I like the interesting aspects that you can do on the trombone, things that you can’t do on other instruments,” he said.

Both students give up most of their Saturday when they help at the Frank Arts Center with the first ever “Trombone Day” sponsored by the Shepherd University Music Department.

The enthusiasm was lost on Dr. James Ryan, director of the trombone who also went on to accentuate his students to this musical instrument - both personally and professionally. "After having discovered it in junior high school, I can not live without it," he said.

At 17 years old and they wanted someone in the high school band to go to a game and play it in Ocean City, he said. "I didn’t play, but I was able to do so if I would also take trombone lessons. So they found a really good teacher. Started taking lessons and in six months, I am ready to play it.

See TRITUMBO E2

Dr. James Ryan, trombone and David Cole, piano, perform during a Recital at the Shepherd University Department of Music's trombone Day Saturday afternoon in the Kirk Center.

12-year-old Krista Thomas, of Martinsburg, plays during an open reading session with assistance from Kristy Lucas, a trombone student at the Shepherd University Department of Music’s Trombone Day Saturday afternoon in the Frank Center.

"I thought it was a really cool instrument," Ryan said.

Since those early days, Ryan was an instrumental music teacher for Carroll County, Md., public schools for 31 years. As a professional trombonist, he has worked with a number of well-known performers including Tom Jones, Rhyos Presley, James Brown and Barry Manilow.

In 1977 he co-founded the Chesapeake Brass Quintet, one of the first groups of its kind in the Baltimore area. It is currently principal trombonist for the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra.

Although he’s only in his second year at Shepherd, Ryan was eager to share his passion with not only his university students but other students and “trombone enthusiasts,” which is how this event got started, he said.

“Trombone is a classical instrument, but I also love to play jazz as well. And when you really get into this instrument, there is just so much to share. One of the motivating factors in this event is to bring in a high school band students as potential students here,” said Ryan, who serves as the event’s coordinator.

"But overriding that was the idea to bring together all of the Trombone enthusiasts - adults, children, students, and people who don’t play but enjoy the music. So the idea is to embrace everyone in the trombone world,” he said.

Saturday's event featured an opening concert by the Shepherd University Jazz Band, followed by a clinic with Cam Miller, who teaches music technology.

A recital by Ryan kicked off the afternoon, which was followed by an “open reading session” where anyone who wanted an instrument was invited to play along, he said.

The afternoon also featured a concert by the U.S. Army Field Band Trombone Quartet.

Even after decades of working in this field, the trombone never gets old and Ryan said he’s happy to share his musical message wherever.

"I love its sound, how it is rich, full, and clear - it is full of passion and mobility. But at the same time it can resonate and speak, which is another beauty.

Staff writer Ann Vincic

Trombone Day can be reached at (304) 253-8931, ext. 135, or editor@journal-newsart.com

All events are sponsored by the Shepherd University Department of Music’s trombone Day Saturday afternoon in the Kirk Center.
Students to travel to Jamaica

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Students from Shepherd's nursing and education departments will be traveling to May Pen, Jamaica, over spring break to serve in hospitals and schools. This is the second time since 2008 that Shepherd has been represented in the Caribbean.

On Thursday, nine students will depart for Jamaica, and they will return March 21. While there, students will stay on the campus of Middlesex College.

During their stay, students will visit Port Antonio, Blue Lagoon and Blue Mountain farm to see coffee plants, take a cruise to Pigeon Island, participate in teaching practices and nursing clinics, and take a trip to Ocho Rios, Dunn River Falls.

Virginia Hicks, dean of education and professional studies, said the trip will provide an opportunity for students to receive international experience and global awareness and to help broaden their perspective in classroom teaching.

"This is an excellent opportunity for education students to see how schools in another country operate," Hicks said.

In 2008, Hicks traveled with eight education students to Managua, Nicaragua, where

'Roommate Click' to help students

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University’s Residence Life Office launched a new site recently to help students find roommates based on compatibility.

The site, Roommate Click, is in the midst of a soft launch, and it will be used for incoming freshmen this fall.

According to Jonathan Calabretta, graduate hall director and assistant housing coordinator, the goal of the site is to provide better service to students. The new site allows students to find out if they are compatible roommates based on information they provide, such as favorite music, interests, activities they're involved with on campus and their major.

Students also answer questions about study habits, sharing personal items, cleanliness and personal schedules. Photos also can be uploaded to the site.

All information is private, and the site also allows students to send e-mails to one another and chat. Students can

Briefs

search for a roommate based on criteria that they specify.

Calabretta said that Roommate Click holds students accountable to find someone that they're compatible with and allows for less of a chance of misconceptions before they move in.

The site also will make room lottery and placement easier for the SLO office. Profiles can be updated at the end of each year, and the site will record the style of housing for which the student is eligible.

Calabretta said the site has the potential to build a better campus community among resident students and will allow RLO to better match the students' needs and preferences.

"It's something unexpected," Calabretta said.

"It sticks with the concept of staying current, and this is a great way for us to step up to this challenge."

