Troika Ranch in residence at Marshall University as part of the Birke Fine Arts Festival

Troika Ranch, an internationally renowned dance and theatre company, will perform their original work, SWARM, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8, as part of the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival. Both performances will take place at 7 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

Troika Ranch is the artistic platform for the collaborative works of its founders, choreographer Dawn Stoppielo and composer/media artist Mark Coniglio. Troika Ranch creates contemporary, hybrid artworks through an ongoing examination of the moving body and its relationship to technology, making them a perfect fit for the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival entitled *Trending Now: Artists and Audiences in the Information Age.*

Festival committee chair Nicole Perrone said that the committee was pleased to be able to include Troika Ranch in the festival, as their work explores the festival’s central themes. “We are interested in a dialogue about how the arts are responding to an audience that has grown accustomed to pop-ups, tweets and status updates; not only how we experience the arts, but where we experience them.”

The latest piece, SWARM, will be an immersive, multi-media installation/performance in which the movements of the audience – not as individuals, but as a community – allow them to collaboratively compose the sonic score, visual materials, theatrical lighting, and the actions of the performers themselves. The crux of SWARM is that only through coordination, conversation, and collective action can the audience – the “swarm” – reveal the fullest and most complete dramatic arc of the piece. Stoppielo and Coniglio are spending this week prior to the performance in residence at Marshall University rehearsing with theatre and dance students and faculty, who will also perform in the piece.

“The Birke Fine Arts Festival enables us to bring world-renowned artists and a contemporary, cutting-edge performance experiences to our students,” Perrone said. “It will be unlike anything they’ve ever seen; and, we hope, for the audience, too.”

For a complete list of the remaining Birke Arts Festival events, click on the following link: [www.marshall.edu/ucomm/2014/02/03/remaining-events-in-the-birke-fine-arts-festival-jan-30-march-6-2014](http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/2014/02/03/remaining-events-in-the-birke-fine-arts-festival-jan-30-march-6-2014).
Marshall to host College Goal Sunday event Feb. 9

Marshall’s Huntington campus will be among the hosts of the College Goal Sunday event in West Virginia from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, in Corbly Hall. Workshops also will be offered at 24 other locations across the state, including Marshall’s Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant.

Anyone who plans to attend a two-year or four-year college in the next 12 months can (and should) attend a College Goal Sunday workshop, said Angela L. Holley, director of Marshall’s Heart of Appalachia Talent Search Program. The workshops are open to everyone, regardless of age or income. High school seniors, current college students and adults who want to go to college may attend. Registration is not required but is encouraged to help alleviate wait times for those attending.

College Goal Sunday is an opportunity for students and families to get free help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Local financial aid professionals will offer one-on-one, confidential support to anyone planning to attend college.

Persons may visit www.cfwv.com for details, including locations and a list of what to bring.

College Goal Sunday is staffed by professionals who will maintain the confidentiality and security of families’ financial records, Holley said. College Goal Sunday is coordinated by the College Foundation of West Virginia, the West Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the YMCA, GEAR UP and TRiO.

Spring International Film Festival begins Friday, Feb. 7

The weeklong Spring International Film Festival, featuring a diverse collection of films from six countries, takes place at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center Feb. 7-13.

Kicking off this festival is A Royal Affair (Denmark), which is a story of brave idealists who pursue freedom for their people at any cost. It focuses on the love triangle among the insane Danish King Christian VII, a man of enlightenment and idealism named Struensee and the young Queen Caroline Mathilda. These individuals would soon be notified of a forbidden romance that would change the entire nation.

A Royal Affair shows on Friday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 9 at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
The Flat (Israel) details the story of a German family’s complicated history and the aftermath of World War II. Director Arnon Goldfinger’s grandmother left him the task of clearing out a Tel Aviv flat after her passing. Arnon’s grandmother and grandfather shared this flat for decades since emigrating from Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Sorting through old photos and letters, he finds clues that point to a great family mystery. Soon uncovering the taboo story of his German family – both Jewish and non-Jewish, he tries to tries to put together the puzzle of their lives.

The Flat shows on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Like Someone in Love (Japan) tells the story of a Tokyo student named Akiko who moonlights as a call girl. One night Akiko is sent to a suburban client and is surprised to find the elderly man, Takashi, to be a committed academic and work-addict. However, this widower is more interested in social interaction than sex. Soon, the shy man encounters Akiko’s aggressive boyfriend, who assumes that the man is simply her grandfather. Although strange at first, this relationship seems to be just the thing that Akiko needs.

