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TUESDAY

April 3, 2012

THE PARTHENON

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MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON
David Greene, of Huntington, fishes in the Ohio River at Harris Riverfront Park on Friday.

FACULTY SENATE

Committee approves recommendations

BY SARAH STILES
THE PARTHENON

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met Monday to discuss three recommendations and set the agenda for the general faculty senate meeting April 26.

Camilla Brammer, senate chairman, lead the meeting over the executive committee.

Brammer started the meeting with informational and procedural items before introducing the recommendations.

Three recommendations were presented to the executive committee, including a revision to the Marshall University Board of Governors course syllabus and two recommendations regarding course changes.

The first senate recommendation, SR-11-12-(22) 60 from the Budget Academic Policy Committee, recommends that the MU Board of Governors Policy No. AA-14 Course Syllabus be revised.

The Board of Governors Policy No. AA-14 describes the academic policy regarding content and distribution of course syllabi to students.

The second recommendation, SR-11-12-(23) 61 in the Curriculum Committee, asks approval of course additions in the College of Health Professions and course changes in the College of Education and College of Liberal Arts.

The final recommendation presented to the committee, SR-11-12-(24) 62 in the Curriculum Committee, recommends approval of the listed request for undergraduate addition, deletion or change of a major or

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Assessment Day to focus on support services and information technology

BY BRITTANEE BARTON
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's seventh annual Assessment Day will be Wednesday and will focus on student advising and technology. Campus-wide and department specific sessions will be conducted throughout the day in lieu of classes scheduled prior to 4 p.m.

Mary Beth Reynolds, director of academic assessment, said the Student Resource Center will be taking suggestions on a drop-in basis.

"The student resource

center will pretty much be open all day for students who want to discuss what they like about Marshall, what they might like to see changed and any suggestions they have to improve the campus," Reynolds said.

There will be three information technology focus groups throughout the day. Kelli Johnson, reference and instruction librarian, said the first session will run from 10:30 a.m. through noon and discuss the new TECi rooms on campus.

"We just wanted to gather some student responses in terms of what

they think about the spaces and the technology in there, how they've been used in their classes and suggestions to improve them," Johnson said.

The second session runs from 11 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. and will discuss the MU Libraries website. Johnson said the goal of this session is continued improvement.

"Generally, every summer, we take a look at our website and we really want to make sure it is providing the information students and faculty need," Johnson said. "This is a good opportunity to

gather information from people who are using the website."

The final IT session regarding the Drinko Library learning commons will be conducted from 1 p.m. through 2:30 p.m. All IT focus groups are first-come first-serve participation.

There will also be freshman-sophomore and junior-senior focus groups, both with the topic of student support services and their ability to help students achieve goals. Reynolds said it is important to hear student feedback on this topic.

"This year, the provost

has announced advising as a major campus initiative," Reynolds said. "Last fall, there were a number of work groups that came forward with how to improve advising on Marshall's campus. This will be students' opportunity to contribute to the conversation we have been having."

These sessions will happen once from 10 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. and again from 1 p.m. through 2:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

In addition to meetings

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APRIL: Autism Awareness Month | Local agencies offer services for those in need

BY MOLLY URIAN
THE PARTHENON

Easter is not the only event celebrated this month. April is also a time to recognize the growing need for concern and awareness about autism.

Since the 1970s, National Autism Awareness Month has been an opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues arising within the autism community.

According to a study released Thursday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 88 children are diagnosed with a disorder on the Autism spectrum five boys to one girl. The rise of autism cases is largely because of broader screening and better diagnosis.

The West Virginia Autism Training Center, located on the third floor of Old Main, provides services to 37 Marshall University students.

Barbara Becker-Cottrill, executive director for the West Virginia Autism Training Center, said the program provides services to individuals on the autism spectrum of all ages.

"We have a little over 2,800 people registered for our services," Cottrill said. "We offer a variety of services for families. Some of them are resource services, but our direct service-delivery-model is called the Family Focus Positive Behavior Support Process. We can work with approximately 85 families all around the state in a year's time and we work very closely with them.

"We help the families develop a team, and then we

support the family and the team members in developing a comprehensive plan for that individual child," Cottrill said. "We then coach the families and team members on how to implement the plan. We are truly looking to increase the quality of life for the child and the family."