The page is available for students at http://shepherd.roommateclick.com.
CATF Announces Lineup for 20th Festival Season

The Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) at Shepherd University has announced the lineup for their 20th season, which includes two world premieres. "Being in our 20th year, it is tempting to look back at our history, but this is not who we are," said Ed Herendeen, CATF Founder and Producing Director. "Theater people are always looking forward. My eyes are focused on our 2010 Festival, through which our audience will witness the collision of stories, styles and voices that will lead us to a better understanding of ourselves as we attempt to navigate our future."

The 2010 CATF Season, running July 9 through August 1, will feature the following plays in rotating repertory:

- The Eelwax Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show, a world premiere by Max Baker and Lee Sellers. Enter a socially isolated Group Home where the hapless residents are fed a daily dose of Eelwax Jesus hosted by the charismatic Mr. Shine. But this Nationally-Controlled Broadcast Show may not be enough to protect them from an outside world plagued with Superbugs, Human Cloning Experiments, Cameras in the Sky and a suspiciously miserable old man who lives down the hall. This CATF World Premiere combines original toe-tapping pop songs with offbeat characters and a variety of kitsch imagery. Max Baker and Lee Sellers' Alternative Musical event presents a wryly skewed vision of our very near future.

- Lidless, a first production by Frances Ya-Chu Cowig. Fifteen years after being released from Guantanamo Bay, Bashir walks into the shop of Alice, his former US interrogator. He's tracked Alice down and wants her to know the emotional and spiritual pain she inflicted upon him. With her past brought to light, how does she explain her actions to her teenage daughter? Can Alice protect her from the truth? Frances Ya-Chu Cowig delivers an extraordinary portrayal of one woman's experience with the "War on Terror" and her struggle to find peace and healing.

- Breadcrumbs, a world premiere by Jennifer Haley. Alida is a recluse writer of fiction slowly losing her memories. Reluctantly, she has come to depend upon a young caregiver to complete her final book - an autobiography. Delving into the dark woods of her past, the two women wrestle over the nature of language, loneliness, and the essential self. In this CATF World Premiere, Jennifer Haley has created a poetic play resonating with wry humor, compassion and empathy.

- White People by J.T. Rogers. Three ordinary Americans spotlighted during extraordinary moments in their lives. Martin, a high powered attorney in St. Louis, Missouri; Mara Lynn, a housewife in Fayetteville, North Carolina; and Alan, a young professor in New York City, wrestle with guilt, prejudice, and the price they and their children must pay for their actions. J.T. Rogers returns to CATF following 2008's highly acclaimed The Overwhelming with White People, a candid, brutally honest exploration of race and language in our culture.

The CATF Box Office will open March 15 with pre-season hours Monday through Friday from noon until 5:00 pm, with the online box office open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Single ticket prices begin at $25 with subscriber CAT Cards available to see four or all five plays at discounted prices. For information on Group and Organizational discounts available on groups of 10 or more, please call 304-876-3304.

The Contemporary American Theater Festival prides itself on producing and developing new American theater. Since 1991, CATF has produced 80 new plays, including 30 world premieres. Five plays, five playwrights, five unique theatrical experiences at the Contemporary American Theater Festival. For more information, please visit www.catf.org or call 304-876-3473 or 800-993-CATF (2283) or follow CATF on twitter at www.twitter.com/thinktheater.
Horesmen’s bill enters the stretch in Charleston

The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle

Early this week a bill to fix a couple of problems relating to horse racing was approved by the House of Delegates Finance Committee and sent to the House floor. The bill, sponsored by Senator Herb Snyder, was passed by the Senate last week. Unless unforeseen circumstances prevail, it will be passed by the House this week.

As regular pursers of this space might recall, there is a program called the 10-10-10 Fund which provides extra money to West Virginia horsemen and breeders when their horses do well in regularly scheduled races. There is a similar program for West Virginia greyhound owners and breeders at the state’s other horse racing track, located in the Northern Panhandle. This program is sometimes confused with our “breeders’ fund.” The Thoroughbred Breeders’ Fund provides extra money for special races designated for West Virginia bred horses only. The Greyhound Breeders’ fund does the same for the dog racing industry.

The 10-10-10 Fund provides extra money for those owners and breeders of West Virginia bred horses who do well in races open to all horses or dogs.

Here’s how the program works. Let’s say your horse is entered in an open race for which the purse is $10,000. Let’s further say your horse wins the race and takes home the 10% winner’s share ($1,000). In addition, you get $500 ($100) for each of those three categories (hence the moniker “10-10-10”).

You get an additional $1,800 for a total of $7,800 from that purse.

This program is wonderfully underfunded. No horseman has been paid from it for almost two years. There is some money in the fund, but the West Virginia Racing Commission, which administers the fund, has been given an opinion by the state’s attorney general that says they shouldn’t pay anybody anything until they have enough money to pay everybody everything they own.

Now, attorney general’s opinions are just that—opinions. They have no force of law. But state agencies tend to obey them as though they do have force of law.

