Ed Bazel returns to MU to advise students and share knowledge about the music industry

by Laura Hatfield

“I am proud to say the Marshall campus is truly on par with other campuses I have visited, and the excitement is palpable. The growth in buildings and sports facilities tells me that Marshall is on the right track to become one of the preeminent universities in the country.”

— Ed Bazel

Ed Bazel, chief entertainment organizer for The Bazel Group, visited the College of Arts and Media to talk with students from his alma mater about music and how to attain a successful career. During his time as a Marshall student, Bazel majored in business administration and minored in finance, while continuing to study piano and perform with local bands.

“Although I had a passion for music, my parents wanted me to have the tools to succeed in both business and music,” Bazel said. “I think it was a very wise decision on their part as I now run a business on Music Row in Nashville that provides celebrity concerts, comedians and speakers for corporate and special events around the world.”

Bazel joked about it being nice coming to campus and not worrying about grades. He also said campus had transformed a bit since he went to Marshall.

“I thought back to the great memories of making life-long friends, repelling off the library roof on ROTC day and being in a barrel rolling contest for Greek Week in the lawn,” Bazel said. “I am proud to say the Marshall campus is truly on par with other campuses I have visited, and the excitement is palpable. The growth in buildings and sports facilities tells me that Marshall is on the right track to become one of the preeminent universities in the country.”

Bazel advised students that contacts, hard work, imagination and honing their skills are important to success.

“Being a good business person is as important — if not more important — as honing performance or media skills for students in the College of Arts and Media,” Bazel said.

Bazel said he was very impressed with all of the students he met while on campus.

“I saw a deep hunger in their eyes to go out and achieve in this world,” Bazel said. “I loved being able to see them on the start of their journey and telling them my journey from Marshall to Music Row. Since I am a little further down the path than they are, I was happy to help them avoid the real-world mistakes that can be made.”

Melanie Griffis, senior director of development, said Bazel connected with students even after his presentation.

“I think whether a student had personal contact through a conversation or had contact from a distance in his presentation, students saw that, with hard work and imagination, they can have success in business as well as their academic discipline,” Griffis said. “I hope that our students are inspired to reach deeper into the opportunities they are offered at Marshall University when they meet a successful and generous alumnus. It is easy to forget about the university once you graduate; it takes time to reconnect and schedule the time to interact and share success and experience.”

Bazel said Marshall helped him not only prepare for the future when he was a student, but also now in the professional world.

“Marshall University, my professors and the many musical performance opportunities I had there helped me establish a foundation of knowledge and real world skills to be able to go out and become successful in this world,” Bazel said. “I am so thankful to be a part of the Marshall family; it provided me a solid ground for my future success.”
Dean’s Message

I want to welcome new readers to Creation, the bi-annual magazine from the College of Arts and Media. As most know by now, Marshall University created the College of Arts and Media on July 1, 2013. The college brings together the fine arts and journalism and mass communications programs into one academic unit. With the establishment of this new college our Creation readership expands to include journalism and mass communications alumni, friends and patrons.

Preparations for this new college began in January 2013, shortly after Provost Gayle Ormiston’s announcement that the College of Fine Arts and the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications would be merged into one unit with me serving as the dean. A transition committee, consisting of faculty representing the academic units in the soon-to-be college and chaired by professors Vicki Stroeher from music and Dan Hollis from journalism, worked throughout the spring 2013 semester to develop a governance document and establish a wide array of policies and procedures that were necessary to ensure a smooth start to the academic year. Their work has proven to be invaluable, and, for the most part, we have hit the ground running.

I have been asked by many people how we came up with the name for the college. The transition committee was charged with recommending four names to me with the understanding that I would make the final selection after I sought further input from several constituencies. Of the four choices I was given, the College of Arts and Media captured my attention very quickly. I liked the sound of it. I felt it was clean and rolled off the tongue nicely, and it struck me as being the most descriptive of the varied disciplines in our new college. Just about everyone I talked with liked the name and felt it was an apt description of a new college focused on the future. Hence, we are now the College of Arts and Media.