The center will conduct the 11th annual autism awareness event, "Rally for Autism," on April 28. The event is sponsored by three local agencies, the West Virginia Autism Training Center, the Autism Services Center and the Autism Society of River Cities.

"We encourage teens and Marshall students to come out and walk, ride or run for our event," Cottrill said.

Huntington resident Amber Bellomy's seven-year-old daughter, Isabella, was



MOLLY URIAN | THE PARTHENON
Graduate assistant Anita Burton assists TV and radio production management freshman, Blake Kelmar, with work on a reading assignment.

diagnosed with autism by age two and a half.

"For many years, Isabella was indifferent to humans and animals," Bellomy said. "She tended to isolate and

only engage in parallel play with her twin sister. Isabella is an interesting case because as far as I know, the girls are identical. This means they share the same

DNA. However, Isabella is more severely disabled by her autism.

"We get the strange looks in public places due to some of her eccentricities," Bellomy said. "I have to be her greatest advocate. So many life skills that people take for granted, Isabella has not learned. Her autism creates stresses to be honest because the world is not so autism friendly at this point."

Bellomy's daughter receives services through the Marshall University Speech and Hearing Center, the West Virginia Autism Training Center and the Autism Services Center.

"The clinicians have witnessed Isabella learning to read and write," Bellomy said. "She is my miracle child."

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PARTHENON STRIP AD

Engineering students make splash with canoe race

SHANE ARRINGTON
THE PARTHENON

Twenty-eight Marshall University engineering students represented their school by building and racing concrete canoes, designing and constructing steel bridges and many other engineering activities during the 2012 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Virginias Conference.

The three-day conference took place at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., Friday and involved students from 14 schools throughout Virginia and West Virginia participating in 11 events.

Tyler Spurlock, captain of Marshall's concrete canoe team and senior engineering student, said this conference acts as a sort of climax to the academic year.

"You take what you learn from class and physically apply it and actually see it work," Spurlock said. "It really felt good because as a senior, I'm heading out into the real world, and you kind of wonder whether or not you're going to be able to live up to expectations — taking what we learned, applying it and doing well against another engineers I feel about validated our education."

The process is to test, test and test some more and then to actually build the concrete canoe was a months long, time-consuming process Spurlock said.

"We started off with the conceptual design of the canoe," Spurlock said. "A lot of teams purchase molds from specifications provided by ASCE, but we didn't want to do that. They are expensive so we decided on making our own mold using an existing canoe that I owned as a template. We took that mold and did some analysis on it and tried to figure out how we could build it out of concrete and make it work."

Spurlock said there were



Two members of Marshall University's concrete canoe team test their vessel for competition during the 2012 ASCE Virginias Conference at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., on Friday.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

many roadblocks along the way, with each success bringing a new barrier, but he said it was nothing he and his team couldn't overcome.

"We had to figure out how to make the canoe light enough to float so we had to put the foam in it, but at the same time, we had to make sure it wouldn't break so we had to find out a way to put some reinforcement in it," Spurlock said. "Every time we thought we wouldn't make it we always jumped the hurdle. Each hurdle we picked up more and more steam and moved closer to the finish line."

The concrete canoe team came in second overall for their category. They earned two first-place honors, but unfortunately for the team, their canoe wasn't run on steam, and they fell behind

in the canoe race. Spurlock said it was okay because it was a great learning experience for the team.

"Our canoe had one major flaw," Spurlock said. "We didn't have the chance to put the canoe in the water before the competition. We assumed it would handle, the same way that my aluminum canoe would handle but that was not the case. We actually made our canoe too buoyant — there wasn't enough canoe in the water to steer it."

Even though he graduates this year, Spurlock said he's considering finding ways to hang around. He said his time at Marshall and facing hurdles with his team has put engineering in his blood, and he's not ready to give that up.

The concrete canoe competition was perhaps the most high-profile of the events, but

there were many events the young engineering students had a chance to be involved in.

The concrete bowling and recycled mini-golf were crowd favorites. The T-shirt design contest showcased the student's artistic talents, and the steel bridge competition gave students the chance to be creative and practical. Marshall also had teams in the surveying, environmental, oral presentation and technical paper categories.