Senator Snyder’s bill will put enough money into the fund to pay those owed money from it and will restructure the fund to make it permanently solvent.

After Senator Snyder introduced his bill in the Senate, Delegate Terry Walker and I introduced the same language as a House bill. The Senate acted sooner, so Senator Snyder’s bill is the one moving.

Initially we wanted to take money from the Workers’ Compensation Fund to pay the debt owed by the 10-10-10 Fund. The Legislature five years ago tapped $1 million per year from Racetrack Video Lottery money dedicated to the purse fund to pay off the unfunded liability in our Workers’ Comp program. We did that so we could privatize Workers’ Comp, which I thought we needed to do.

I’m glad we did. I’m not glad we took the money from the purse fund—that was unfair to horsemen.

Taking the necessary funds from Workers’ Comp would have costed more than twice the amount of the debt owed by the 10-10-10 Fund. But the West Virginia Department of Revenue staunchly opposed taking even a penny from Workers’ Comp. So Senator Snyder agreed to change the bill so that the necessary money comes from the Excess Video Lottery Fund.

The bill also changes the distribution of the portion of money dedicated to purses from the two horse racing tracks. Presently the total from the two tracks is divided equally between them. Since Charles Town is estimated to bring in about twice the money from table games as Mountainlair, this formula is unfair to horsemen at Charles Town. Senator Snyder’s bill lets each track keep all the money it generates for purses.

— Delegate John Doyle
D-Jefferson, represents the 57th District in the Wes Virginia House of Delegates

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Dates: March 12, 2010
Two Rivers orchestra performs
Saturday

Friends of Music presents West Virginia’s newest and much acclaimed Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra in its first concert of 2010. On Saturday, March 13, at 8 p.m., the curtain will go up at the Frank Center, on the campus of Shepherd University. The major sponsor of the evening is BB&T.

The Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra is under the direction of Dr. Mark McCoy, chairman of the Shepherd University Music Department.

“‘This will be our most exciting concert to date,’” said McCoy. “‘The Shostakovich Festive overture sets the stage, The Mozart Clarinet Concerto is one of the most perfect pieces ever written and the Márquez Conga del Fuego Nuevo (the New Fire Tango) is an exciting way to close the first half. David Drosinos, our clarinet soloist for the Mozart, is one of the most brilliant lyric sensitive musicians anywhere. The second half of our concert is Beethoven’s towering Seventh Symphony. Richard Wagner called this work ‘the apotheosis of the dance’ and dance we will. This is one not to be missed.”

Founded by the Friends of Music in 2007, 2RCO is comprised of the finest musicians in the Baltimore-Washington area, including many faculty members of the Shepherd University Music Department. West Virginia’s newest professional orchestra has been serving the region the best in orchestral concerts and accomplishing a bold mission of chang-

Mark McCoy, chairman of the SU Department of Music and conductor of the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, will present highlights of the upcoming concert.

— For ticket, luncheon and concert information, and to learn more about the Friends of Music, please visit www.sufom.org or call (304) 876.5765
With Dr. Jason Best leading the charge, the Shepherd University Observatory is helping students reach new heights in their scientific ambitions. Construction of the observatory began in 2005 — the World Year of Physics — with funding from the state’s Innovation Grants Program.

Perched atop the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, the observatory has provided many far-reaching opportunities for students, with projects and demonstrations in astronomy, physics and physical science courses.

“The observatory enhances classroom learning by providing field activities in a real-world scientific setting,” says Dr. Best, professor of astronomy and astrophysics and observatory director. “The hands-on nature of observational work reinforces material learned in the courses and helps students to develop a fuller appreciation of the challenges and joys in scientific endeavors.”

These students, like Ben Bisher, agree that the facility has enhanced their learning experiences. “Astronomy I and II were two of the best classes I have taken here at Shepherd. Using the observatory, I learned many things about space and had a lot of fun while doing it,” Bisher said.

The observatory is home to a computerized Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with a 14-inch diameter mirror, several research cameras used to acquire digitized images, a spectrograph for analysis of starlight, a pier to mount the telescope, and a 15-foot diameter dome that permanently houses all of this equipment. A number of smaller telescopes also are housed in the observatory.

This scientific equipment leads to promising research opportunities for the university and its students.

“The new instrumentation in the observatory creates on-site observational research opportunities for our students that were not possible before,” says Dr. Best. “Numerous projects have been presented and published by a number of our undergraduate students, which is very satisfying to see.”

Senior Adam McBride adds, “We have an opportunity to make real scientific contributions right here from campus.”

In addition to the boosts in undergraduate coursework and research, the observatory also serves as a remarkable community outreach and K-12 educational tool – hosting activities such as the annual Washington Gateway Junior High Academy.

“Science is a public enterprise in the United States, now more than ever,” says Dr. Best. “By extending access to K-12 students and others, we hope to maintain the public’s appreciation for science, while reinforcing the importance of scientific endeavors to the general public.”

For additional information on the observatory, visit: www.shepherd.edu/astronomy/

Contributions from Shepherd University