

4-4-2012

The Parthenon, April 4, 2012

Crystal Myers
Parthenon@marshall.edu

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Recommended Citation

Myers, Crystal, "The Parthenon, April 4, 2012" (2012). *The Parthenon*. Paper 65.
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THE PARTHENON

VOL. 115 NO. 113 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

TEAM TONI



Homecoming of local cancer patient brings community together

BY MOLLY URIAN
THE PARTHENON

As many young adults are pursuing dreams and goals, one local woman is living each day to the fullest while fighting for her life.

After living a healthy life for 22 years, Chesapeake, Ohio resident Toni Black was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer on March 27, 2011. During a follow-up appointment, doctors discovered the cancer had spread to her brain.

Over the past year, Toni has traveled back and forth between the University of North Carolina for lung treatments and Duke University to receive brain treatments. Two weeks ago, Toni was told by doctors her treatment was no longer responding, and she was given two months to live.

Upon receiving bad news, Toni was able to give light to her condition by traveling with her family to Holden Beach, N.C. for a week with loved ones.

Toni returned home Tuesday to discover family, friends and community members gathered to welcome her home. A rally that stretched from Beckley, W.Va. to Toni's home in Chesapeake, Ohio was filled

with posters, balloons and support as she made her journey home.

Jill Greenhill, Chesapeake, Ohio resident and owner of Jill's Tumble World, has known Toni since she was six years old and planned the homecoming event. Greenhill also created a support group, "Team Toni," that works to help raise funds for Toni's medical expenses.

"The 'Team Toni' group was originally formed for different cheerleading teams across the state of Ohio and even the country," Greenhill said. "When a cheerleader or friend is sick, it is nice to join together all on the same team. Essentially, we are all cheerleaders for Christ so we invited everyone to be on our team and act as a cheerleader for Toni. I knew there were a lot of people who wanted to show their support for Toni and be involved so the event was created to make this possible."

"Toni is one of the sweetest people I know, and she never complains," Greenhill said. "No matter what the situation is, she smiles. I want people to remember that if Toni can go through what she has been through — no matter what mountain or hill people face — they can do it with a smile."

Greenhill said a nonprofit organization is being formed under Toni's wishes.

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MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

TOP: Toni's caravan travels down U.S. Route 60 on her way home. BOTTOM: Members of the community await Toni's arrival.

APRIL BRINGS AWARENESS TO SEXUAL ASSAULT CONTACT helps spread word

BY ALLYSON WARNER
THE PARTHENON

April marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time where sexual assault is brought into full perspective.

Since 2001, this month has been fully dedicated to sexual assault and how it affects not only the victims but families as well. President Obama has made this a national event, on which he does a proclamation every year.

The purpose of having an entire month dedicated to sexual assault is to create awareness to show this is not only a national issue but also a problem in local communities.

"I think so many times we don't talk about it that much that people don't realize it's a problem," said Sharon Webb, Cabell county sexual assault response team coordinator.

CONTACT, of Huntington, is a victim's advocate that provides support to the victims when they need it.

"I think sexual assault awareness month is an excellent month for people around the community to spread awareness of the issue and to show support to the victims," said

Amanda White, victim advocate, said.

According to college statistics, one out of four college women will be assaulted before they graduate.

"One thing for females to especially realize is how high of a chance they have that this might happen to them," White said. "People aren't realizing that this is happening all the time around them."

"It's surprising that people come up to us in the open and speak about what has happened to them in the past with sexual assault," Webb said. "We're told in society not to talk about what has happened to us, when in fact victims want to speak out."

Some things women can do to protect themselves are to take self-defense classes, be aware of surroundings at all times especially at night, and never walking alone. If something is seen that doesn't seem right, pull the person over and say something to them in hopes of stopping them.

Men can help the cause by spreading the word that this is not ok to do this to somebody, and they can also help by stopping

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Manchin celebrates accreditation of MU Forensic Science Graduate Program

BY ZACHARY MORRIS
THE PARTHENON

United States Sen. Joe Manchin stopped by the Marshall University Forensic Science Center on Tuesday to celebrate the accreditation of the MU Forensic Science Graduate Program's Accreditation and the addition of the Paul H. and Dixie O. Nicely Scholarship Fund.

Manchin said that the accreditation of this program makes West Virginia the leader in forensic science.

"Marshall University is not just the leader in forensic science in West Virginia," Manchin said. "Marshall University is the leader in the nation. That speaks well for this entire state, and you all should be very proud."

"There isn't a person that graduates from this program that isn't going to have people knocking on their doors saying, 'We want you. We want you in this government, the private sector,'" Manchin said. "So what you're doing, I say thank you."