Marshall is the new kid on the block in this decades old conference. This was only their second year competing, and they still had a strong showing coming in first, second or third in five of the 11 events, with first places finishes in the concrete bowling challenge,

presentation and final product portions of the concrete canoe competition and aesthetics in the steel bridge competition.

"They did remarkably well," said Professor Jeffery Huffman, associate professor of engineering. "I'm constantly getting emails from other chapters congratulating us on our success. I shook many hands this weekend from other faculty members that were thoroughly impressed with our showing at this conference."

"Last year was our first time attending the conference," said Nathan O'Kane, junior engineering student. "Last year was for reconnaissance — to sort of spy on the other teams to see what they did right and what to avoid. I think that's why

we did so well this year. We took lots of notes and really paid attention to how things work."

The students who represented Marshall at the conference were: Bryan Bledsoe, Kristen Bobuk, Kevin Bollinger, Chris Brumfield, Austin Cox, Cassie Drown, Aaron Dunkle, Carissa Hansen, Phil Hatfield, Cory Jenkins, Andrew Keffer, Michael Kennedy, Jonathon Lambert, Gabriel Lawrence, Eli McWhorter, Jessica Meadows, Kyle Merritt, Charles Meyers, Danielle Nelson, Nathan O'Kane, Vimal Patel, Isaac Picklesmier, Tommy Rice, Gerald Rowe, Matthew Shropshire, Tyler Spurlock, Jese Vance and Zayyad Yakubu.

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STEM Center hosts 'Family Night'

BY HILARY FREEMAN
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Early Education STEM Center hosted a Family Night for the families of their students to show off the kinds of fun their kids have been getting into.

The June Harless Center is one of only five satellite partners of the Carnegie Mellon CREATE, Community Robotics, Education and Technology Empowerment Lab and has gradually implemented several of the programs created by the lab into their early education STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math— center, said Tarabeth Brumfield, chief program development officer for the June Harless Center.

Currently, there are four projects from the CREATE Lab in the Early Education STEM Center — Hear Me, Message Me, GigaPan and Arts and Bots, Brumfield said.

"We want to make sure the families understand what we are doing in the classroom and how we can engage them at home as well," Brumfield said. "We are doing

a presentation on how the CREATE Lab partners with the STEM center and what are their children going to be talking about when they go home. We are giving the families a chance to experience these programs."

The families of the Early Education STEM Center at Marshall were invited to come and work with the same programs and projects their children work with every day in the center Thursday night.

Throughout the night, the parents got to go to different stations for three of the four programs — Arts and Bots, Hear Me and Message Me.

Mandy Brumfield, mother of STEM center student Kiki, said the education and exposure her daughter is receiving from the center puts her daughter a step ahead of the rest.

"We love that our daughter is a part of this program," Brumfield said. "Kiki is one of four, and because of this program, I feel she is just leaps and bounds over where the others started when they were going into kindergarten," Brumfield said. "It is a competitive world, and you have to be able to get a step



HILARY ROUSH | THE PARTHENON

Brea Wiles teaches parents about the different programs the STEM Center offers.

ahead — so starting kindergarten, she is already one step ahead because of the STEM center."

Other parents were also impressed by the teacher's integration of technology into the classroom.

"This program has exceeded my wildest dreams. I knew it was good program when I got Avery into it, but every day, they are doing something — working on a smart board, making a robot, and she can move around an iPad probably better than me," said Jaye Ike, mother of

STEM Center student Avery. "I love the emphasis on the STEM especially as a mother of a girl. If they have a strong STEM foundation, who knows? Who knows—maybe she can be a physicist."

The parents are also impressed by the teacher's dedication to their students and their student's well-being.

"The teachers here are fantastic. The amount of activities that she (Avery) gets to do every single day

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Suspect in shooting at Calif. religious college is ex-student

BY MATT STEVENS
LOS ANGELES TIMES
(MCT)

LOS ANGELES—The man suspected of shooting and fatally wounding multiple people at a religious college in Oakland had previously been a nursing student at the school.

Pastor Jong Kim, who founded Oikos University about 10 years ago, told the Oakland Tribune he was unsure if the alleged shooter had been expelled from the school or dropped out voluntarily. He said he heard about 30 gunshots while remaining in his office for safety.