I believe we have been given a very special opportunity to create something unique and dynamic with the formation of the College of Arts and Media. The potential for new, collaborative academic initiatives that focus on what and how we communicate as 21st century world citizens, be it through something like a musical composition or a mass media campaign, is limitless, and we have the faculty in this college who possess the necessary vision to create new curriculum that will prepare our students for tomorrow. We must stay abreast of evolving technologies and indeed, get out in front of them, as we develop programs to prepare our students for their futures as leaders and innovators. Marshall University President Stephen Kopp often says the careers 15 to 20 years out and awaiting current students don’t exist today, and I agree. Our charge is to make sure this year’s graduates, and those who follow, attain the knowledge, skills and competencies in their fields of study, while understanding that adaptability and the capacity to transfer skills across multiple disciplines are traits that will be essential to their success.

The major areas of study in the College of Arts and Media inherently cultivate those attributes that are vital to productive citizenship. Our graduates are extraordinary critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, skillful technicians and collaborators. Those of us who work with all of the multi-talented students in the college have the privilege of seeing them grow as individuals and hone these skills on a daily basis, and it is exciting to know that they are well-positioned for success as they leave the university and embark on the journeys that will carry them through their adult lives.

As we become more accustomed to working together and as our new college matures, I am confident that those new programs I think are critical to future generations of students will evolve. It is exciting to be a part of this new college and to ponder the unlimited potential we have to impact the lives of students for years to come.

Donald Van Horn
In early 2013, the College of Arts and Media received a grant from the Maier Foundation, Inc. to assist students with the expense of study, performance and exhibitions abroad. The funds, to be used entirely during the summer of 2013, supplemented the educational travel experiences of 20 students from Marshall University. With assistance from the Maier Foundation, students were immersed in the cultures of Costa Rica, Austria and Italy through various study abroad programs.

These experiences are life-changing for students and often their teachers. Professors Daniel Kaufmann and Rachael Peckham accompanied 16 students to Florence this summer with the help of the Maier Foundation funds.

In a statement prepared for the Maier Foundation report professors Kaufmann and Packham remarked, “How many college educators get to say to their students, ‘for your homework today, I want you to immerse yourselves in the physical world of Florence; go climb to the top of the Duomo; go to the Uffizi Gallery and stare at a single work of art for an hour, and record what you see?’ With the city as our classroom, every pocket of Florence offered our students rich fodder for a lesson on art, history, its culture and people — all of which infused our discussions and inspired our students to explore new ground intellectually and artistically. When we weren’t touring museums and embarking on day trips, we heard guest lectures from poets, photojournalists and art historians. We ate gelato along the Arno. We listened to the monks chant atop a hill long-traveled by pilgrims. We dined on bistecca alla fiorentina. In short, when you teach in Florence, you teach a palpable, present history — one your students can feel, taste, hear and observe. And you will never be the same for it.”

Kuyler McComas, a senior majoring in art and design stated, “Sometimes I think of Students, teachers travel the world through Global Horizons by Melanie Griffis

Marshall students had the opportunity to participate in an annual study abroad program in Florence, Italy, where they learned 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. Perhaps most important, study abroad teaches them more about themselves than they learn at home.
my experiences in Florence as two halves of one whole. On one hand, I experienced Florence through the eyes of a student and visitor. In this way I was able to see the place where modern history began, as well as much of the work that helped define that rebirth. On the other hand, however, I went to Florence as a working artist and was able to make tremendous work in a place where the whole atmosphere of the place urges creativity. I have never felt as good about the work I was producing as I did while I was in Florence. For me, either of these opportunities — as a student viewer or as an active creator — would have been life changing. With both activities tied together as they were in the College of Art and Media’s program, I know that I have learned more, created more, experienced more and changed more than I would have through any other experience.”

