

# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MARCH 6, 2009

## Thirty-five Students Join 6th Annual Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

One hundred six students, including 35 from Marshall University, will take part in the sixth annual Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol in Charleston on Thursday, March 12.

Joining Marshall at the Capitol are students from Alderson-Broadbent College, Bluefield State College, Concord University, Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, Shepherd University, the University of Charleston, West Virginia University, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Wheeling-Jesuit University and WVU Institute of Technology.

Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol runs from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Students will present their discoveries in poster format and talk to legislators about their findings. The projects are original research and the posters have been designed for a general audience.

Students will present their posters in the areas of biochemistry, biology, chemistry, computer science and information technology, criminal justice, engineering, English, environmental studies, geography, geology, history, history / anthropology / sociology, mathematics, physics, political science and psychology.

"Marshall's participation has grown over the years and we're really pleased that the 35 students presenting at the Capitol is our largest group ever," said Michael Castellani, chair of Marshall's chemistry department and co-chair of the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol Steering Committee. "We're also really excited that the College of Information Technology and Engineering has a group of students presenting for the first time, which is a big plus for the university."

The following is a list of Marshall University's participants, along with their home counties or cities, disciplines, research posters and advisors:

- Wendi Livingston, Cabell County, and Samantha Fox, Randolph County (Psychology) – "Automatic and Effortful Processing in Memory." – Steven Mewaldt, advisor
- Terry Boyce, Jr., Cabell County (Biology) – "Role of Pten in Mouse Oocyte Development." – Guo-Zhang Zhu, advisor
- Josh Hafer, Jackson County, and Paul Stokes, Cabell County (Physics) – "Numerical Relativity and Gravitational Waveform Modeling." – Maria Babiuc-Hamilton, advisor
- Emily Vargo, Putnam County (Environmental Studies) – "The Relationship Between Coal River Bacteria Levels and House Concentration." – Tom Jones, advisor

- Clyde Meador, Cabell County (Mathematics) – "Numerical Methods and the Rabinovich-Fabrikant System." – Scott Sarra, advisor
- Daniel Velazquez, Cabell County (Physics) – "Effect of an Electric Field on a Wannier-Mott Exciton in a Semiconductor Quantum Dot." – Huong Nguyen, advisor
- Nicholas Gardner, Cabell County (Biology) – "Investigations into the Structure of Lizard Mandibular Symphyses." – Casey Holliday, advisor

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## Kandice Napier Named Employee of the Month

Kandice Napier, Academic Advisor, College of Liberal Arts Deans Office, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for February, according to Amber Bentley, Chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since February 2000, she was nominated by David Pittenger and Marybeth Beller.

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*Kandice Napier (left) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.*

## Michael Cornfeld

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Park in Huntington," he wrote in part. "Viewing the movement of trees and the filtering of light through the grids of windows has been a great delight. The contrast of simple architectural spaces and rhythms with the natural volumes, fluidity and the value range of the exteriors is continually intriguing."

In addition to drawing and painting Cornfeld has worked extensively as a weaver, drawing accolades for his own pieces while instructing students in the art. Although his wife, Melissa, was already a talented and experienced weaver, his own foray into that field came about years ago purely by chance. "The chairman of the Art Department at that time, Arthur Carpenter, had four table looms that had been part of what was then the Home Economics department. They weren't being used anymore and he didn't know what to do with them. He asked me if I knew anyone who would know how to use them and I said, 'Sure, my wife.' So I began to work with them with plenty of help from Melissa. I found that weaving is a very logical process... There are many steps in weaving but they are logical and they offer many possibilities."

With his newly developed expertise, he began offering weaving classes to Marshall students, who filled his classes eager to learn the ancient art. "Art students in particular have found weaving to be quite rewarding. It's a very rational, organized way of working and it even seems to have a calming influence on people. It gives the weaver many choices, color choices for example, and a new way of working and mixing colors." And now majors in the department of Art and Design can choose to take a weaving class as part of the curriculum which requires them to select two classes in 3-dimensional media.