Lucas Garcia, a teacher at the school, told KGO-TV he heard a half-dozen shots in the middle of a lesson before someone yelled that someone had a gun. Garcia said there are a little more than 100 students enrolled at the university, but not all were on campus at the time. He said the school teaches the Bible, nursing and English.

Police arrested the suspect several miles away in Alameda at a shopping

center Monday afternoon.

Authorities had described the gunman as an Asian man with a heavy build and wearing khaki clothing.

According to its website, Oikos University is a Christian university that "was established specifically to serve the community of Northern California in general and San Francisco and Oakland areas in particular." The school is not far from Oakland International Airport and the Oakland Coliseum.

Dramatic live television footage showed officers swarming around the small Christian university, with some appearing to enter the main building. Some civilians were seen being rushed from the building and into police vehicles.

Meanwhile, officials said there were "mass fatalities" in the shooting, but it remained unclear how many people were killed. Several media reports said about 10 people were hit but there were conflicting reports as to how many are dead.

SPORTS

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Women's tennis team stays hot

BY LAWREN HIGHTOWER
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University Tennis improved to 11-7 on the season after a win vs. Old Dominion University over the weekend.

The Herd was led by strong singles play by junior Kara Kucin and sophomore Maria Voscekova. Kucin, broadcast journalism major from Belleair, Fla., is 11-6 on the season and has won eight straight matches. Voscekova, international business major from Bratislava, Slovakia, is 11-5 on the season and has gone 8-1 in her last nine matches.

Head coach Jon Mercer, who is in his 10th season leading the Herd, is the all-time winningest coach in Marshall history posting a 162-73 record coming into this year.

Mercer said he is proud of the way his players have battled and played hard this year.

"We lost some key players off last year's team," Mercer said. "Players have had to step up and play new

positions, and I'm proud of the way they have responded to the pressure."

The Herd started the season 2-5. Since then, they have gone 8-1 including a seven match win streak. The Thundering Herd posted a 7-1 record in March with victories vs. Liberty, Virginia Tech, East Tennessee State, West Virginia, Winthrop, East Carolina and Eastern Kentucky. The only loss for the Herd came on the last weekend of the month against Virginia Commonwealth.

"We got off to a rough start," Kucin said. "But ever since the match against Liberty, everything has been clicking for us. Everyone is playing hard and doing everything they can to guarantee us a victory."

The Herd is also led by strong doubles play by the duo of Maria Voscekova and Dominkia Zaprazna. The two have paired to post a 13-4 record in doubles matches this year.

"Maria and Dominkia have played really good together," Mercer said. "They

have a really good chemistry and have continued to battle all season."

As tennis is a two-semester sport, Coach Mercer said injuries and fatigue are inevitable, but his players have been mentally and physically tough throughout the season.

"The girls have been tough this year," Mercer said. "They all have battled some sort of injury, but we know it's all just part of the game."

Kucin also acknowledged injuries are just something that happens.

"We all are hurt," Kucin said. "But we all know it isn't something we can be concerned about right now. We just need to do our best and continue to work hard and play through it."

Coach Mercer said the team would continue to work hard and approach every weekend one at a time. The team hopes to beat Tulsa and gain a seed in the conference tournament.

The Herd continues their season 2 p.m. Friday against Louisville.

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TYLER KES | THE PARTHENON

Sophomore Kelsi Halbert lunges toward the ball at the net during Marshall's March 9 victory over East Tennessee State. That victory was part of a seven-game win streak for the Herd, which ended Saturday against Virginia Commonwealth. Marshall got back to its winning ways the following day, tallying a 5-1 victory over Old Dominion. In total, the Herd has registered an 11-7 record this season, including victories in eight of its last nine matches.



C-USA Hitter of the Week

#31 ALIANNA TELLES

Senior Marshall softball

Herd comeback stifles Liberty sweep

BY CAITIE SMITH
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University baseball team faced Liberty University this past weekend and finally snapped its five-game losing streak.

In game one, the Herd fell behind 4-0. Gray Stafford doubled in two runs, and Alfredo Brito also hit a double, bringing in another run and putting the Herd within one. In the sixth inning, the score was leveled when Stafford again drove in another run.

Starter Aaron Blair struck out eight and allowed eight hits in six innings of work. Sophomore Josh King was brought in for relief two batters into the seventh and allowed two runs giving Liberty the final lead change of the game.

