

# THE PARTHENON

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KELLEY

## Visiting professor talks civil rights, streetcar boycotts

By ALISON WICKLINE  
THE PARTHENON

Blair L. M. Kelley, associate professor of history at North Carolina State University, Tuesday discussed her award-winning book "Right to Ride," which focuses on the events that led to the Plessy v. Ferguson decision in 1896 and early civil rights activism and boycotts of segregated streetcars during the early 1900s.

Between 1900 and 1907, citizens of 25 Southern cities protested segregation on streetcars. In the book, Kelley focuses on three key cities—New Orleans, Richmond and Savannah—and the African-American politics within those cities that were diverse and tangled, and not always mentioned in history books. Kelley tells the stories of the courageous men and women who, with little recognition, faced lynching and urban race riots to fight segregation in a time when racism was raw and unpredictable.

During the early 1900s, African-Americans were expected to sit at the back of streetcars or find alternative modes of transportation. Some streetcars even had movable gates to physically cage African-Americans in the back seats, and some had swivel chairs so African-Americans could face away from white passengers.

Kelley said the activists during this time were fighting for their dignity. Even though slavery had already been abolished, African-Americans were still being treated as separate, inferior individuals.

During her discussion, Kelley introduced the idea that African-Americans did not always unite; in fact, the divisions of gender, ambition and class sometimes drove them apart. She said streetcar companies bought off many city officials and community leaders, which made the fight much tougher.

"Sometimes leaders don't lead and people have to lead themselves," Kelley said.

Kelley said she chose to write her book on the streetcar boycotts and activism of the early 1900s since some people regard the movements as failures because they were during a difficult time for race relations.

"They took place in a time period where we think African-Americans are afraid and unwilling to try to do anything about their circumstances, and they happen at a low point after freedom," Kelley said.

## Blue Man Group stops in for students



ANDREA STEELE | THE PARTHENON  
Blue Man Group music director Jesse Nolan, left, and onstage performer Russell Rinker speak to music students Tuesday in Smith Music Hall.

## Marshall musicians learn from the players behind the paint

By ZACH HAUGHT  
THE PARTHENON

Blue Man Group representatives Russell Rinker and Jesse Nolan hosted a drum and percussion clinic for Marshall University students Tuesday.

Russell Rinker is one of the Blue Man Group's onstage performers, while Jesse Nolan is the music director and percussionist. Rinker and Nolan gave background information on what goes into a show and the audition process.

The music and ways in which to perform are passed on person-to-person, with no official written sheet music to which performers

can refer. Ideas for performance are created in New York City, but are then subject to change as employees of the company collaborate. Each show changes based on what physical requirements the venue meets and audience interaction.

Rinker said it is important to break down these performance ideas while collaborating to brainstorm different approaches. "Never undervalue the process of deconstruction," Rinker said.

Nolan gave advice to those pursuing a performance career.

Nolan said having a positive attitude was just as important as talent. All of Nolan's jobs have

been linked to a job he had before. He said treating co-workers on every level with respect has helped him advance and work consistently. Finding work has also been the result of promoting himself without being forceful or egotistical.

"You never know where your next gig is going to come from," Nolan said. "You need to be OK promoting yourself."

Rinker and Nolan said their history with music in the education system provided a good foundation for their work in the Blue Man Group, but it does not matter from a performance standpoint. Blue Man Group

performances aim to provide visual entertainment.

Shane Stevens, math education major from Huntington, said it was interesting learn about performance beyond what is taught in education. He said presenting oneself is an important aspect of this.

"Here it was about the logistics behind becoming something. After you become that something, you learn the showmanship," Stevens said.

Stevens volunteered to perform in front of Nolan and Rinker. Nolan took a few minutes to teach Stevens a drum beat before stepping back to watch him.

"It'd be stressful if you didn't know what you were doing," Stevens said. "It's just great to feel the wheels turning in your head, especially from someone so accomplished."

