

WE ARE... MARSHALL™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MARCH 7, 2008

Car No. 75 Roars Onto NASCAR Scene

Several weeks before it will possibly race on a grueling track in Bristol, Tenn., a Marshall University-themed stock car took a practice run on the Capitol grounds in Charleston Feb. 28.

Gov. Joe Manchin, who unveiled the sleek green and white Dodge Charger emblazoned with the Marshall logo and Number 75, said majority shareholders Dana and Tonya Tomes are using the car as a vehicle to shine a positive light on their alma mater and the State of West Virginia.

"You are among the first to see – and hear – this car," Manchin said. "It's truly a nice touch that the number 75 serves as a tribute to those who perished in the Marshall plane crash of 1970."



West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin, center, and Marco greet driver Brett Rowe as Car No. 75 is introduced to the public Feb. 28.

Tri-State Foundation Presents Gift to Yeager Scholars

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the Tri-State Community, Inc., presented Marshall University's Society of Yeager Scholars with a gift of \$100,000 on Friday, Feb. 29.

The check, presented by Foundation President Mary Witten Wiseman to Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp, represents the first payment toward a six-year gift from the Foundation to the Yeager Scholars program totaling \$205,000.

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Foundation for the Tri-State Community Inc. President Mary Witten Wiseman, second from left, presents a check for \$100,000 to Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp, second from right, on Friday, Feb. 29. Looking on are, at left, Bob Galardi, Director of Major Gifts for the Society of Yeager Scholars, and, at right, Dr. Barry Sharpe, Executive Director of the John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence. The \$100,000 represents the first payment toward a six-year gift from the Foundation to the Yeager Scholars program totaling \$205,000.

Manchin also introduced Brett Rowe, a Barboursville native and former ARCA Lincoln Welder Truck Series national champion and 2004 Rookie of the Year. Rowe will race the Marshall car for Herd Racing, hopefully as early

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Former members of Girls' Baseball League to Speak at Women's Studies Conference

Maybelle Blair, Terry Donahue and Jane Moffet, former members of The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, will present the keynote address at the annual Women's Studies Student Conference, "Women Breaking Boundaries," at Marshall University.

The keynote address will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 13 in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge on Marshall's Huntington campus. The event is free and open to the public.

The players will be available after the talk for autographs and pictures. They also will participate in the dedication ceremonies of the Marshall University Softball Complex on Saturday, March 15.

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, featured in the movie "A League of Their Own," gave more than 600 women athletes the opportunity to play professional baseball and to play it at a level never before attained. The league operated from 1943 to 1954 and represents one unique aspect of our nation's history.

Dr. Kat Williams, director of the Women's Studies program, said the women broke down boundaries when

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'Red Helmet' Scholarship Honors Homer Hickam Sr.

The Marshall University Foundation Inc. is establishing the Homer Hickam Sr.-Red Helmet Scholarship for children and grandchildren of coal miners and mine rescue team members.



Homer Hickam Jr.

The scholarship honors Homer Hickam Sr., a coal miner and father of New York Times bestselling author Homer Hickam Jr. Homer Hickam Sr. was instrumental in developing the first mine rescue team units in West Virginia.

"My father knew the value of a good education," Homer Hickam Jr. said in a recent interview. "He wasn't able to go to college but he saw to it that my brother and I had the means to go. By creating this

scholarship at Marshall University, I hope to draw attention to the higher education opportunities available to students of the coalfields."

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a West Virginia resident who is an undergraduate student and the child or grandchild of a coal miner or coal mine rescue team member. The award is renewable for up to four years provided satisfactory academic progress is maintained.

Dr. Lynne Mayer, Associate Vice President for Development at Marshall, said, "This effort by Homer Hickam Jr. to honor his father is a wonderful and lasting tribute."

Homer Hickam Jr. is best known for his award-winning classic *Rocket Boys: A Memoir* that was made into the film *October Sky*. *Red Helmet*, his latest novel, is a love story set in a contemporary West Virginia coal mining town.

Hickam, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature degree last year by Marshall University, says he will help promote the scholarship during his nationwide *Red Helmet* tour.

"I'm pleased that we can honor my father and the work of mine rescue teams with this scholarship at Marshall," Hickam said. "Marshall is the university that

services the Appalachian coalfields more than any other, and I am thrilled to help create this scholarship opportunity."

To contribute to the scholarship, please visit www.homerhickam.com or www.marshalluniversityfoundation.com.

For more information on the scholarship, contact Tracy Straub, Donor Relations Coordinator, at straub5@marshall.edu or (304) 696-6781.

Marshall Artists Series Presents 'Romeo and Juliet' March 11

It's one of the world's most enduring love stories, the tale of two young star-crossed lovers whose feuding families cause tragic consequences. Now William Shakespeare's immortal tale of loyalty, passion and sacrifice unfolds on stage at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center as the Tchaikovsky Ballet and Orchestra presents *Romeo and Juliet*, Tuesday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Based on Shakespeare's play of the same name, the performance will feature traditional ballet set to beautiful music. Considered one of the greatest ballets of the twentieth century, the ballet features dramatic music, artistic sets and graceful ballet artists. The Tchaikovsky Ballet and Orchestra, which is composed of 125 members, including a 60 piece orchestra, has garnered a reputation as one of the world's finest ballet companies.