Of course, he's seen changes both to the campus and to Art and Design department during his 42-year tenure, and they've been good ones, he believes. "When I came to Marshall the art department was in the teacher's college and we basically were training teachers. Then as the departments of music, art, and theater combined we became a School of Fine Arts and, shortly thereafter, the College of Fine Arts. The focus began to shift to training art professionals...we trained students to be painters, sculptors, printmakers and many went on to graduate school and became professional artists."

As the world of art continues to change and evolve, other opportunities are opening up. In addition to traditional art paths, Marshall students can choose graphic design and photography, while potential new areas of interest such as animation, multimedia, textile design and interior design are being explored, he says.

And now, as he's edging toward retirement, he's thinking about some future paths of his own. There will always be his painting, drawing and weaving of course. With their sons, Aaron, a management consultant who lives in Maryland, and Joel, a lawyer in Chicago, on their own, he and Melissa, a retired art teacher, are looking forward to traveling and visiting lots of museums. Travel, in fact, has always been a big part of the Cornfelds' lives. In addition to family travel, he has guided student groups through visits to Russia, Italy and Paris. Then there is the annual trek to New York City where Art and Design students and faculty alike can explore their own interests. He also plans to continue his work with the Huntington Museum of Art, where he's a board member and a former docent.

"The arts have always been a big part of our lives," he says. "We have a lot invested in this community and we want to give back. I've been very fortunate to work with terrific people in Art and Design, the College and the Dean's Office. As an art teacher you're very involved with the work of your students and when they do exceptional pieces, it makes me very proud."

## Undergraduate Research Day

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- Ashley Johnson, Cabell County, Sarah Wolfe, Logan County, and Anna Persinger, Kanawha County (Psychology) – "The Role of Attachment and Clinical Issues in SSRI Treatment of Depression." – Marc Lindberg, advisor
- Jill Moore, Cabell County, Allison Henry, Cabell County, and Brandee Marion, Cabell County (Psychology) – "Pain Management: New Methods of Coping." – Marc Lindberg, advisor
- Camden Clutter, Harrison County, Shawn Cotton, Cabell County, and Gilbert Smith, III, Cabell County (Computer Science/Information Technology) – "Development of a Stereo Vision System for Unmanned Aquatic Vehicles." – Venkat Gudivada, advisor
- William Kelly, Jr., Wayne County (Biology) – "High-density Bioreactor Fermentation of the Microalga *Chlorella pyrenoidosa* for Bio-diesel Production." – Jagan Valluri, advisor
- Danielle Clark, Cabell County, and Rachel Blake, Cabell County (Chemistry) – "Determining the Sites of Galactation in Human Blood Proteins." – Menashi Cohenford, advisor
- Dana Lycans, Wayne County (Biochemistry) – "The Structural Determination of Alzheimer's Disease-Related Ribonucleic Acids." – Bin Wang, advisor
- Salina Lyter, Lincoln County, and Adam Cook, Russell, Ky. (Biology) – "Effects of Freezing on Soil Nitrogen Dynamics of a West Virginia Hardwood Forest." – Frank Gilliam, advisor
- Gregory Sammons, Mingo County (Biology) – "Development of Adult-Derived Stem Cells for Parkinson's Disease Therapy." – Elmer Price, advisor
- Lauren Brooks, Mercer County (Biology) – "Effects of Excessive Nitrogen on Diameter Growth and Foliar Nutrients in Forest Trees." – Jeffrey May, advisor
- Adam Short, Kanawha County, Carrie Ferguson, Kanawha County, and Mallory Douthitt, Cabell County (Biology) – "Comparative Genomics of Diverse Isolates of *Acanthamoeba*." – Wendy Trzyna, advisor
- Ian McKenzie, Nicholas County, Hannah Mick, Jackson County, and April Morales, Cabell County (Biology) – "Altered Gravity Modified Gene Expression in *Arabidopsis thaliana*." – Jagan Valluri, advisor
- Laura Mitchell, Rock Hill, S.C. (Biology) – "The Role of Familiarity in Determining Group Dynamics among Crayfish." – Brian Antonsen, advisor
- Zachary Tackett, Proctorville, Ohio (Biochemistry) – "Analysis and Molecular Epidemiology of Common and Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* Isolates in a Micropolis Population." – Menashi Cohenford, advisor
- Cole Hale, Ohio County (Art & Design) – Program cover artist. – Mary Grassell, advisor

For more information on Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol, contact Castellani at 304-696-6486.