Like Someone in Love shows on Friday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Telling the story of 12 year old Komona, War Witch (Canada) is about the kidnapping efforts of rebel soldiers and a life of guerrilla warfare in the African jungle. Forced to commit heinous acts, Komona finds hope for survival in protective, ghost-like visions. This inspires the nickname “War Witch,” given to her by a rebel chief. Forming a tender relationship with a fellow soldier named Magician, she escapes the rebel soldiers and seems to be close to freedom. However, Komona soon realizes that she must first find a way to rid the haunting ghosts of his past.

War Witch shows on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Una Noche (Cuba) shows the desperate efforts of Cuban teenagers Raul and Elio to escape their poverty-stricken lives. Tired of serving privileged tourists, they are intrigued by the prospect of living in Miami. However, Raul is forced to escape the sun-bleached capital after he is accused of assaulting a foreigner. Elio, on the other hand, must decide between helping Raul and pursuing freedom or staying with his twin sister, Lila. This film depicts the restless youth of Havana and follows one day in the life of these youths, full of hope and fraught with tension.

Una Noche shows on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 9 at 12:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

The Sessions (USA) is based on the true story of a man who, at age 38, is determined to lose his virginity, despite being confined to an iron lung. He plans to make this dream a reality, however, when receiving the support of his therapists and priest. He contacts Cheryl Cohen-Greene, a professional sex surrogate, and not only pursues his dream but forms a fascinating relationship in
the process. This story is based around the optimistic autobiographical writings of California-based journalist and poet Mark O’Brien.

The Sessions shows on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 12:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The Sessions will also be screened simultaneously at the Grace Rardin Doherty Auditorium at the Huntington Museum of Art with narrative description for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This screening will be free to the public.

Tickets for the Spring International Film Festival are $7.50 per film. Tickets may be purchased at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center; advance tickets are not necessary. Tickets go on sale 15 minutes prior to each film. For more information call ext. 6-6656 or visit www.marshallartistsseries.org.

**Dates and Show Times**

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**The Sessions will also be screened simultaneously at the Grace Rardin Doherty Auditorium at the Huntington Museum of Art with narrative description for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This screening will be free to the public.**
Vickie Crager, Program Assistant II, College of Science (Biological Sciences), has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for November, according to Michelle Brown Douglas, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

Employed since January 1975, she was nominated by Dr. James E. Joy.

In his nomination, he noted that Crager has served with every biology departmental chair since the College of Science was first formed. “She has, essentially ‘trained’ every one of these chairs with the exception of the department’s first chair, Harold Ward. Her winning personality allows her to interact effectively with faculty, staff, and students from a wide variety of backgrounds and personalities. Moreover, her work ethic earns her the respect of everyone.”

Joy lists that among her numerous duties, Crager oversees all purchasing needs for 23 faculty members as well as the needs for the largest number of teaching and research labs in the university. In addition she is instrumental in scheduling lecture class times and laboratory sessions for the entire department along with handling course overloads. “I can’t imagine any staff member on campus tasked with the sheer volume and diversity of duties that Ms. Crager handles so well, and with such grace,” he wrote. “And Ms. Crager unflaggingly displays a ‘happy heart’ when faced with multiple ‘intractable’ problems; guiding us, through her unmatched experiences, to reasonable, and timely, solutions.”

“One recent example (of many that could be enumerated) was her assisting me in obtaining travel funds for my attendance at a training session in Illinois…” he said. After final approval of the request “hit a snag,” Crager’s perseverance and diligence paid off, Joy says, when “I received an e-mail from her announcing ‘I did it.’ And indeed she had. She had untangled all the red tape and I received the travel reimbursement.”

In addition “She deals with issues concerning travel of our students and faculty all over the globe (e.g., Africa, Madagascar, China, Brazil, etc.)…And she does it with remarkable efficiency.” Crager received a plaque and a check for $100, presented by President Stephen J. Kopp.

Photo: Vickie Crager (right) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

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Reminder: Marshall University Day at the Capitol is Feb. 12

Marshall University Day at the Capitol will take place from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the upper rotunda of the State Capitol in Charleston. More than 34 colleges, schools and departments of the university will take part in the event, which will include tables set up for distributing information, food and giveaways.

“Our theme this year is ‘I Love Marshall,’ due to the close proximity to Valentine’s Day” said Nancy Pelphrey, assistant director of alumni affairs. “And, as always, we will emphasize that every Marshall degree earned is an investment in the future of West Virginia.”