Stafford went 2-5 in the game with 3 RBIs, and Brito went 4-5 as the Herd lost 4-8.

Game two on Saturday saw another come from behind rally in the middle innings.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Herd trailed 6-1 as

Alfredo Brito singled up the middle, driving in a run and bringing his hitting streak to 14 games. Freshman Eric Escobedo singled in another run and senior Eric Semeniuk hit a sacrifice fly to right field to bring in another run.

"It felt good to be a part of everything we had going for us," Semeniuk said. "Being able to put up runs for our pitchers who were working hard is what we need to do be successful as a team."

Senior Mike Mason recorded the loss, giving up

six runs (three earned) off of nine hits and three walks. He was able to fan three at the plate, bringing him only seven Ks away from 200 career strikeouts, a feat only four pitchers in Marshall history have done.

Saturday's offense was led by junior Isaac Ballou, who went 2-3 and became fifth on Marshall's all-time list for stolen bases with 43.

Marshall left a total of nine on base during Saturday's contest as they fell to the Flames 9-5.

The Herd was working hard, but all the puzzle pieces finally fit together Sunday, when the team roared to a 12-10 victory.

"We battled all weekend, and it was a good comeback win," junior Alfredo Brito said. "It just shows everyone we can compete when we play to our potential."

Brito singled in the eighth to bring his hitting streak to 15 games.

"It's not really something I think about much," Brito said. "I'm just excited for our win."

As with the other two games in the series, the Herd fell behind and rallied in the middle innings. After falling behind 8-2, the Herd surged back with 10 unanswered

runs through the next three innings.

The eighth inning brought a lot of excitement to the Herd fans. Senior catcher Thor Meeks gave the Herd the lead with his second home run of the year.

"The past 10 games I've been struggling a little, so to put us on top and also get back on the right track was a win win situation," Meeks said.

Also in the eighth inning, junior Isaac Ballou hit a career milestone. On a 1-0

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Freshman infielder Sergio Leon makes a play at second base during Marshall's Feb. 18 loss to Canisius. Leon is batting .293 in 15 starts this season. The freshman also boasts a .938 fielding percentage.

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OPINION

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THE PARTHENON

ABOUT US

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Mondays through Fridays during the regular semesters, and weekly Thursdays during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Visit us at marshallparthenon.com, click on the OPINION link in the navigation bar to write a letter to the editor and let your voice be heard.

EDITORIAL

A constitutional amendment is needed to reverse Citizens United

Corporations are not people. This seems like an obvious statement. However, it was not an obvious statement to the United States Supreme Court in January 2012 when they ruled in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that corporations were in fact human. It has not been until recently that America has seen the truly frightening motions this ruling has set in place. Now corporations can buy speech. They can make large-scale contributions to political action committees (PACS) and super PACS. There is a large movement growing that says a constitutional amendment is needed to strip corporations from using money to buy speech. This only makes sense if we wish to rescue what is left of our democracy and ensure that one vote equals one voice.

"Corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desire," Supreme Court Justice Stevens said. "Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often serves as a useful legal fiction. They are not themselves members of 'We the People' by whom and for whom our Constitution was

established." It is a shame that the other Justices could not agree with this sentiment. Alas, they did not and now it is time for the people of this country to right the wrongs that its leaders have made.

Since the *Citizens United* ruling, one has only to look toward the Republican, and partially the Democratic Party, to see the amounts their PACs are raising: \$135,373,473 million has been raised through either PACs or super PACs since the ruling. The majority of this money has gone toward smear ad campaigns. One can see that the more money a corporation puts into a PAC, the more their ideas are seen and heard. Individuals still have freedom of speech, but the question is can individuals buy as much speech as say AT&T to go toward donations to their political candidate of choice? One would be pressed to say they could afford to do such.

An amendment should be made to strip corporations of free speech and unabated spending on political candidates. It seems to me the only thing that could stop the corporate world from trampling American democracy.

COLUMN

W.Va. has a serious problem : Drug overdoses

BY MICHAEL MCATEER
THE PARTHENON

Within the past couple of weeks, I have noticed that the parking around campus has freed up significantly. What before spring break would have meant several passes up and down Third and Fourth Avenues for a single parking meter is now open season for parking.