In addition, local dancers will get the chance of a lifetime to learn ballet from one of Russia's most renowned ballet companies when the Tchaikovsky Ballet offers a master class Tuesday, March 11 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in room 224 of the Joan C. Edwards Performing Artist Center. The master class will include warm-ups and brief exercises with members of the ballet company.

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Applications for Summer Graduate Waivers Due April 7

Applications for graduate tuition waivers for Marshall University's summer terms will be accepted through Monday, April 7, 2008 in the Graduate Dean's Office, 113 Old Main, on the Huntington campus and by the students' academic area offices on the South Charleston campus.

Priority consideration will be given to faculty and staff of the state's public and private colleges and universities.

Academic merit, which will be determined using grade point average and scores on required graduate admissions examinations, will be the major consideration in awarding the waivers that cover tuition. Students who receive waivers are responsible for paying student center and activity fees and some department specific fees by the University established due date.

Up to three hours of waiver for graduate coursework will be awarded to qualified applicants. These waivers do not cover E-courses.

Huntington students interested in being considered for a tuition waiver based on financial need criteria should contact the Graduate Dean's Office, 113 Old Main.

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WE ARE... MARSHALL™



**MARSHALL
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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of March 21, 2008. Deadline is March 14. 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.

Profile: Deanna Pope

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Deanna Pope

She's an admitted country girl who loves the outdoors and lives on a farm with a passion for her family and her profession as well. And as 2008 dawned she climbed yet another rung on the academic ladder when she received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, the culmination of intense work and the fulfillment of a long-sought goal.

Deanna Pope, who is an assistant professor of nursing, is one of two full-time faculty members who staff the nursing program at the Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant. And she brims with enthusiasm as she talks about the program and the technological innovations that have made it possible for students to complete their requirements for a degree without leaving the area.

"Our nursing students can take all of their classes here. We utilize the live interactive televised distance education where faculty in Huntington are teleprompted live to our students in Point Pleasant," she explains. "Students can interact through microphones, so it's really like being in a classroom in Huntington."

Pope grew up in Gallia County and Gallipolis, Ohio and went to Marshall for one year before transferring to Mount Carmel College of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio. After receiving her B.S. in nursing, she returned to the Gallipolis area where she and her husband, Chad, have a working farm. After earning a master's degree in nursing from the University of Phoenix, she's been with Marshall's School of Nursing full-time since 2004.

The couple's farm is located near Gallipolis where her husband operates it full time raising sheep, beef cattle and their principal crop, tobacco. They live there with their children, Erin, 5 ½, and Evan, 2 ½. The farm, which is a combined family operation, has been there for generations and she counts herself lucky that family members from both sides live nearby and can always be counted on to pitch to help. That can come in very, very handy during the extremely busy summers.

"Everybody thinks we grow a big vegetable garden, but we don't," she says, laughing. "We're too busy with other things on the farm to grow a garden. So everybody just brings us things from their gardens. I just rely on my parents, in-laws and neighbors for fresh produce and that's great."

Pope gives full credit to family members for their help while she was completing work on her doctorate. She began working on the degree in 2005 when her son was just three months old. One of the reasons she chose Case Western was for its cohort program, which allowed her to take most of her classes at Shawnee State University in Ports-

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Marco in the Running for Wii Mascot Challenge

Marshall's mascot, Marco, could be a cover boy soon.

To commemorate the first NCAA football game on the Nintendo Wii gaming system, the company is sponsoring a Mascot Challenge online voting contest.

Fans can vote once a day for their favorite mascot. The winner will grace the cover of the NCAA Football 09 Nintendo Wii video game. Voting ends Friday, March 14.

To vote for Marco, go to www.easports.com/ncaa09/ and click on "Vote Now." Select "Conference USA," click on "Marco" and then "Vote for this Mascot."



Romeo and Juliet

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To make reservations for the class, call the Artists Series office at ext. 63326.

Tickets for *Romeo & Juliet* may be purchased through the Artist Series box office, located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. Ticket information may also be obtained by calling the box office at ext. 66656 or by visiting www.marshall.edu/muartsr.

Tri-State Foundation

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The gift was made with funds from the Ashland Inc. Donor Advised Fund of the Foundation of the Tri-State Community, Inc. The grant was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the Tri-State at its February 2008 meeting.

"This gift, as stipulated in our proposal, will be deposited into the Ashland Inc. Endowment for the Society of Yeager Scholars program at Marshall," said Bob Galardi, Director of Major Gifts for the Society of Yeager Scholars. "It will bring the total of the Ashland Endowment to an amount that represents more than 30 percent of our Yeager Scholars total endowment.

