. Classes will be offered in both art and English, giving them the opportunity to earn between three and six credit hours.

Daniel Kaufmann, assistant professor in photography said the students will be totally immersed in Italian culture, being able to experience it firsthand.

"I think the opportunity to study in another country can be a life changing experience for students," Kaufmann. "The city truly becomes classroom as students are immersed in its history, culture, language, food, art, etc. This immersion asks the students to consider an experience outside what they are accustomed to, and it has a direct positive effect when they come back to Marshall and finish the remainder of their college education."

Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts said this trip will help students not only grow in their education, but will also help the students develop self-confidence and self-awareness.

"The opportunities study abroad affords students are many," Van Horn said. "Learning about people and cultures different from one's own will better prepare students to navigate the increasingly global marketplace that is the world they are entering as adults. Study abroad is a character building experience."

Rachael Peckham, assistant professor of English, said the course is filled with many hands on activities offered to the students.

"Florence, Italy is one of the world's most beautiful and historically significant cities, especially for art," Peckham said. "This course finds its setting and subject matter alike in Florence, where students will take up the complex process of transforming immediate personal experience and creative research, both written and photographed. For their final project students will create a blog or weblog by combining word and image, transforming the self's experience and knowledge of Florence into a digitalized work of art."

Peckham said the learning experience is meant to be fun for students.

"The course aside, I imagine we'll be doing

a lot of really good eating, shopping, and exploring," Peckham said. "Getting lost, developing blisters, making new friends and experiencing new people, seeing a lot of art, splurging on something leather butchering the language, toasting."

Van Horn said the chance to study abroad is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"Students typically learn as much about themselves as they do the native people of the country in which they are studying," Van Horn said. "And of course, in a place like Florence, Italy, students see some of the greatest works of art and architecture the world knows. Culture comes alive for the students who participate in this program, and they come back invigorated and inspired to learn more about different places and different people."

Students may apply to receive financial aid for this trip as well as apply for many different scholarships and grants designed to help students financially with studying abroad.

Students can get more information about the Florence trip and courses by visiting the College of Fine Arts main office, Smith 158 or emailing [vanhorn@marshall.edu](mailto:vanhorn@marshall.edu).

# Dotson grateful for study abroad support



Christina Dotson in Florence, Italy, May 2012

When I heard about the study abroad opportunity to Florence, Italy through Marshall University, I thought, "This is a trip for more fortunate students" and quickly dismissed the idea of going. I thought there was no way I could gather the funding for such a trip. The more I slept on this, though, the more my heart fought against my negative thoughts; and as the days passed I increasingly became more confident in the decision that I should exhaust all my options and put forth all the effort I could to make certain whether I could or couldn't share this experience before dismissing the idea completely.

I applied for many different scholarships: Marshall University's College of Fine Arts, Marshall's Center for International Programs, for CAPA International Education. After answering many questions, writing a few heartfelt essays, asking for recommendations, and figuring out paperwork for the trip, I waited. And waited. And waited. Then one by one I started receiving letters and e-mails of congratulations! I couldn't believe it. Every time I opened up another letter informing me that someone who didn't even know me personally was willing to give me money, my heart stopped. Before this, I didn't have much faith in the people of our world, but this experience has changed that. They showed me that when it is needed, people will come through to help others.

If any one of my scholarships wouldn't have come through, I wouldn't have been able to go. It is incredible that I received the exact amount of funding help I needed to be a part of this trip. I am truly grateful that when my finances weren't where I needed them to be, I could rely on my knowledge, passion, and others to help me achieve my goal.

Not only did my trip to Italy mature me as a person, but it also strengthened my independence and leadership skills. Traveling from plane, to bus, to street, to market, to museum all proved to be challenging at times, but every second was an eye-opening experience. Even if I had no idea where I was on the map, I could walk into a café and meet a handful of interesting people who would show me just a little more about the Italian culture. I met some people that I will never forget.

While in Florence, five girls from Marshall and I stayed in a beautiful, charming apartment above a café bar. We stopped there for an occasional espresso or snack before heading into the center of Florence. The owner of this café was Risaliti Irene. She went by Rene. I would walk down, and she would greet me with a genuine smile and "Buongiorno bella! Come sta?" We are two people living on different continents, who otherwise would have been great life-long friends.

It is hard to leave what is revealed in Florence: the lifestyle, routines, fashion, drive, simplicity, history, the art. To be honest, I had more culture shock when I came home than when landing in Italy. Yes, I miss it. Italy inspired my art with everything my eyes absorbed in the churches and museums. Italy inspired friendships, some with students from Marshall, and some that I might not be able to revisit. And most importantly, Italy inspired my ambition. From the beginning when looking at those study abroad signs and forcing myself to think differently, to coming back home and integrating all I had learned of their lifestyle into mine. I have grown and I have experienced where I might not have had the chance.