Pelphrey said a passenger bus is available for Marshall faculty and staff who will be participating. The bus will leave the West Lot at Joan C. Edwards Stadium at 7 a.m. and will return immediately following the event. Reservations for the bus are on a first-come, first-served basis and can be made by contacting Pelphrey by phone at ext. 6-3134 or by e-mail at pelphrey@marshall.edu

Stringer Series to feature essayists Biss, Bresland next week

The next two author appearances in the A.E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series will feature public readings by Eula Biss and John Bresland on Marshall’s Huntington campus. The two events are offered in conjunction with the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival.

Biss will appear at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Shawkey Room in the Memorial Student Center. She won the National Book Critics Circle Award for her second book of essays, *Notes from No Man’s Land*. Her work has also been recognized by a Pushcart Prize, a Jaffe Writers’ Award, and a 21st Century Award from the Chicago Public Library. She holds an M.F.A. in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa and teaches creative writing at Northwestern University. She is currently working on a new book about myth and metaphor in medicine with the support of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Howard Foundation Fellowship, and an NEA Literature Fellowship. Her essays have recently appeared in *The Best American Nonrequired Reading, The Best Creative Nonfiction* and the *Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction*. 
Bresland will appear at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in room BE-5 of the Memorial Student Center. He is an essayist who works in film, radio and print. He teaches creative writing at Northwestern University, and serves as the film editor of *TriQuarterly*. His essays can be viewed at *Blackbird* and *Ninth Letter*, read in *Brevity* and *North American Review* and heard occasionally on public radio. His work has been anthologized in *Essayists on the Essay: Montaigne to Our Time* as well as *The Fourth Genre*, an anthology of contemporary creative nonfiction. He was twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and in 2006 he was the recipient of the Tamarack Award for fiction. Bresland holds an M.F.A. in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa.

Both events are sponsored by the Marshall College of Arts and Media as part of the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival, which is taking place through Friday, March 6. Please visit www.marshall.edu/cam for more information on the month-long celebration of 21st-century art and expression.

Premiere of ‘The Vagappalachialogues’ to take place Saturday, Feb. 15

The Women’s Studies program will present *The Vagappalachialogues*, an original work inspired by Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues*, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, in Marco’s in the Memorial Student Center.

“This new production speaks to the experience of people in our own area,” said Dr. Laura Michele Diener, assistant professor of history at Marshall and one of the 11 writers represented in the work. The 90-minute production includes original monologues, stories and poems about sexuality and identity.
Why the funny title? “While Eve Ensler examines femininity and sexuality in a global context, the Appalachian women and men at Marshall have demonstrated how rich the material is rooted right in home soil,” Diener said. “We wanted something that described what the project was – stories of sexuality and identity born of the experience of West Virginians.”

After two years of producing *The Vagina Monologues* together, Diener and co-editor Liz Deal said they realized that, as important as it is to know and share the experience of women around the world, women and men fight their own wars here: to be heard, to be understood, to grow up without being abused, to overcome the effects of violence and to celebrate who they are.

“Society seems to give us a limited forum and a limited vocabulary for expressing our sexuality,” said Deal, who in addition to directing the show contributed several pieces to the performance. “I have been inspired by the courage of other women in telling their stories and I have found it empowering to be given a place to tell my own. I hope to encourage people to find their own voices and their own forum for speaking up, speaking out and healing.”

The monologues, essays, stories and poems were written by Marshall faculty members, students, former students and members of the local community. Many of them originated as class assignments. The fourteen monologues tackle a range of human emotions; some are poignant, others tragic, and many funny and romantic. Several pieces, such as “Lament of the Coal Goddess,” “An Appalachian Fairy Tale,” and “Gender Queer Hillbilly” are rooted in the culture and environment of West Virginia. Embedded in the text is a memoir trilogy on the insidious power of sexual abuse. The actors are all members of the Marshall community.

Admission is $5 and all ticket sales will benefit the Hovah Hall Underwood Children’s Home in Ona.

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**Library staff launches ‘Marshall Reads 150-Plus’ campaign**

Marshall University Libraries is encouraging students, faculty and staff to join a program of the West Virginia Center for the Book in reading 150 books or more during the course of 2014.

A launch party will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in the Drinko Library Atrium, said Sabrina Thomas of Marshall University Libraries.