I can only attribute the change in available parking and the subsequent absenteeism from class with the weather change. Spring is in the air and no one wants to be cooped up in a classroom when there is sun and fun to be had on the commons - I get that!

Something else I have also noticed, which has given me pause, is the number of young women who choose to run or jog around campus at night. A woman, alone at night

with ear buds blasting, looks to me like targets for sexual assault and it scares me. I was going to write a column for this week that would support my fears for vulnerable young women. I looked into the Marshall University Police and Huntington Police reports for crime stats, but what I found was that I was just looking for trouble.

The Marshall University Police Department reports that there has only been one convicted rape on campus in the past three years. That seems nearly impossible to believe, but that is what has been reported. As for the Huntington Police Department, its annual report says that (as of 2008) "the family unit investigated 487 cases, 33 of which were sexual assaults."

By comparison, they investigated "228 domestic

battery and domestic batteries." I am not minimizing the 33 incidents of sexual assault, which were perpetrated in 2008; I am merely saying that sexual assault might not be the crime, which most prominently faces our campus and city.

More than that, I was

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West Virginia, which has a rural and impoverished population, had the highest rate of drug overdose in the country with 21.1 occurrences per 100,000."

> MICHAEL MCATEER

interested to find that MUPD is offering a program: The Sexual Assault Education Awareness program, in association with the women's studies. The SAEA program "performs services that include crisis intervention, educational programs for

women and men, educational resources, support groups and court/hospital intervention. SAEA promotes awareness and educates the campus community regarding rape, acquaintance rape, sexual abuse and other sexual offenses." This sounds like something of which

all students should make themselves aware.

So my fears of young women jogging around campus do not correlate into mass sexual assaults on campus or in the city of Huntington. So, what type of crime did rank highly in the Huntington Police

blotter? Of the forensic police cases in the report, there were "13 homicides, 37 burglaries, 15 robberies and four sexual assaults" in 2008. I am not a criminologist, but I would guess those numbers are not bad in accordance with a city of our size. What did seem outsized to me, for our city, was the number of drug trafficking cases which were reported.

"During the year 2008, the Vice and Narcotics Unit was most notably responsible for the arrest of 245 individuals and the seizures of over 2,500 grams of cocaine, 35 firearms, 559 units of heroin, and multiple currency seizures."

Two thousand five hundred grams is more than five pounds of cocaine in 2008 alone. And these figures say nothing about the number of deaths caused by accidental overdose. According to the CDC data,

West Virginia, which has a rural and impoverished population, had the highest rate of drug overdose in the country with 21.1 occurrences per 100,000. Couple this with a report which NBC-affiliate (WSAZ) reported in January of this year that "At times, up to half the mothers-to-be on some area maternity wards are hooked on drugs — mostly pain pills."

While I am worried about seemingly health-conscious young women jogging on campus at night, we have a serious drug overdose problem which is killing hundreds of West Virginians every year. I guess that if we are looking for trouble, we might have just found it, via prescription drug abuse.

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Algae shows promise in biofuel tests

BY KELLY TUCKER
THE BATTALION, TEXAS A&M U.
VIA UWIRE

Anyone with a fish tank has probably put plenty of energy into cleaning algae out of water. Within the next decade, though, the energy in algae may be a viable source for fuel, thanks to researchers at Texas A&M U. who are developing an algae biofuel.

Algae naturally converts sunlight into an energy source during photosynthesis and can be used as a type of biofuel in two different ways. The most common way involves taking lipids, or fats, out of the algae to use as biodiesel. An alternative method creates

a hydrocarbon fuel similar to gasoline or diesel. Unlike biodiesels, hydrocarbon fuel does not have oxygen and is more energy dense, which makes it a more versatile fuel source and usable in aircraft.

"The overall efficiency, rapid growth rate and yield are the major advantages of using algae," said Joshua Yuan, assistant professor in the department of plant pathology and microbiology.

The research group aims to create methods that would generate higher yields from algae; these yields could make it possible for algae biofuel to be produced on a larger scale, then sold as an alternative to gasoline. For this to happen,

the process will have to become more cost-efficient.

"For the algae to be useful as a biofuel, there are some technical barriers," said Shangxian Xie, plant pathology graduate student. "For example, extracting lipids is very difficult because it is very costly. Right now, we are developing technology to harvest the algae more cheaply by cultivating it into a pellet so you only need a filter to harvest it."