In recent years, more than 150 Marshall University College of Arts and Media students, along with student peers from majors spanning numerous disciplines, have had the life-transforming experience of exploring Global Horizons. Our students have encountered the culture and history of Switzerland at the world’s largest jazz festival, studied art in the shadow of the Uffizi Museum in Florence, Italy, sang a mass in Notre Dame de Paris. Graphic design and public relations students earned real-life business experience through internships in Sydney, Australia. The college has accomplished this with limited resources, while assisting select, deserving students by enabling travel and study in Switzerland, Brazil, Italy, Australia, Spain, France, Germany, Scotland, Austria and Costa Rica. These international destinations complement the numerous regional and national venues to which our students annually travel, study, intern, exhibit, work and perform.

To help make Global Horizons and the experiences described above accessible to all of the students in the College of Arts and Media, contact Melanie Griffis, senior director of development for the College of Arts and Media, at: griffism@marshall.edu or (304) 696-2834.
As an associate professor of art education in the School of Art and Design, I have the pleasure of working with both BFA students and education students. I began my career at Marshall in 2007, but my professional career as an educator began 20 years ago. I now have the privilege of seeing former students become successful practicing artists and dedicated teachers of art.

On July 1, 2013 I began a new role as the interim director of the School of Art and Design. At the end of every day I drive down Third Avenue and have the pleasure of seeing Marshall's new Visual Arts Center quickly becoming a reality. This facility offers possibilities for both growth and visibility as a leading visual arts school. Serving as a link between downtown and Marshall's campus, the center will provide a multitude of opportunities for civic engagement.

With our new state-of-the-art facility in mind, our faculty has worked to develop a contemporary curriculum model that calls for collaboration and exploration of multimedia. Our revised program sets our students apart as creative thinkers with the ability to solve complex 21st century problems. Our next generation of beginning artists are producing thought-provoking imagery and are actively engaged in the community through course-related research and community service projects. Our students also have the opportunity to partake in experiences beyond the region by attending state and national conferences and a broad range of exhibitions. Activity and excitement abounds as we move forward this year and transition to our downtown facility!

Hagarty spends summer in Spain as artist in residence
by Josephine Mendez

For 10 months out of the year, a number of art students and Ian Hagarty call the eighth floor of Smith Hall home. But, for one month during the summer of 2013, Cádiz, Spain was Hagarty’s home.

Hagarty was part of an artist-in-residence program in Cádiz called Linea de Costa. The purpose of the program was to immerse artists from all over the world into the culture and environment of Cádiz.

“I was very interested in Cádiz for two reason,” Hagarty said. “For one, Cádiz is one of the longest inhabited cities in western civilization so there is an incredible amount of history and importance in the city. I was also drawn to the place because of its location near the U.S. naval base. My father was stationed there for a while during his late teens so I thought it would be a perfect place to go and to work.”

Cádiz is a narrow strip of land located in the southwest region of Spain. The majority of the city is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. Because of this unique characteristic, Hagarty decided to focus the theme of his artwork during his stay on the ocean. The ocean seemed like the perfect theme to Hagarty not only because of his location, but also because he noticed the tendency to focus on water in several of his most recent pieces of artwork.

Hagarty is a painter by trade, but while in Spain he chose to explore new mediums to create his masterpieces. Instead of using a canvas and paintbrush he used a mouse and computer, he said, because it wasn’t ideal or even really possible to travel with all of his usual paints and materials.

For the first few weeks Hagarty spent the bulk of his time learning the new program continued on page 6
and generating work based on his fresh surroundings. Most days he would enter the studio where he worked at 10 a.m. and not leave till 8 p.m.

“I had all these plans and ideas that I was going to travel and do all these other things,” Hagarty said. “But as soon as I arrived I found that it was much more prestigious than I had anticipated and just a lot of work.”

The Linea de Costa also had other artists participating in the program during Hagarty’s stay, including artists from Italy, Peru, Thailand, Spain and even others from the United States. Although each artist worked individually to create his or her own work, Hagarty said that another part of the experience was meeting and networking with artists from all over the world as well as being able to share his artwork in a more global and international setting.