“Marshall University Libraries encourages our patrons to read 150-plus books individually or by joining a team here at the library to read 150-plus books collectively,” said Thomas, who is a digital learning librarian at Marshall.
Teams can have any number of members, choose a name, select a leader to keep track of the books read by team members and register at the library. All participants will be eligible for a chance to win prizes, Thomas said. Those interested in forming a team are asked to fill out the registration form on the library’s website at http://www.marshall.edu/library or fill out a paper form at the Drinko Library Circulation Desk. For more information, call ext.6-2334.

The books can be in any format (printed book, e-book, downloadable text, audio book, etc.) and from any source. Books can be on any topic, fiction or non-fiction. At the end of each semester, names will be drawn from all participants and prizes will be awarded. To be eligible for the first drawing, forms must be submitted by Tuesday, April 15. The first prize drawing is Wednesday, April 30.

The program is sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, which promotes the importance of books and reading. The West Virginia Center for the Book brings this message to audiences statewide. The center highlights the state’s unique literary heritage, from its earliest storytellers to modern novelists and poets.

The West Virginia Center for the Book is a project of the West Virginia Library Commission. More information is available at www.librarycommission.wv.gov or http://www.marshall.edu/library.

Marshall University School of Medicine announces creation of new academic scholarship

An endowed scholarship fund has been created at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine courtesy of long-time administrator, professor and pioneer of women’s sports at Marshall University, Dr. Dorothy “Dot” E. Hicks.

The Dr. Dorothy E. Hicks Scholarship will be awarded to a first-year medical school student who is a resident of West Virginia. The award is renewable for three additional years pending normal academic progress.

Hicks, whose generosity has led to the creation of eight scholarships at the university, says she decided to make the gift because of the outstanding medical care she received at Marshall and to honor her former student and mentee, as well as longtime friend, Linda S. Holmes.
“Everyone at the School of Medicine and Marshall Health has been so helpful to me,” Hicks said. “I was in a position to assist and thought developing a scholarship at the SOM would be a good way for me to give back to the academic program while at the same time honoring my good friend, Linda Holmes.”

Holmes, who serves as the director of development and alumni relations at the SOM, praised Hicks for her outstanding contributions to Marshall.

“Dr. Hicks has touched my life in so many areas and for her to honor me with creating a scholarship is extremely meaningful on a personal and professional level,” Holmes said. “She genuinely bleeds green and loves the school. Everyone at Marshall has benefited from her leadership and generosity.”

Hicks retired as a faculty member in 1999 after 30 years of service as a professor of education and coordinator of clinical supervision of teachers.

While at Marshall she also coached women’s golf, tennis, badminton and volleyball and served as chair of the women’s physical education department. She helped develop the women’s intercollegiate athletic program and served as an associate athletic director. She also was faculty representative for the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and for the Southern Conference, of which Marshall University is a former member.

The women’s softball field at Marshall is named in honor of the former coach.

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Photo: An endowed scholarship fund has been created at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine courtesy of long-time administrator, professor and pioneer of women’s sports at Marshall University, Dr. Dorothy “Dot” E. Hicks, right. The fund honors Hicks’ former student and mentee, as well as longtime friend, Linda S. Holmes, left.

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**Faculty Achievement: Dr. Mark Zanter’s composition receives recognition**

Dr. Mark Zanter’s string orchestra piece, “Lament and dream” (2013) was recently recognized with special distinction in conjunction with the 2014 ASCAP Rudolph Nissim prize.

The announcement noted that Zanter was recognized by ASCAP for his skill and talent in concert composition with his piece for string orchestra, piano and percussion.
His score for “Lament and dream” was chosen in addition to three other works for special distinction. There were nearly 300 submissions for the acclaimed Nissim Award, which was won this year by Matthew Peterson.

The Nissim Award is presented annually to an ASCAP composer for a composition requiring a conductor that has not been performed professionally. The winning compositions are selected by a jury of conductors.

Zanter is an active composer, performer and faculty member at Marshall. Currently work is under way on an album of his original compositions, including “Lament and dream.” For more information about the ASCAP Nissim Award go online to http://www.ascap.com/press/2014/0113-matthew-peterson-wins-nissim-prize.aspx

Fund in memory of John Burris established by Marshall Foundation

The Marshall University Foundation Inc. has established a fund known as the John C. Burris Endowed Scholarship in memory of the former Senior Vice President of Worldwide Sales and Services of Citrix Systems, an S&P 500 Corporation.

Burris passed away from colon cancer in October 2012 at the age of 57.