Xie said this new method allows for a three-to-four-fold increase in yield. Innovations like this make production less expensive and more applicable to the energy market.

Another method the research group is examining

involves photorespiration, an alternative to photosynthesis, where sugar is combined with oxygen. Photorespiration is not as efficient as photosynthesis and typically causes a quarter of the carbon to be lost. Yuan's research explores ways to use this lost carbon as an energy source.

"The pathway takes the excess carbon normally lost and shunts it toward hydrocarbon synthesis. So now you have a system that just needs light, water, carbon dioxide and some minimal nutrients to produce hydrocarbons," said Ryan Syrenne, molecular and environmental plant sciences graduate student.

Other methods currently

studied by the researchers to improve algae's use as a biofuel source involve using genes from various algae species to create a type of algae that excels in the critical areas of efficiency, growth and yield.

The possibilities of renewable energy sources like algae are also being explored by the government. In February, President Barack Obama announced his support for algae research and offered up to \$14 million in grant money to assist researchers. Yuan said his research proves biofuels have the potential to become a part of the solution to the problem of depending on a non-renewable fuel source.

Currently, production of

algae biofuel costs more than \$20 per gallon, but that cost is slowly coming down as techniques like those explored by Yuan's lab make it less expensive to produce large quantities.

Yuan said by the time algae biofuel becomes marketable, at around \$5 per gallon in the next decade or two, it will be a much cheaper and viable option compared to gasoline that will possibly sport a double-digit price tag by then. In the meantime, Yuan and his team plan to strive for even better developments.

"My next dream is artificial photosynthesis," Yuan said. "We are only limited by our resources."

ASSESSMENT Continued from Page 1

on assessment day, over 20 online surveys will be open for student completion from

Monday to Friday. The link to surveys will be emailed to specific sets of students to which they apply.

Each time a student participates in a survey or an in person

discussion, they will be entered in a drawing for assessment day prizes. Prizes include iPads, a whitewater rafting trip, ski packages and more.

From 11:30 a.m. through 1

p.m., a free lunch from Buddy's Barbecue will be served at the student center plaza. Student Activities Programming Board is sponsoring inflatables. "Looking Glass" and the Fife

and Drum Corps will provide entertainment.

Reynolds said she also encourages students to check with their college and

major for departmental activities on Assessment Day.

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SENATE Continued from Page 1

program in the college of health professions, minor in the college of business, and area of emphasis in the college of health professions.

All recommendations brought to the executive committee were approved with little or no discussion and will be carried to the next Faculty Senate meeting April 26.

After the executive committee

motioned their approval, Brammer continued the meeting asking the committees approval of agendas for future faculty senate meetings.

A spring general faculty senate meeting, organized for April 25 includes remarks from Stephen Kopp, Marshall University President and Camilla Brammer, faculty senate chair.

This year is election year for the faculty senate so Brammer and Jamey Halleck, college of business chair, will

be recognizing retiring faculty and presenting faculty awards at the April 25 meeting.

The agenda for two meetings on April 26 were also set at Monday's meeting.

The first meeting will consist of an introduction of senators, the election of faculty senate chair, assistant chair and recording secretary.

Selections for Executive Committee representatives and standing committee liaisons will also be chosen at the 2 p.m. April 26 meeting.

The 4 p.m. general faculty senate meeting on April 26 will include reports from Kopp, Gayle Ormiston, University Provost, Marty Amerikaner, MU Board of Governors and Karen McNealy, speaking on behalf of the advisory council.

No requests were made for the next Faculty Senate meeting and Brammer adjourned the meeting after nine minutes.

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— like sending me pictures. It provides a line of conversation I don't think most kids have in school. We are blessed

to have the teachers they have with this program — they are top-notch," Ike said.

The STEM Center is educating not only on the STEM subjects, but also on skills these children will need through college.

"This STEM education background helps them with their work ethic, their planning and being prepared for their upcoming years," said Emily Maynard, mother of STEM student Sophie. "My

husband and I want to provide the best early education we can for them, and this is it."