At the end of his stay Hagarty displayed three pieces of artwork in a solo exhibition titled Oceanic. One piece was a 15-minute video of animations that incorporated video, sound, photography and computer-generated imagery. The video was a series of clips in response to the ocean, displayed in a poetic and abstract way. In correlation with the video he also created five paper sculptures based on the ocean surface.

His last piece was a site-specific drawing that tied into the other two pieces. Hagarty utilized the unique space with its big, vaulted, curved ceiling and drew the ocean’s surface along the wall as well as up and over the ceiling.

“Being in Spain the language was definitely a barrier that I had to work through,” Hagarty said. “But the beauty of what I was doing was that I could communicate to them through my art because art is a nonverbal language.”

Hagarty said he feels indebted to Marshall and his department; without their help and support this trip would not have been possible. He said he is especially thankful to have received the Summer Research Award, which helped offset some of the cost.

He has only fond memories from his experience in Cádiz and hopes to do something similar to this program again, possibly in the United States. He will hold a solo exhibition this spring that will display artwork inspired from his stay in Spain.

“Cádiz is one of the longest inhabited cities in western civilization so there is an incredible amount of history and importance in the city.”

Visual Arts Center nearing May 2014 completion
by Alison Wickline

Marshall University is on track for a May 2014 completion of its state-of-the-art Visual Arts Center in downtown Huntington.

The former Stone and Thomas building sits on Third Avenue across from Huntington’s Pullman Square. When renovations are complete, the center will house art studios, classrooms and retail and gallery space on the ground floor designed to draw tourists and local shoppers to the center.

Ron May, director of facilities planning and management for Marshall, said the building will likely be in use by next fall.

“We’re on schedule to finish probably about mid-May of next year, so we probably wouldn’t move from Smith until the fall semester, which works out well,” May said.

The new Visual Arts Center sits on a prime spot in downtown Huntington and is designed to increase foot traffic to the urban core. Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp said the building was purchased by a partnership between the city and the university to bridge the gap between Marshall and the community.

“It’s a great opportunity for the university, in collaboration with the city, to establish a real showpiece downtown where the visual arts could be showcased both for the benefits of our students and faculty and our community,” Kopp said.

The building is expected to hold 400 to 500 students, plus faculty — a benefit for Marshall’s visual arts program. Currently, the program is limited because of space issues on campus. All of the School of Art and Design programs will be transferred downtown, except for ceramics and sculpture.

Donald Van Horn, College of Arts and Media dean, said the new facility is an exciting chance for the School of Art and Design to grow.

“This affords the School of Art and Design the opportunity to bring in more students, but more importantly, it gives them the chance to create new programs and have the space to do that,” Van Horn said. “The facility gives them room to grow and expand.”

While the exterior only required minor aesthetic renovations, the interior is being continued on page 7
completely redone to bring the 111-year-old department store building up to current fire and safety regulations.

Another major area of construction was the erection of a dividing wall between parts of the building, because the university only purchased part of the building. The rest belongs to a different owner.

The historical building is a seven-story structure, including the basement. The first floor is designed to serve two purposes. One, it will serve as a gallery for students to present, and possibly sell, their works of art. The floor will also serve as an area for retail store development, which would provide revenue for Marshall.

The rest of the floors will be designated instructional spaces. A traditional lecture classroom and two smaller seminar spaces will exist for typical classroom use. The design plans allot for about 12 major studio spaces, some multipurpose and some for specific projects.

Open common areas will be on each floor to serve many different purposes, such as critique spaces or exhibition spaces for students and faculty. But they also provide an opportunity for growth should the College of Arts and Media programs expand.

Each instructional floor will have two or three faculty offices and studios that will be organized based on programs. Interactive by design, the floors will feature rolling doors between faculty offices and studios to classroom studios.

The basement has not been designed for any particular purpose at this time. It will serve as shell space that can evolve into whatever it needs to be depending on program development.

Marshall bought the building in August 2010 for $750,000. The project is slated to cost roughly $13 million. Edward Tucker Architects, Inc., a local firm, is leading the renovation project, and Neighborgall Construction is handling the actual renovations.

