Marshall Jazz Festival Starts Jan. 29

The 35th Annual Jazz Festival, sponsored by the Department of Music, is scheduled in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse Jan. 29 to 31.

Evening concerts on Thursday and Saturday begin at 8 p.m. Admission is $5 and tickets may be purchased at the door.

Organizers say this year’s festival will have some changes and improvements. First, as part of the festival, the Marshall University Artists Series will present Arturo Sandoval on Friday evening, Jan. 30. Sandoval will appear with his quartet in the Keith-Albee Theater with a return to the kind of large-venue production that first established the Marshall Jazz Festival as one of the highest quality musical events in this region.

This year’s festival adds the “Thundering Herd All-Stars” jazz ensemble to the concert schedule. Building on the success of the summer Jazz-MU-Tazz student ensemble, the “All-Star” ensemble will headline the 35th Annual Jazz Festival Jan. 30.

(continued on page 2)

Marshall Open for Business on Parentage Testing

The Marshall University Parentage Testing Services was announced last month by President Dan Angel. It has been characterized as the university’s premier economic development biotechnology venture.

“Marshall University Parentage Testing Services is working in the Forensic Science Center brought this venture to fruition. The realization of this vision is an example of Marshall’s continuing strides towards National Prominence.”

The university’s Parentage Testing Services provides DNA testing for paternity, forensic cases, immigration status, social security benefits, inheritance disputes, kinship relationships, and personal identification.

The addition of forensic paternity testing also expands the services the Marshall University Forensic Science Center offers to law enforcement.

“Providing paternity and identification testing are a couple of the applications that employ the DNA technology available in our Dr. Terry Fenger, director of the Forensic Science program at Marshall, also participated in the press conference.

(continued on page 2)
MUAA Seeks New Members for Board of Directors

The Marshall University Alumni Association is seeking names to place on a ballot as it prepares to elect new members to its board of directors.

Anyone who wishes to nominate a person for the board may do so by contacting the alumni office at (304) 696-2901 or (800) 682-5869, or by sending an e-mail to hudson2@marshall.edu by Monday, Jan. 26. The MUAA plans to send ballots to active members early in February 2004.

The Marshall University Alumni Association, founded in 1931, has four primary goals. They include:

- Raising $3 million for construction of a new Erickson Alumni Center;
- Marketing the online community;
- Recruiting students; and,   
- Developing the alumni club network around the country

"Now is a great time to be an active participant in the alumni association," said Lance West, vice president for alumni development at Marshall. "Now, more than ever, we need alumni and friends to get involved as we continue to grow and spread the word about this great university."

To qualify as a board member, a person must:

- Be an active member of the alumni association, which includes making an annual gift to the Marshall University Foundation, Inc.;
- Be energetic and enthusiastic in support of the university, and concerned that it will realize its full growth and potential;

(continued on page 4)

Paternity Testing from Page 1

Dr. Rob Allen is consulting director for the paternity testing services.

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(continued on page 4)

Jazz Festival from Page 1

Students have been selected from participating high school ensembles to perform during the final concert on Saturday evening.

Marshall’s faculty ensemble, “Bluetrane,” has added Jay Flippin, a professor emeritus of piano at Morehead State University, to the faculty group this year.

In addition, the Bridgeport (WV) High School Jazz Ensemble has been selected to perform for the Festival’s Thursday evening audience. The ensemble was chosen from the festival participants through a competitive audition.

Daytime events include clinics and non-competitive adjudication in the Jomie Jazz Center and the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. The Marshall Jazz Ensemble, the Thundering Herd All-Stars and members of Marshall’s music faculty will perform at the closing concert on Saturday evening.
Profile: Lynda Holup

A series on interesting Marshall University people.

She turns wonderfully scented flowers and herbs into intriguing drinks, is president of an investment club with a social conscience and is an avid gardener.

For Lynda Holup, who is the biotechnology business developer and business manager for the Forensic Science Center, life is a mosaic of her many-sided interests. And her career path reflects the same wide-ranging collection of professional accomplishments.

She’s been at Marshall since 1997, having spent the previous 10 years working as a private business and organizational consultant for the state and for both private companies and nonprofit groups. She lived in Charleston for several years and worked for a nonprofit company which focused on worker cooperatives and worker-owned cooperatives.

She came to Marshall after answering an ad for a new position which had been created by Dr. Terry Fenger, Director of Marshall University Forensic Science Center. At the time, the Forensic Science program was rapidly expanding and growing in stature, gaining national attention.