“John was a memorable leader at Citrix and a mentor to many, so it is only fitting that a scholarship be established in his name,” said David R. Friedman, general counsel and senior vice president in human resources with Citrix. “With his education from Marshall as a springboard, John became an influential executive who had a profound impact on the success of our company. More than that, John was a role model who exemplified our core values every day. We are proud to share his legacy of academic and business achievements with Marshall University students.”

Burris was a native of New Haven, W.Va., where he graduated as Salutatorian of Wahama High School in 1973. He was Senior VP with Citrix for a 10-year period beginning in 1999. Burris, a 1977 Summa Cum Laude Marshall University graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration, was a key contributor to Citrix’ growth, with annual revenue increasing from $400 million to $1.4 billion during his successful tenure.

This fund was established with the contribution of $100,000 by Citrix in cooperation with John’s widow, Ann Burris of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
“John was always very proud of the education he received at Marshall and how it prepared him for what became a very successful career,” Ann Burris said. “The family and I will be forever grateful to Citrix for this enduring tribute to a special man at his alma mater.”

The recipient(s) of the Burris Scholarship will be a full-time undergraduate student in the College of Business, a resident of West Virginia and an incoming freshman with an ACT composite of 29 or SAT of 1320 with a high school GPA of 3.5.

The award will be renewable up to four years, if the recipient maintains good academic standing with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. It will allow for a new freshman to be chosen each year, and for a total of four students to receive this scholarship at one time.

“We are very proud of John’s aspiration and achievements. His success will inspire many Marshall students in the coming years,” said Dr. Haiyang Chen, dean of the College of Business. “Now we are establishing the John C. Burris Endowed Scholarship in honor of him. We appreciate very much the generosity from Citrix Systems and Ann Burris. I am sure that the scholarship will help the college improve quality of our programs and graduates.”

Burris led the global Citrix sales, services and field marketing organizations comprising 2,500–plus sales and services professionals and 5,000 channel and distribution partners. In 2008, Burris had the opportunity to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a public company CEO. He already was a member of the board of directors of Sourcefire, Inc., the creator of Snort, a global leader in intelligent cyber security solutions.

During more than four years as CEO, Burris led the transformation of Sourcefire from a single-product company with a market capitalization of under $150 million to a multi-product company with a market capitalization of well over $1.2 billion.

Revenues grew from $75 million in 2008 to a path of more than $200 million in 2012 and employee growth went from 280 in 2008 to 575. Under Burris’ direction the company was recognized by Forbes as one of the fastest growing technology companies in the U.S. from 2010 to 2012, rising to number 11 and the top security company on the 2012 list.

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‘Turtle-grams’ from Women’s Studies program to benefit Branches shelter

The Marshall Women’s Studies program is selling “Turtle-grams” (cuddly stuffed turtles) for Valentine’s Day. Each turtle is “handmade with love,” according to organizers of the event.

Purchasers who pre-order their turtles may have the initials of their choice embellished on the shell. Pre-orders must be received by Sunday, Feb. 9.

Pre-ordered turtles can be picked up at the Memorial Student Center on Wednesday, Feb. 12, and Thursday, Feb. 13, between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Other turtles will be available for sale at those times as well.

Each turtle is $10.00. 50% of the proceeds will go to Branches Domestic Violence Shelter.

Contact Dr. Jill Treftz (treftz@marshall.edu or 6-6699) or Dr. Laura Michele Diener (diener@marshall.edu or 6-2954) with pre-orders and initials.

Note of Thanks

The family of Dr. Sam Clagg thanks our Marshall Community for the cards, flowers, scholarship donations and words of remembrance shared during our time of sorrow. Your kindness reflects the love that Sam had for this university. We appreciate your caring and thoughtfulness.
Marshall Catering can help you with your next event

Enjoy the elegance and ease of a professional caterer, located within the community of Marshall University. We offer catering services at the Marshall University Huntington campus and Foundation Hall, as well as off-site catering. For any event for 10 – 450 guests, contact Marshall Catering… your area’s premier catering provider. Our staff is ready to make your next event something to remember.

Stormwater Fact of the Month

Now that the winter months are upon us, the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) department wants you to know that it is here to help keep the students, faculty and staff safe and environmentally conscious. Melting snow can potentially drain into the Ohio River, so please be sure to use ice melting material sparingly and make sure your car isn’t leaking any liquids. These practices will help reduce the impact we have on our rivers and streams.

The next issue of We Are... Marshall will be distributed Feb. 12, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10.