Plans for parking and city and campus security are in developmental stages at this time. Marshall and College of Arts and Media administrators said they are working to configure these amenities.
Director’s Message
Janet Dooley, Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications

I'm not new to Marshall, but I have assumed a new role in a new college.

In 35 years I've been involved in a number of transitions of the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications. During my affiliation with the unit, I've been part of the College of Arts and Sciences, I've worked in the College of Liberal Arts and I've been in a freestanding unit. I've witnessed movement from a department to a school, supported the inclusion of “mass communications” in our description and celebrated the addition of the program founder's name, W. Page Pitt. Last July we were among some of the most vibrant, vital and visible units on campus that merged to form the College of Arts and Media. The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications is one of three distinct schools in the new college.

I joined Marshall's faculty after practicing advertising in radio, in newspaper, in state agencies and as the communications director of a regional museum. During my tenure at Marshall I've moved through faculty ranks, served as assistant dean of the school and now I have accepted the role as director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications and associate dean of the college. I earned my undergraduate degree in advertising from Marshall's journalism program, my Master's in communications is from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and I've completed doctoral coursework in international and intercultural communications at the University of Kentucky.

Through its many incarnations the School of Journalism and Mass Communications has grown and adapted to shifts in the industry. The unit that launched in 1927 as a newspaper program now offers majors in broadcast, print, online and sports journalism, advertising, public relations, and radio/television production and management. Students publish the campus newspaper, The Parthenon, five days a week, keep WMUL-FM on the air 24/7, and produce a biweekly television news broadcast, MU Report, that can be seen on West Virginia public television on alternate Sundays. Out Loud is a new student-run advertising and public relations creative services firm that brings together students in journalism and mass communications and in graphic arts to produce work for campus and community organizations. Majors are engaged in professional organizations that bridge academic and professional spheres, stimulate networking, encourage competitions and provide opportunities for travel.

Students and faculty in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications are diligent about staying current with industry trends. We write and design on computers, create images digitally and broadcast from digital studios. The spring course schedule includes a class in “experimental and experiential video,” in which students will use iPads, iPhones and Go Pro cameras to produce innovative work. Print reporters are shooting video and broadcasters are writing stories on the web. Advertising and public relations majors are speaking in terms of “strategic communications.” As we adapt, we keep at our core the principles of accurate storytelling, vetted content, social responsibility and ethical behavior.

Now, our new configuration as part of the College of Arts and Media opens opportunities to more readily collaborate with art, theatre and music. As we begin to consider the possibilities, they seem endless and natural. Why not ask graphic arts majors to produce animation for television broadcasts, or music students to critique performances in a print column, or theatre performers and designers to practice their craft in commercials? We're just getting started. Let's see where we can go.

Broadcasting grad student wins AP Radio Anchor of the Year award
by Josephine Mendez

Students from the Marshall University public radio station, WMUL-FM, won 13 awards at the West Virginia Associated Press Broadcasters Association's award ceremony in Charleston, W.Va., Saturday, June 8. Of those, master’s journalism student Laura Hatfield took home first place in two categories: 2012’s Best Radio News Anchor of the Year and Radio Broadcast Journalist of the Year.

Students with WMUL-FM certainly aren't new to accolades — with more than 1,300 awards since 1985, they won 92 in the past academic year alone. But this was the first time the graduate student, who also received her bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Marshall, entered her work into the contest.

"I was in shock," Hatfield said. “When they called my name I was feeling so many emotions. I was so happy to accept the award on behalf of WMUL, and so proud at the same time to know I had kept up with the best of the best. To win the ultimate award in your field really makes you step back and see how all the hard work, late nights and stress has paid off.”

But Hatfield said the glitz and glamor of winning awards isn't what keeps her in the business; it's the fulfillment of getting the story out there and informing the community.

"I just want to do what I love, and that is news. If I win more awards while doing that then of course I'll be thrilled, but I don't do what I do just to win awards.”

The now decorated Hatfield plans to graduate in May and find a job reporting. She said she is grateful for the opportunities the journalism program at Marshall and WMUL-FM have given her.