# HADCO Contributes to 'Bucks for Brains' Initiative

Huntington Area Development Council (HADCO) has contributed \$50,000 to the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (MIIR) as part of West Virginia's "Bucks for Brains" initiative.



The Huntington Area Development Council (HADCO) presented Marshall University President Dr. Stephen J. Kopp with a check for \$50,000 to support the "Bucks for Brains" initiative Feb. 26. Pictured are, from left, Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation, Inc.; Dr. Eric Kmiec, Director and Lead Research Scientist of the Marshall University Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (MIIR); Gerald McDonald, President of HADCO; David Graley, former Chairman of HADCO; John Maher, Vice President for Research with the Marshall University Research Corp; President Kopp; Romie Mundy, Secretary of HADCO; and Brent Marsteller, Chairman of HADCO.

The gift is the result of the passage of the Research Trust Fund bill, which allocates \$15 million to Marshall University and \$35 million to West Virginia University as research endowment trust funds to be matched by contributions from each institution's foundation.

"We are pleased to support this initiative as it will strengthen Marshall University as a research institution and help develop technology based jobs for our region," said Gerald McDonald, president of HADCO.

Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., said the university is extremely pleased to receive support from HADCO to further its efforts in the "Bucks for Brains" campaign.

"This type of investment from a Huntington organization strengthens our entire community and signals a voice of confidence in the research investment that we are planning for the future in this area," he said.

HADCO is a nonprofit economic development organization with the mission of creating new jobs in Cabell and Wayne counties. Aggressive marketing by HADCO has helped bring more than 30 new companies to the area resulting in more than \$500 million in new capital investment and more than 10,000 new jobs.

## Early Education Center Enrollment Underway for 2009-2010

Marshall University's Early Education Center (MUEEC) is now enrolling children for the 2009-2010 school year. Children must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2009 to qualify for enrollment.

A collaborative Cabell County Pre-K program, the center is open throughout the fall and spring semesters (August through June of the following year) and follows the Marshall University calendar with a few exceptions. It is open from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

"MUEEC's inquiry approach to early education promotes social competency, communication abilities, thinking processes, feelings of self-worth, aesthetic appreciation and independence," said Kelly Walker, lead teacher for the center. "Our staff has worked diligently to develop teaching methods, support, and resources for both pre-service and in-service early childhood professionals who seek to incorporate co-constructed learning while dealing with contemporary issues in assessment, standards and accountability. The MUEEC staff believes that a quality early childhood experience should not be lost in today's tendency to rush childhood."

For more information, contact Walker at 304-696-3498 or by e-mail at [kirk9@marshall.edu](mailto:kirk9@marshall.edu).

## RTI Sponsors Student Competition in GIS

The Nick J. Rahall II Appalachian Transportation Institute (RTI) is sponsoring its first *Student GIS Project Competition* to challenge undergraduate and graduate students to demonstrate the development and effective use of Geographic Information Science (GIS) and technology in their field of study and the community.

The first-place winner receives \$500 and a certificate, and the second-place winner receives \$300 and a certificate. To be eligible for the competition, participants must be enrolled in Marshall University for the 2008-2009 academic year. Projects may be class projects, research projects or internship projects related to Geographic Information Science (GIS) and technology

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## WE ARE... MARSHALL®



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of March 20, 2009. Deadline is March 13. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).

## Note of Thanks

We would like to thank members of the Marshall community and physical plant for their recent donation of vacation and sick leave time.

Leonard and Sandra Varney

## Profile: Michael Cornfeld

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Michael Cornfeld

The shadowed doorway in the drawing beckons visitors. Dappled light peeks through double windows and spills out onto the floor, while softly highlighting two pictures arranged on a wall. Inside, steep wooden steps lead up to an unknown nook or cranny, tantalizingly just out of sight. We know it's afternoon because the artist tells us so in his enigmatic title, *Afternoon II*.

The primarily black-and-white, prismatic pencil drawing which graces a corridor wall on the third floor of the Administration Building on the South Charleston campus, is the work of MU faculty member and associate dean of the College of Fine Arts Michael Cornfeld, who has been instructing and encouraging students in his art classes for the past 42 years. It is part of the art collection put together by the Marshall University Graduate College Art Committee in 1995. Part of the committee's goal was to collect and showcase the outstanding work and talents of West Virginia artists.