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BASEBALL Continued from Page 1

count, he recorded his twelfth triple of his career. Ballou hit three triples his freshman season, seven during his sophomore campaign, and two earlier this year.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," Ballou said. "I'm just thankful God has kept me healthy enough to allow for the opportunity to play all these games thus far in my

career. I'll care more about this record when we become a regionally selected team. That's where my focus is at the moment."

Junior Wayland Moore got the start for the Herd going 4 and 2/3 innings, giving up 5 runs off of 5 hits.

Senior Jesse Fernandez was brought in to close out the ninth, and things almost took a turn for the worse. Liberty loaded the bases with no one out, and Fernandez allowed two hits and a walk before a Herd error cut

the lead to 12-9.

Fernandez struck out three and walked one in his inning of work.

"We came back from deficits Friday and Saturday but couldn't quite close the deal, and coming all the way gives us confidence in each other that should carry over well into our conference series this weekend," Semeniuk said. Semeniuk went 1-4 in Sunday's contest with an RBI.

The Thundering Herd will be back in action Wednesday

as they play a home game against former MAC rival Ohio University. The game is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. at the Kennedy Center YMCA fields along Route 2.

"It would be great to get as many people as possible to that game," Semeniuk said. "Since all our games are basically on the road, it would be good to see friends, family, and the city support us."

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TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM



Easter: A historic holiday with modern celebrations

BY SHAUN FRENCH
THE PARTHENON

When Easter comes around, some think of the Easter bunny, while others celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Traci Stanley, music minister and coordinator of community outreach of the Catholic Newman Center, said Easter is about the celebration of the day Jesus Christ was resurrected.

"Jesus was crucified, died, was buried and on the third day rose again — the third day being Easter," Stanley said.

According to the History Channel website, Jews were the first to celebrate the resurrection, originally two days after Passover. In 325 A.D., Roman emperor Constantine ordered that

Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday, the day Christ resurrected. Constantine ordered Easter to be celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox.

Today, Easter is known as a moveable feast because it is not on the same day every year. It is observed between March 22 and April 25.

The origins of the holiday's name are unknown, though according to the History Channel website, sources say it came from Eostre — The Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. According to the website, other accounts say Easter is traced back to a Latin term "hebdomada alba," or "white week," which refers to Easter week and the white clothing people wore when

baptized.

The word Easter later appeared as esostarum in Old High German and through a translation error, became Easter in English. Other languages have different names for Easter such as "Pascua" in Spanish and "Paques" in French, both derived from the Greek and Latin term "Pascha" or the Jewish term "Peschah" meaning Passover. The reason behind this being Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish holiday, Passover, in memory of the Israelites freedom from slavery in Egypt, before he was crucified and resurrected.

Jesus' resurrection is mentioned in the Bible, but the book does not mention anything about the Easter bunny. According to the History

Channel website, this mythical hare has become the main symbol for this religious holiday. Rabbits are a symbol of fertility and new life because they are known to be heavy reproducers.

The myth of the Easter bunny first arrived in America with German immigrants and their tradition of an egg-laying hare called Osterhase. German children made nests for the hare to lay its colorful eggs. This tradition expanded across America.

Chocolate and gifts were added to the colorful eggs while the nests were replaced by colorful baskets.

Beth Thacker, junior forensic chemistry major from Ona, W.Va., said as a child she received an Easter basket. Thacker said even though she was excited about receiving

her gift, she knew why her family celebrated Easter.

"We would get Easter baskets, but still the main thing was we were going to church," Thacker said. "We were going to celebrate Christ's resurrection from the grave. As a five-year-old kid, I understood he rose from the grave, but I didn't understand the significance to eternal life that has. Now, I would much rather celebrate Easter by celebrating the resurrection than getting an Easter egg."

Churches celebrate Easter in different ways by having egg hunts, cantatas or a Passover feast.

Steve Willis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Kenova, W.Va., said his church will have a Passover feast at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Family

Life Center. He said he will talk of the last 12 hours of Christ's life after the Passover feast.

Rob Reed, associate pastor of worship arts of River Cities Community Church, said his church will have a program that was written by members of the congregation. He said the program consists of the River Cities' choir, band, dance, drama and tech teams that will perform a story of two friends who meet at a coffee shop called "Tell Them."

"Tell Them" is at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday at River Cities Community Church at 4385 U.S. Route 60 East.

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APRIL | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