"I couldn't have chosen a better school to study journalism," Hatfield said. “The faculty members not only educate, but they also care and motivate you to be your best. This is my sixth year at Marshall and I am still learning.”

Hatfield also placed second in the Outstanding News Operation category as the station's news director, and collaboratively won second in the Best Continuing Coverage of an Issue category.
Charles G. “Chuck” Bailey was one of nine new inductees into the West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2013.

The faculty manager of WMUL-FM at 88.1 MHz, Marshall’s student-operated radio station, Bailey is also a professor of radio-television production and management in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Bailey has been the faculty manager of WMUL-FM since he began teaching at Marshall in 1985. To date, the radio station’s student broadcasters have won more than 1,300 awards under Bailey’s direction. WMUL-FM has become so successful, so well-known and respected across the country that Bailey said he wouldn’t change a thing.

“I have zero regrets spending my career at Marshall,” Bailey said. “I have found that what we accomplish at WMUL-FM is as good, if not better, than what the vast majority of college radio stations accomplish. There is no other place I would rather be.”

Sarah Diamond Burroway wrote in a letter nominating Bailey for the award that she always admired him for his dedication to West Virginia, Marshall and radio broadcasting.

“Under Bailey’s management, countless Marshall students have developed radio skills that have allowed them to follow their dreams to radio, television and other broadcast jobs, making positive impacts in the market regardless of where they end up,” Burroway noted. “Student broadcasters know the direction and support they receive from Bailey is relevant and professional.”

Bailey has received other recognition for his work with WMUL-FM, including the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from the West Virginia Associated Press Broadcasters Association, the John Marshall Award for Extraordinary Service to West Virginia Higher Education in 2000 and the College Media Advisers Distinguished Four-Year Broadcast Adviser Award in 1995.

Even with all the accolades, Bailey said he cherishes most his time with the students.

“I think my greatest accomplishment has been working with my students building a radio program at Marshall where they can get the most out of their college education by applying what they learn in the classroom and then experiencing success in their chosen fields,” Bailey said.
SOJMC faculty, students take their knowledge on the road

by Laura Hatfield

School of Journalism and Mass Communications faculty and students are taking their knowledge and experiences to area high schools on a mission to discuss journalism and help improve the quality of student media.

Janet Dooley, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, said the new Outreach Program is a new way for the faculty and students to help educate future journalists.

“We’ve always been a resource for area high schools when they’ve had questions, but we’ve never been this proactive about linking with high schools in the region,” Dooley said. “This is an opportunity for establishing long-term relationships.”

Hanna Francis, graduate student and outreach coordinator, said with the budget cuts in public schools, more programs are being cut and a lot of times journalism may be one of them.

“Our professors and students are traveling to schools around the area to try and help out where the systems are lacking,” Francis said. “Our goal was to retain that interest and get them to consider Marshall University’s School of Journalism (and Mass Communications) as the next step.”

Francis said finding the college students to visit high schools was rather easy.

“I think the journalism school at Marshall is a really special place; students just love it,” Francis said. “I have a waiting list of people who want to go talk about our program, our internships and job opportunities.”

Francis said overall, she hopes the high school students gain something beneficial from the visits.

“I hope we leave a lasting impression with the students we visit,” Francis said. “I hope they hear something that interests them. I hope they see journalism as a viable and exciting career.”

The faculty and staff of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications have plans to visit at least 15 schools this year as part of the Outreach Program.

Hapney honored with Public Relations Professor of the Year award

by Laura Hatfield

Terry Hapney, associate professor of public relations with the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications, has been named the 2013 Public Relations Educator of the Year by the Public Relations Society of America’s West Virginia Chapter.

“It’s a great honor to receive this award. I am humbled by it,” Hapney said. “But while it is great to win awards, it’s more important to me to receive the seal of approval from my discipline’s professional organization.”

Recognitions such as this one, the Worthington, Ky., native said, allow him to see in what areas the public relations program at Marshall is strong, and in what areas he can help it — and his students — grow. Hapney said his students are his main focus as an educator.