The Blue Man Group performed Tuesday at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center and will perform again Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased through the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center by picking them up at the box office or calling 304-696-3326. Tickets are also available on Ticketmaster.com.

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## Planning for Spring 2014

### Midnight Madness to help students avoid late night scheduling struggles

By MASON BEUHRING  
THE PARTHENON

Preregistration at Marshall University can be a frantic and taxing process. Many students, especially first year students, struggle with the daunting task of developing a schedule and traversing the university's student portal, MyMU.

The Marshall University Housing and Residence Life and Student Resource Center are two departments on campus that are actively seeking to help students overcome the hardships of scheduling for next semester's classes.

The two departments are partnering in an event Monday designed to help first year students understand the Marshall MyMU portal. The event will take place in three locations on campus; the Twin Towers East lobby, both the First Year Residence Halls and Buskirk Hall. It will begin 11 p.m. Monday to help students in

their schedule development and last until 1 a.m. Tuesday to fill in any after-scheduling questions.

Amy Lorenz, assistant director of Housing and Residence Life, said students will have five to seven event staff members in each building to assist with their scheduling needs. Members of the staff will include resident advisers, academic mentors and staff from the two departments.

"I think students are prepared to plan out their classes, but I think their biggest concern is at freshman orientation their schedule is handed to them, so they have never had to do this on their own," Lorenz said. "That is the big goal for this event, for them to know how to navigate the system. My hope is that when it comes to scheduling in the spring semester that we will not have to do this again because students will feel prepared to have that done."

Samantha Fox, SRC resource specialist, said event staff will be outfitted with laptops and iPads to help students find the course numbers they will need to schedule for spring semester.

Both departments want students to understand how to navigate Marshall's system so that they are prepared for future semesters to complete this task on their own.

"I hope by coming and learning the ropes, so to say, that they are able to go next semester and not only register themselves, but also help others register," Fox said.

Students who want more information on this event can stop by the SRC, located on the second floor of the Marshall University Memorial Student Center, during their office hours, or visit HRL, which is connected to Holderby Hall.

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## MU named to 'military friendly' school list for fifth-straight year

By KRISTA SHIFFLETT  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University was named to Victory Media's 2014 Friendly Schools list for the fifth year in a row.

The top 20 percent of the 1,868 universities, colleges and trade schools in the country are on the list. These are the schools that are giving military students great opportunities to get a higher education.

Thomas Reynolds, director of military and veterans affairs, said they do their best to help military students who are active in things like ROTC and veterans which are people who are already out there and are going to school as well.

"I think it is Marshall's job to help veterans exceed in higher education," Reynolds said. "We help them get into school, give them counseling if needed and give them transition assistance."

Reynolds was a veteran who achieved his bachelor's degree in social work at Marshall and he said he knows how hard the transition is.

"It is a hard transition to go from being in the military and then trying to get a higher education and being a veteran that went to Marshall, I know exactly what they are going through," he said.

Crystal Stewart, program manager for information technology/MUOnline, said the MUOnline office is working with Marshall's military and veterans affairs office.

"Marshall's MUOnline office has been working in conjunction with Marshall's military veterans affairs office to provide active duty and veterans information and resources they need," she said.

Marshall is having its first Military Friendly Schools Virtual College Fair Nov. 20. Reynolds and Stewart said they are both excited about the fair. They both agree that it is going to be a great opportunity to speak with potential Marshall students and veterans who they may not normally be able to meet.

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# KEITH-ALBEE GOES BLUE

ANNE-MARIE MCREYNOLDS | SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS | MCT



By **ZACH HAUGHT**  
THE PARTHENON

The Blue Man Group took the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center spotlight Tuesday with a performance that captivated audiences.

The group combined elements of music, comedy, theatrics, technology and audience interaction for a unique performance.

Many Marshall University students were in attendance, including Tuesday Moats, junior biology major from Pendleton County, W.Va. Moats said she had only seen the group perform on YouTube.