Cornfeld certainly belongs in that category, although he is a native of New York. Since coming to Marshall in 1967, he's mentored legions of students who have passed through the art department, while continuing to turn out his own work in drawing, painting and weaving. He was born in Brooklyn, but later lived in Schenectady and Syracuse before moving as a high school student to Owensboro, Ky. in 1959. And even as a young teenager his flair for design and art was evident--a talent his parents encouraged by buying him art supplies.

He earned an A.B. degree from Indiana University in 1964 and a Master of Fine Arts with a painting major followed at Carnegie Mellon University, which was then known as Carnegie Institute of Technology. And although he was a painter, his work during that time was mostly in black and white, resembling, he says, drawings done in paint. It was a distinction he has continued to use throughout his career.

"I like drawing in charcoal, pastels or pencils, you can just stop and then pick it up again," he explains. "You don't have to worry about paint drying and I like the spontaneity of using these materials, you can add, erase or change easily."

Therefore it was quite a departure for him when he mounted 12 paintings done primarily in pastels for a just-ended exhibit in the Birke Art Gallery that showcased not only his work, but the works of about 25 of his former students. He produced three categories of four paintings, each alive with pastel colors and varying in size. "It's one of the first times I've used so much color," he admits.

"I was so gratified to see what my former students are doing. I hadn't seen many of them in several years, but they agreed to be part of this show and sent work, so I thought that was terrific," he says.

He explains the essence of his body of work in a revealing commentary he made in the art catalog put together to accompany the Graduate College's art collection.

"I am particularly drawn to landscapes because of the attractive setting of our home on the edge of Ritter

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## Kandice Napier

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In their nomination they wrote, "'Students First' is the new motto of the College of Liberal Arts. Kandice Napier's daily work is an active demonstration of this student-centered attitude. As Academic Advisor for the College of Liberal Arts, Kandice took the leadership to engage in a project that created a tremendous amount of work for her and provided a clear benefit for all Liberal Arts students. As of this year the College of Liberal Arts has implemented a mandatory advising hold for all juniors and seniors who have not had a formal evaluation of their academic process. This evaluation ensures that students receive timely, accurate and complete information regarding their progress toward graduation. By taking this step, Kandice took on an additional 400 evaluations to complete this semester so that juniors and seniors may register in the spring more fully aware of their academic progress. Kandice has worked diligently to accomplish this task along with her already demanding duties. She is making advising in the College of Liberal Arts more effective for our students and we are grateful for her foresight and her willingness to go out of her way for the students of Marshall University."

And, they conclude, "Kandice demonstrates sincere compassion for each student with whom she works. She counsels students who are not ready to graduate by helping them find the most efficient means of completing their degrees. She also is sensitive to students' needs...In brief, Kandice is one of the best representatives of the student-centered philosophy one can find in the college and university. All students benefit directly from her work and compassion."

She was presented with a plaque and a check for \$100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

## RTI Competition

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The winning project must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The project makes significant contribution to advance new theories and methods of Geographic Information Science and technology.
- 2) The project demonstrates excellence and innovation in applying theories and methods of Geographic Information Science and technology.

To enter, graduate and undergraduate students must submit a research paper, which must not exceed eight pages, double-spaced with a 12-point font, in electronic form (.pdf) to RTI Research Associate Sang Yoo at [syoo@njarati.org](mailto:syoo@njarati.org). The deadline for entry is 4 p.m., Friday, May 1. Winners are announced Friday, May 15.

A committee of RTI researchers and Marshall University faculty will review and evaluate submitted papers and choose the two winning projects. Awards will be presented at RTI headquarters. The competition judges and award committee are: Juan Barrios, David Lawson and Sang Yoo, RTI; Dr. James Leonard and Dr. Anita Walz, Marshall University Department of Geography; and James Wolfe, Marshall University College of Information Technology and Engineering.

For more information, contact Errin Jewell, Public Affairs Specialist, at ext.6-7165 or [ejewell@njarati.org](mailto:ejewell@njarati.org), or Sang Yoo, Research Associate, at [syoo@njarati.org](mailto:syoo@njarati.org).