“My goal is to ensure my undergraduate and graduate students have the strongest foundations and portfolios they can when they leave Marshall University to take on roles as professional public relations practitioners in nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, entertainment, sports, tourism, government, politics and health care.”

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I am delighted to have joined Marshall University this summer as the first permanent director of the School of Music and Theatre. I am fortunate to lead a faculty who, in addition to being internationally recognized experts in their fields, share a commitment to bringing their passion for the performing arts to our students as we work together to prepare them for the challenges they face as performing artists in the 21st century.

I have a wide variety of experiences that I bring to bear as I begin my tenure as the director of the School of Music and Theatre. I hold oboe performance degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the Juilliard School and Florida State University. I have been heard as an oboe soloist, chamber and orchestral musician around the world, performing concerts throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas. I have appeared as a soloist with ensembles as diverse as The Dubuque Symphony, The University of Hawaii Wind Ensemble, The Carson Symphony, Banda Espinia de Portugal and the Orquesta Sinfonica de El Salvador. The Dubuque Telegraph Herald has written “Kravchak’s playing revealed a real beauty of tone, not monolithic, but always changing in color and intensity. He makes even the most difficult lines seem almost effortless.” The Florida Flambeau raved “Kravchak made a good case for his virtuosity,” I have been invited to present solo performances at conferences and festivals including The International Double Reed Society, The North American Saxophone Alliance, Festival Forfest, the International Clarinet Society and many others. My pedagogy has been widely recognized by my colleagues. I was the first California teacher to receive National Board Certification in music education. I have also received a Platinum Apple Award from the United Teachers of Los Angeles, a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year award from the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and have been a finalist for a Bravo Award, granted by the Music Center of Los Angeles. I received the Dunsay award from the Music Center, as the Bravo Award finalist who “did the most with the fewest resources.” As an administrator at California State University Dominguez Hills in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, I was able to bring the performing and visual arts together in a number of joint projects, including an annual arts week that culminated in a showcase that featured the best of our student work in music, theatre, digital media arts and visual arts.

Here at Marshall University, our students will present a number of exciting programs during this school year. In the fall our music and theatre programs collaborated to bring a performance of Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” to downtown Huntington at the Stephenson Auditorium in City Hall. Our 280 member Thundering Heard marching band has appeared on National TV several times, as well as serving as a special guest artist demonstration band at a number of venues throughout the Tri-State area. Our five and drum corps ensemble was featured at the 2013 International Flute Convention in New Orleans. This spring, our Wind Symphony is honored to be invited to appear at Chicago’s Symphony Hall, the home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The theatre program kicks off its exciting season in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse with the Nilo Cruz’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play “Anna in the Tropics.” They will then move to the intimate surroundings of the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre for a production of “Monster,” a new stage adaption of the Mary Shelly’s Frankenstein saga by Obie-Award winning playwright Neal Bell. After our winter production of the comedy “Dead Man’s Cell Phone” written by Pulitzer Prize finalist Sarah Ruhl, we will conclude MU Theatre’s season back in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse with Shakespeare’s classic battle of the sexes, “The Taming of the Shrew.”

As you can see from this sample of student productions, the School of Music and Theatre at Marshall University has a local, regional and national reach in the performing arts. We invite you to be a part of our performing arts community by your presence at our student presentation, your financial support or simply your good wishes. I look forward to personally meeting you and welcoming you into our community of performing arts.

Mozart’s ‘The Magic Flute’ produced in just months

by Josephine Mendez

For the first time in seven years, the School of Music and Theatre presented a full-staged opera complete with orchestra accompaniment.

Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” was led by Professor Linda Dobbs, the director of the MU Opera Theatre, and Professor Elizabeth Reed Smith, the director of the Symphony Orchestra. Dobbs said the two started planning for the opera in spring 2013.

“We wanted to give our students in both the orchestra and the opera a chance to have experience playing full opera,” Dobbs said. “We also have several students graduating this year, and I believe it is very important for students who wish to pursue a career in performance to have this type of experience on their résumés.”