Grazie mille, è un miracolo bellissimo.

*Christina Dotson is a senior from Parkersburg, WV, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in graphic design.*

Imagine a student performing for an appreciative audience at the world's largest jazz festival in Montreux, Switzerland; studying art in the shadow of the Uffizi Museum in Florence, Italy; working with highly imaginative marketers through an internship in graphic design in Australia; singing a mass in Notre Dame de Paris; or honing skills with a world class guitarist in Brazil. Since 2009, and with very limited resources, the College of Fine Arts has assisted students with the expense of travel and study in Brazil, Florence, Sydney, Australia, Montreux and France. Last year, more than 70 Marshall students had similar opportunities in France, Scotland, Italy and Germany in our exchange program in Brazil. These international destinations are complemented by numerous regional and national venues to which our students travel annually to study, exhibit their work, and perform. We want to ensure that these experiences, which distinguish our students among their peers at other institutions, become embedded in the culture of the College of Fine Arts at Marshall University and are accessible to as many deserving students as is possible.

Many students attending Marshall University have little or no travel experience outside the immediate region where they have lived their entire lives. Financial concerns limit these opportunities for our students. The College of Fine Arts is committed to encouraging our students to broaden their perspectives and grow as individuals when they experience, for the first time, new cultures, languages and social customs.

Such experiences are limited only by the resources available to provide student financial assistance. Global Horizons, an initiative in the College of Fine Arts, seeks to build a fund to provide these resources. Please contact Melanie Griffis, Director of Development at (304)696-3686 or [griffism@marshall.edu](mailto:griffism@marshall.edu) for information about helping our students grow through these distinctive experiences.

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.....  
**Galloway (continued from page 7)**

"Also, look at different approaches to get a job. I sent my resume and material to five or six different entertainment companies to get my name out and heighten my chances of getting a job. But I was looking at schools and jobs also trying to answer that eternal question of what am I going to do with my life. My second biggest advice would be don't just sit around and wait for something to happen, make it happen go look for jobs, ask friends, strangers, anyone about anything you're interested in. The world is yours to take."

And Galloway is taking the world – one port at a time.

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## **Hallmark** (continued from page 8)

Miranda Fields, adjunct photography instructor, wasn't surprised either.

"Colleen is the type of student all professors hope for at the start of a semester," Fields said. "She consistently works her hardest and it shows in her results, and because of this, I think she was the perfect candidate for the Hallmark competition."

O'Shea said she not only looked at this contest as a good opportunity but also as a meaningful learning experience.

"I learned from this experience it's good to take chances just for the fun of it whether it's entering a contest or something else because you don't know what could happen," O'Shea said.

O'Shea won a cash prize of \$250, and if her card is chosen to be sold in stores in April 2013, then she will receive another \$250.

## *A warm welcome*



This summer Maura Conway joined the College of Fine Arts as administrative assistant. She is a native of Huntington, WV, and attended the "old" Huntington High School where she was active in arts programs, so fine arts is a perfect fit. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall University with specialties in Appalachian studies and oral history. Her hobbies include writing, reading, singing, and general wandering, while balancing it with social justice work and parenting a preschooler. She collects nesting dolls and odd tchotchkes. She lives in a modest bungalow with her husband of 12 years, Josh, and their gorgeous genius, Sophia, and cats! Maura brings nearly two decades of experience and institutional memory to her job and is thrilled with her new position, looking forward to supporting the college in the future.





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## *Pack the Backpack: COFA students collect items for school pantries*



SLC members Bradlee Jordan and Jillian Smallwood at Pack the Backpack.

On November 13 the College of Fine Arts Student Leadership Council (SLC) hosted “Pack the Backpack”, a fundraiser to collect items for Cabell County school pantries.

SLC members organized this initiative in an effort to help stock the school pantries. They collected items like non-perishable food, toiletries, bedding, and more.

“We believe as the College of Fine Arts Student Leadership Council (SLC) that giving back to the community is not only a necessity, but that it builds and fosters a spirit among fine arts students that cannot be accomplished in any other way,” Bradlee Jordan, theatre student and SLC president said. “When we heard that some schools are trying to ramp up their pantries before Thanksgiving break so they can send items with students who will otherwise go without, we were pleased to be part of the solution.”

SLC member Shey Dillon, music student, agrees.

“As artists, musicians, and students, we feel it is very important to give back to the community that supports us and this wonderful university,” Dillon said. “No one is more in need or deserving of this gesture than the many children of Cabell County who go without so many basic necessities. We hope that we can set an example that others will follow.”