"It just seemed like a really fun way to listen to music. It's visually entertaining as well as the music is entertaining," Moats said. "I'm kind of hoping they spray paint everywhere."

Brian Simmons, junior geology major from Pendleton County, had only experienced the group online as well. Aware that this tour combines both new and old elements of the show, he said he thought it would be a fun experience.

"I just want to see how they, you know, tie everything together and kind of incorporate

the new stuff with the old stuff," Simmons said.

The show opened to a projection screen rising to reveal the Blue Men. The center Blue Man drummed, splashing neon paint across the stage and into the audience.

A live drummer and keyboardist were featured in a transparent box above the stage. These musicians provided audio that set the tone for the performance.

The Blue Men also played a large role in the show's music. The audience enjoyed a piece in which the Blue Men drummed on plumbing pipes, adjusting the lengths to create interesting sounds.

Several large screens hung from the ceiling mimicking iPhones. The audience found humor in the illusions the Blue Men performed while playing with the phone's "applications."

Michael Peterson, junior biology major from Chesapeake, Va., said he was looking forward to this variety of methods for entertainment. He said that the show's enjoyment could not be limited to one particular aspect.

"I don't think there's one thing that you can enjoy," Peterson said. "I think like the music and like the lights and a bunch of guys in blue paint just put on an awesome show."

While the show provided light-hearted entertainment, it provided social commentary on daily interactions. Screens were used to have two-dimensional characters text each other, unwilling to speak face to face.

Connecting with the audience was a large part of the show. The Blue Men frequently entered the crowd to pick an attendee to partake in the performance, including swinging the attendee's paint-soaked body against canvas to create a piece of art.

The Blue Men connected to Huntington at

large as well. In a comedy segment involving a radio, the Blue Men stopped on the Marshall basketball game against Rio Grande, receiving a positive response.

Audience interaction reached its peak at the show's closing. A voice came over the sound system informing the audience that it was a dance party. The audience danced, laughed and cheered as music played, streamers were shot and large glowing balls were bounced throughout the venue.

The Blue Man Group will perform at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center again at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

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ZACH HAUGHT | THE PARTHENON

LEFT: The Blue Man Group celebrates after the end of a performance featuring a percussive instrument with colored orbs that light up when struck. The group's performance Tuesday combined music, comedy, theatrics, technology and audience interaction to create the phenomenon that is Blue Man Group.

## TODAY IN THE LIFE!

OPENING  
THIS WEEK

"Nebraska"

"The Best Man Holiday"

"Charlie Countryman"

"Dear Mr. Watterson"

"Faust"

"12-12-12"

## WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Will we ever know what the fox says? Ylvis' viral hit "The Fox (What Does the Fox Say?)" will be transformed into a children's book. That's right, kids will now learn that the "ducks say quack" and "fish go blub" thanks to the lyrics composed by Norwegian comedic brothers Bard and Vegard Ylvisaker. Published by Simon & Schuster, the book will pair images with the lyrics in a 32-pages attempting to answer the eternal question, "But what does the fox say?"

## SMILE ZAC!

Sorry ladies, Zac Efron won't be flashing that smile for a while. The actor's mouth was wired shut after he slipped at the entrance of his L.A.-area home Sunday and broke his jaw, E! News reports. Efron also suffered a gash that required stitches. He is expected to make a full recovery.

## #HASHTAG OF THE YEAR

Justin Timberlake joins Matthew McConaughey, Kendrick Lamar, Will Ferrell and the late James Gandolfini on separate covers of GQ's 18th annual Men of the Year issue. The singer, actor and constant trending topic opens up about his reputation following the albums, movies and viral videos with Jimmy Fallon that made him a MOTY. "I don't see myself as someone who's ever going to be defined by one moment," Timberlake told GQ. "It's on the next." The December issue of the magazine hits newsstands Nov. 19.