

## Marshall University's Memorial Fountain Preservation

At the heart of the Marshall University campus stands the Memorial Fountain – a visible reminder of the lives and futures lost through this tragedy and chronicled in the film, *We Are ... Marshall*. The beloved Harry Bertoia sculpture speaks of the continuation and perpetuation of life after tragedy. Visitors seek it out, and for students and alumni it is a landmark-- a statement of overcoming pain, constancy of spirit, and a flowing future.

After thirty-five years of gracing the Memorial Plaza, the base of the statue, the reflecting pool, and the electrical and plumbing components need repair. A structural engineer evaluated the Fountain and indicated the need for restoration within the next 12 months. This process presented the opportunity for a redesign of the Fountain's pool to enhance the presentation and make a bolder statement for the sculpture in the Memorial Plaza.



These repairs and renovations represent more than cosmetic improvements to the Fountain. Structurally, 35 years of exposure to running water and to the elements weakened the base. To preserve this important piece of public art and Marshall University history, repairs began immediately.

*(Continued on back page)*

### ABOUT THE SCULPTOR

**Harry Bertoia** was born in San Lorenzo Italy in 1915. At 15, he visited his brother in Detroit, Michigan where he stayed to attend Cass Technical High School for talented students in the arts and science. He later attended the Art School of the Detroit Society of the Arts and Crafts and to the Cranbrook Academy of Art. In 1939, Bertoia was invited to re-open the department of metalworking at Cranbrook. During World War II, with metal hard to come by, Bertoia could not make large metal sculptures so he turned to jewelry making. After Cranbrook, Bertoia experimented with molded plywood in furniture design as functional art. He also worked in Research and Development at Evans Products Company and Point Loma Naval Electrical Lab furthering the war effort and making sculptures after hours. In 1950, Bertoia moved to Pennsylvania to work with Hans and Florence Knoll with full freedom – and credit -- to design furniture and sculpture. This began a long period of successful commissions including the MIT Chapel reredos (screens); the General Motors Technical Center; and beginning in 1960 an exploration of tonal sculptures. From 1953 to 1978, Harry Bertoia created over 50 public sculptures – the Marshall Memorial Fountain is among these creations.



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## Spring Hill Cemetery Memorial Receives Facelift



Overlooking the city of Huntington and the Marshall University campus, on a quiet hill in Spring Hill Cemetery, is the memorial for the six players who were laid to rest together. This site is a memorial to their lives, and in remembrance of the additional lives lost in the crash. Time and the elements also have taken a toll on this monument. Cracked concrete, damaged markers and deterioration of the monument affect the aesthetics of the memorial and its accessibility for visitors. Through a generous donation from Summer, Nelson, Thompson Foundation the cemetery site is receiving its own renovations. This project will be completed on the same schedule as the Memorial Fountain with a private rededication ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, April 9th at 3:30 p.m.

## Fountain Preservation *(Continued from front)*

On Wednesday, December 5, 2007, Marshall's buildings and grounds crew began preparations for the project by stabilizing the Fountain. The sculpture was reinforced and lifted by crane on January 24, 2008. After moving the Fountain from the base, the old pool was demolished and prepared for the installation of a new black granite reflecting pool with a copper base to enhance the Fountain. This design, by Donald Van Horn, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, maintains the Fountain's character and presentation of other Bertoia public sculptures. Marshall's project directors, Mark Cutlip, Dale Osborne and Tony Crislip,

have taken great care in their efforts to protect, preserve, and reinforce the delicate piping that creates the graceful curve of the sculpture and guides the gentle flow of water.

The project is on target: expectations are for the base to be completed and the sculpture moved back into position on March 26, 2008. A rededication of the sculpture as a memorial to those we lost will be held on the Memorial Student Center Plaza on Wednesday, April 9th, 1:30 pm. Mark your calendars now and watch for details.

## SAVE THE DATE!

*save the date*

**REDEDICATION AND TURNING ON  
 THE MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN  
 Wednesday, April 9th 2008  
 1:30 PM on the Plaza**

**SPRING HILL CEMETERY DEDICATION  
 Private ceremony  
 Wednesday, April 9th, 2008  
 3:30pm**