Terry W. Fenger, director for the Marshall University Forensic Science Center, said over the

past decade the industry has seen a rise in the interest of forensics.

"About twelve years ago there was this, what we called, CSI effect and many universities were noting the interest of students in crime scene investigation," Fenger said. "Of course it didn't hurt with five or six programs on television that focused on crime scene investigation. Universities responded by creating all sorts of crime scene investigation curriculum."

"We got involved early on with our forensic science program, and, in 1994, in association with the West Virginia State police, we developed the program," Fenger said. "We had our first class in 1995 and have graduated a class every year in May since."

Fenger said in response to the CSI effect, that the American Academy of Forensic Science decided to evaluate the quality of the programs across the country. This was done to see if they meet standards that produce quality scientists to be hired for federal and state labs. Fenger said there are at least 19 master's degree programs in forensic science across the country.



ZACHARY MORRIS | THE PARTHENON

United State Sen. Joe Manchin speaks at the Forensic Science Graduate Program's accreditation ceremony.

"Last year, we submitted an application for accreditation for the digital forensics unit," Fenger said. "This requires all coursework to be in place and to have a close working relationship with law enforcement, and last month we were notified that we had been approved for accreditation."

Also during the program,

Fenger unveiled a new scholarship fund was created in order to promote and encourage students from West Virginia and the metropolitan area to participate in this program.

The need for the scholarship was identified by Tammy White, a member of

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Sociology professors, students reflect on conference in New Orleans

BY REBECCA STEPHENS
THE PARTHENON

Spring break might be over, but that doesn't stop members of Marshall University's sociology department from reflecting on the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting they attended in New Orleans during the break.

"The conference was an opportunity for our graduate students to go down and to actually make presentations in a professional setting," said Marty Laubach, interim chair of the sociology department. "It's really part of their professional development to do this kind of thing."

Marshall's second-year graduate students presented their research on topics such as emotion management in college football and conspiracy theorists.

Laubach said there were also graduate students who attended the conference as discussants to help guide conversation after the presentations were finished.

Michael McAteer, first-year sociology graduate student, said serving as a discussant for the conference was a good learning experience.

"Watching other presentations, I really got a strong sense of learning the ropes in a way," McAteer said. "That way, if I get to present next year at the conference, which I hope to do for my thesis, I'll

know better how to prepare, what to expect, what I liked that I saw. I thought it was a really good primer, and I know other discussants who I've talked to that went with us feel similarly."

McAteer also said he thought that the Marshall students and faculty who presented at the conference had more support from their colleagues than other schools in attendance.

"I thought it was very cool that we were there to support each other," McAteer said. "I think it boosted the experience."

Laubach said the presentations went very well, and the students, both presenters and discussants, gained professional experience.

"I was very happy to allow the other students to see presentations by faculty and by other graduate students," Laubach. "So, everybody kind of got a sense of what it was like to be out in the real world and the professional world of academia."

Linda McAteer, junior sociology major from Alexandria, Va., attended the conference as part of her research in studying different religions.

"I went for research, and I found it extremely valuable because I was able to diversify my sample," Linda McAteer said. "I found it extremely helpful to be



Heather Sprouse (left), Rachel Sparkman (center) and Markus Hadler (right) present during the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans over spring break.

able to go to another place where religion was exhibited in a completely different manner."

Linda McAteer said she observed integration between the different religious practices in New Orleans that one might not find here.

"There was absolute seamlessness from one practice to another," Linda McAteer said.

Laubach said networking with faculty and students from other colleges was an important part of the conference, but the solidarity that

was built between the Marshall faculty and the students who attended the conference was very valuable to him as the acting chair of the sociology department.

Markus Hadler, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, shared

Laubach's opinion.

"I agree it's kind of an internal cohesion, and then some networking with the outside world, also," Hadler said.

Rebecca Stephens can be contacted at stephens107@marshall.edu.

June Harless Center receives \$175K grant

BY HILARY FREEMAN
THE PARTHENON

The June Harless Center has received a grant from the Benedum Foundation to help Pre-K students' transition to kindergarten without a hitch.

The \$175,000 grant is to assist teachers and students with development and support for the transition.

"There is a big gap between what happens from Pre-K to kindergarten," Tarabeth Brumfield, said Chief Program Development Officer for the June Harless Center. "(The Transition Grant) focuses on making connections for the community, families, children and teachers by implementing activities to make the transition more seamless."

The grant allows for 25 Cabell County teacher

"Kids need a solid foundation in their education. We want to start them off on the right foot so the concepts they develop in pre-school can last them through college."

> TARABETH BRUMFIELD

representatives from both preschool and kindergarten, as well as school administration and families, to take part in professional development to make the transition more effective, Brumfield said.