“There was a vision of what the Forensic Science program could be,” said Holup. “Marshall had students who were getting M.S. degrees in Forensic Science, creating a pool of very talented and skilled scientists. That, together with the DNA database lab for the state police, CODIS, created the infrastructure to develop other projects and to move into economic development in the region. We have a functioning DNA lab here, the only one in the country affiliated with a university, and we have a pool of talented and trained people coming out of our programs.”

“I had been on my own for 10 years, developing a book, consulting, working on publishing,” she reflects. “I was a sole proprietor and I was ready for a change. I was ready to work in a team atmosphere ... I knew it would be a challenge for me to come here, but this was an opportunity to be the first biotechnology business developer for the Forensic Science Center program. I would have the opportunity to create something.”

And surprisingly, even though she came to the job with a scant scientific background, she worked hard to make that into an asset. She often has to translate complex scientific concepts into language that a lay person can easily grasp.

“I learned a lot through osmosis,” she admits. “I am sort of a person who can get an understanding of what we’re doing in the laboratory and either write it or convey it another way to the general public. I do a lot of explanations for those who want to know what we’re doing but who don’t need a lot of detailed information”

In fact, to bolster her knowledge of what goes on at the biotechnology center, one of her first moves after accepting the job was to go into the lab and observe firsthand how it operated.

(continued on page 4)
“One of the first things I wanted to get a handle on was the cost of the process that was being used.” Holup recalls. “I spent a lot of time in the lab with the lab people, trying to understand everything they did so that I could get a good understanding of the technical background and associated costs. That was extremely helpful to me and it was a good experience.”

The center receives funding from the National Institute of Justice and Holup says because of the efforts of Sen. Robert C. Byrd’s office, programs have been able to grow. She is the liaison between Marshall’s program and the Federal program and manages their cooperative agreements.

At the core of the center’s program is the Combined DNA Index System, or CODIS, which provides data to the West Virginia State Police. She explains it’s a sophisticated database, created to provide DNA profiles of convicted offenders in West Virginia.

“The idea is that once you have a genetic profile of people who are incarcerated for certain crimes, if they escape or are released and subsequently commit another crime and leave biological evidence, then you already have a database with which to match that evidence,” Holup explains. “Now with this DNA technology and large CODIS database, old cases can be solved, even cases as old at 15 to 20 years. They’re solving old crimes now with the big focus on solving sexual assault crimes where the victims didn’t know the attackers. These are cases which are bringing closure to the victims. We think that it’s imperative to solve these old crimes.”

The Forensic Science program, which was begun in 1995, has brought national attention to Marshall. The first class graduated in 1997. According to Holup, 15 students are added each year, but there are hopes of expanding that number. “We’re building an addition to our current facility which will add two classrooms which can handle 25 people each. In addition to the students from West Virginia, we have had students from all over the country and from Romania, Iceland, Canada and the Philippines. The admission process is extremely competitive because there are only 12 graduate programs in this field in the country. As a result, we have very promising future forensic scientists in our program.”

Right now there’s excitement about a just-announced program which will allow paternity testing. “We’ve been working since I came on board to develop the capacity and to have the infrastructure to do paternity testing in the state,” she says “For example, if someone is attempting to get child support, a paternity test is performed to prove who the father of a child is. In the past, all paternity cases were sent out of state. It was one of my goals from the time I came on board to have this done at Marshall. We have the facilities, we have trained people who are proficient to do the testing and we’ve gained the necessary certifications. So now the Marshall University Testing Services is up and running. We can also do paternity and kinship testing for criminal and civil cases, immigration determination and inheritance cases.”

But it’s not all work for the energetic Holup. She has an astonishing array of eclectic interests, all of which she pursues with the same vigor she brings to her job.

She’s president and a founding member of an investment club, formed more than five years ago. The group of

**Film Festival**

**MUAA Board**

**Be available to attend two on-campus board meetings a year, and serve on various MUAA board committees; and,**

**Be willing to assist in his or her home area in promoting Marshall University and the alumni association**

“We need help in finding candidates who are interested in serving the university in this important capacity,” said Tom Harris, president of the alumni association. “We’re looking for people who have a passion for Marshall and a desire to see the university grow and prosper.”

Those elected to the board will serve a term of three years beginning July 1, 2004. Ten new members will be elected, including 5 from the local community and 5 at large.