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Dobbs describes “The Magic Flute” as the perfect opera for the group. She said the music was not too difficult for the orchestra or the singers, it contained just the right amount of small and large parts and the music was “simply exquisite.”

The play centers on Prince Tamino who falls in love with The Queen of the Night’s daughter Pamina. Pamina is being held captive and in order to save her Tamino must face three tests, which can only be completed with the help of a magic flute.

Members of the opera began working on the opera individually in the summer, and when school commenced in August, Dobbs said the majority of them had most of their parts memorized.

“The group did an enormous amount of work on their own,” Dobbs said. “They can really be commended, because it was very apparent from the beginning that they wanted to do it so they were so motivated to make everything work out.”

Dobbs and Smith put the opera together in less than eight weeks, with the singers meeting three times a week and the orchestra meeting twice a week. In that time they were able to obtain all the costumes needed from Ken Fox at Magic Makers Costumes and recruit Howard Reynolds, a lighting, design and technology professor, to assist them.

A former student of Dobbs did the cast members’ hair and makeup.

“It was kind of like a community event,” Dobbs said. “I couldn’t have done it without the help of so many people.”

Opening night for the “The Magic Flute” opera was 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium in Huntington City Hall with a matinee performance at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20.

“I was so proud of the students for all of the fine work that they did, and I think they feel the same way,” Dobbs said. “We really showed the Huntington and Marshall communities that opera is something that does not need to be a big mystery. It is not just something for the elite, but it is a genre that is accessible to all audiences and performers in training.”

National Art Education Association student chapter officers Kayla Varndell and Shelby Spence (pictured), as well as graduate student Nicholas Karabetsos and Art and Design ambassador Jillian Smallwood (not pictured), worked with the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce to decorate storefronts for PATH to the CURE in September 2013.
Once a year, for the past 56 years, musicians from all over the world have met to honor one another in an event known as the Grammy Awards. Although the Grammy Awards are known for paying tribute to musicians who are already famous, they also recognize musicians who are not as well known, including Richard Kravchak, the director for the School of Music and Theatre at Marshall.

Kravchak and his band The Tapestry Ensemble were nominated for category 75, which honors new chamber music by a small group. The group is comprised of four members: Kravchak who plays the oboe, Julia Heinen who plays the clarinet, Ovidiu Marinescu who plays the cello and Dmitry Rachmanov who plays piano.

“Winning a Grammy is a long shot,” Kravchak said. “But we are hoping that the quality of the work and the fact that it is unusual will get us there. The chances of being a winner are almost zero because there is so much competition. But it is still very exciting and humbling to be considered for such a prestigious honor.”

The piece under consideration for the award is “New York Moments,” the title track on their new album, which was released in October 2012. The piece was composed by Gernot Wolfgang and contains three movements, “East River Funk,” “After Hours” and lastly “Avenue A and 2nd.”

The Tapestry Ensemble was nominated for the award by their record label Parma. People who worked at the label were also members of the Grammy Foundation.

“I think something that will set us apart is our unusual combination of instruments,” Kravchak said. “Probably about 85 percent of the groups nominated will be string quartets because that is chamber music that everybody knows. So we should definitely stand out.”

All of the members are professors at various universities spread out across the country. Heinen and Rachmanov teach at California State University, Northridge, and Marinescu teaches at West Chester University in Pennsylvania near Philadelphia. Because of the distance between the four, along with their busy schedules, Kravchak said making the record was a long and grueling process that lasted more than a year.

“It took a lot of hard work to make the album, but it will all be worth it in the end if we win,” Kravchak said. “Our category is not one that will be on the broadcast, but that’s OK — the Grammy trophy is exactly the same for Beyoncé as it is for category 75.”
The new College of Arts and Media is grateful for the continuing support of many friends, alumni and donors. Without your support, much of the work we do to enhance the education of our students would not be possible. The College of Arts and Media was created July 1, 2013, and combines the schools of Art and Design, Journalism and Mass Communications and Music and Theatre.

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