"If it were not for Ashland Inc. and the kind folks at the Foundation for the Tri-State Community, Inc., there would not be a Yeager Scholars program at Marshall."

Galardi said the gift represents the very best outcome of "people working with people to improve one of the most unique scholarships in our state and in our nation, here at Marshall University."

For more information on the challenge grant to the Yeager Scholars, contact Galardi at (304) 696-3336.

Deanna Pope

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mouth, Ohio. Along with ten or twelve other area students who were pursuing advanced nursing degrees, she was able to take most of her classes at Shawnee State, many of them over intensive three-day weekend sessions.

"I give full credit to my family for making it possible for me to get through the doctoral program," she says with fervor. "Everyone stepped in to help—my family, my in-laws—they all did everything they could to help out. I couldn't have done it without them; they gave me the sanity to continue."

She's an enthusiastic cheerleader for the MOVC nursing program and MOVC in general. One of the best things about the program, she says, is that students can remain in the Point Pleasant/Gallipolis area, for the entire program. The system has worked so well Pope did her doctoral dissertation on the effectiveness of interactive televised distance education for nursing instructions.

One of the biggest attributes of the MOVC program is its tight-knit, family feeling among students and staff, she says. Operated with two full-time instructors, aided by a cadre of well-qualified adjuncts, the program is totally student oriented. "We have an open door policy for our students and our goal is for their success. We try to help the students in any way we can."

The recent addition to the center, which includes a new science and nursing wing complete with nursing and biochemistry labs, was a tremendous upgrade, she says. "It's a wonderful addition. It's much roomier. We have a simulated mannequin to help with vital signs and assessment skills with the heart and lungs. The students have certainly benefited."

And Pope is enormously proud of the students and their accomplishments. She points to the high passing rate of Marshall nursing students who take the NCLEXRN test, which is required to become a licensed nurse. "Our students passed with flying colors with a 95 percent pass rate. In fact, the pass rate was 95 percent for all Marshall students taking that test and the graduate students also passed at that rate for their required test. Our pass rate for these exams is well above the national average."

To keep her own skills honed, Pope does some per diem work with Holzer Hospital in their community and wellness department. "We go out in the community where we deal with public health issues, doing such things as screenings and testing. I love doing that. I enjoy getting out and talking with people and dealing with prevention. I feel we're educating people as to how to better themselves regarding health issues."

Now with her grueling doctoral studies behind her, she's looking forward to having more time to spend with her family. She grew up in a family that spent vacations camping, and she and her husband have passed their love of the outdoors on to their children. "The kids absolutely love it," she says. "My parents have a camper so we go in it and we like boating, hiking and the entire camping experience. The greatest thing is that our kids have their grandparents so near."

So between the hectic life on the farm and her work with the nursing program, there's very little downtime for the energetic Pope, but that's fine with her. Not only is life full, it's also fulfilling. "We have a lot of dedicated staff. I could be doing other things, but I love being here and doing what I do."

Car No. 75

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as March 15 in the Sharpie Mini 300 at the Bristol Motor Speedway.

"A lot of people know about Marshall because of the 'We Are Marshall' movie, but I think NASCAR can bring even more exposure to the university," Rowe said. "At Herd Racing, we really are Marshall. Everyone on staff has strong ties to the school as well as the Tri-State area. It is exciting to see how much exposure we can get for both as we compete nationally."

Herd Racing LLC is a West Virginia-based NASCAR-sanctioned Nationwide Series team. The Tomes family approached university officials about using official Marshall logos on the hood of the car as well as in sponsorship materials at no cost to the school.

Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp is excited about the unique opportunity to reach new audiences and tell Marshall's story.

"Once people see this car and meet the amazing team involved in Herd Racing," Kopp said, "they will naturally want to learn about Marshall. It is a great partnership for us and we appreciate all of their efforts."

Dana Tomes said Herd Racing is still working to sign more sponsors for the new team.

"I feel confident that sponsors see the great opportunity here," Tomes said. "Not only are they supporting Marshall University but they are also helping put West Virginia in the national spotlight in one of America's most popular sports."

For more information on Herd Racing, go to www.herd racing.com.

Girls' Baseball League

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they played professional baseball in the 1940s and 1950s and they continue to provide young women with inspiration.

For more information, contact Williams at (304) 696-2959.

Graduate Waivers

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Students who previously held waivers must reapply to be considered for summer term waivers. Please note that recipients of waivers will no longer need to go to the Graduate College office to pick up their approved tuition waivers.

Applicants who are awarded waivers will be notified by mail or e-mail. All awarded waivers will be processed electronically and posted to students' accounts within 10 business days of approval and registration. Applicants are responsible for any amount not covered by the waiver. These balances must be paid by the tuition/fee due date as established by the university.

All graduate students must be registered for summer classes to receive the waivers and to have the payments posted to their accounts. Unless special arrangements are made, waivers for students who are not registered by May 2 will be assigned to other qualified applicants.