The Transition Grant has created a partnership between the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development, Cabell County Schools, the West Virginia Department of Education and several community partners, and it is funded by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

"We will be holding some summer institute trainings for teachers, as well as follow-up collegial professional learning community meetings throughout the school year," Brumfield said. "From that, next summer we will have transition camps for the students and families for Cabell County."

Currently, the June Harless Center is working on recruiting by teaming up with Cabell County school principals to identify teachers who would best fit for the trainings and

See GRANT | Page 5

Huntington requests student input for city plans

BY CHRISTINA CARRION
THE PARTHENON

The City of Huntington organized a town hall meeting on Marshall's campus to hear students' opinions and priorities for the new "City of Huntington Plan 2025."

James Baldwin, city planner for Huntington, presented and hosted the event.

"I'm really passionate about people getting involved because I don't know everything that needs to be done," Baldwin said.

Plan 2025 is a comprehensive plan updated every 10 years to establish goals for the city to implement. The plan focuses on improvement for the city including housing, aesthetic attractions and businesses.

Students were particularly concerned with housing in Huntington including the location, cost and convenience — but especially the construction.

Chase O'Dell, junior nursing student from Charleston,

W.Va., said he preferred older housing to the new housing developments because the construction was solid.

"I'd rather not hear my neighbor drop a pencil, or hear a phone vibrating upstairs," O'Dell said.

Erin Dzaack, senior dietetics major from Davis, W.Va., echoed the same feeling, but also noted she enjoyed the old Huntington charm from living in a house off campus.

"I had a good experience living in a house that was farther into Huntington," Dzaack said. "It has an old house charm and it was definitely appealing."

The previous comprehensive plan from 1996 established Pullman Square. This presentation focused on Fourth Avenue, or the Old Main Corridor, and what could be done to make it a place students and the community would like to linger.

"Old Main Corridor could be the main street of the

city," Baldwin said and encouraged discussion for new ideas to bolster activity on Fourth Avenue.

"I would like to see students living more in the downtown area above stores," O'Dell said.

Many of the floors above the businesses downtown on Fourth Avenue are vacant and used for storage.

Opening up new apartments in the downtown area would reduce the rent stores have to pay, as well as bring in more business from the students, O'Dell said.

"As a student, I think that is incredibly appealing to have the option of living downtown," O'Dell said.

The new ideas from the Marshall town hall meeting as well as other community meetings will be compiled into a draft, voted on by the community and accepted by the City Council.

Christina Carrion can be contacted at carrion@marshall.edu.

Alpha Phi Alpha brings Gospel music to Marshall

BY SHAUN FRENCH
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Alpha Phi Alpha had an event to share the Gospel at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Memorial Student Center.

Jon Austin, junior accounting major from Saint Albans, W.Va., said College Gospel Explosion was a way to show Alpha Phi Alpha was not a fraternity to party and drink alcohol but to express the importance of a spiritual life with God.

"It gives you strength," Austin said. "When I'm struggling, when I'm stressed for a test and when I need guidance in my life, the only person I call on is God to help me through it. He gets me through it."

College Gospel Explosion had praise teams and musical instrumentalists from several churches including Church of God, First Baptist Missionary Church and the Real Life Christian Center.

Jasmine Scott, from Huntington who performed with

the Real Life Christian Center's praise team, said the College Gospel Explosion brought energy to the spiritual atmosphere.

Scott said she became involved with the praise team at the Real Life Christian Center when the director asked her to join because of her participation in worship. She said she was involved with the praise team since then.

"I like to sing and I love to dance," Scott said. "It's my way of giving God praise, and

it's an expression of myself.

Jessica Johnson, senior biology major from the University of Charleston, said she thought it was wonderful for Austin to organize an event that did not follow the college norm.

"I go to church with Jon," Johnson said. "I'm a Christian, and I also like to show an example of how young Christians should live for Christ."

Shaun French can be contacted at french25@marshall.edu.

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SPORTS

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ALL EYES ON CATO

Following nine starts last season, Rakeem Cato looks to use spring practice to step up his game

BY JARROD CLAY
THE PARTHENON

Since first stepping onto Marshall's campus in the fall, quarterback Rakeem Cato has been the center of attention.

The sophomore won the preseason position battle and became the first true freshman starter at quarterback since Marshall great Chad Pennington, but the glory would not last as Cato was stripped of his duties when A.J. Graham took the spot.

But when Graham went down with a season-ending injury, Cato once again took the reigns and led the Herd to a Beef O' Brady's Bowl title. Cato is now in his first spring with Marshall and looks to tighten his grip on the starting role.

"Last year, he was shaky coming in as a freshman, but he stepped it up," said Marshall sophomore wide receiver Tommy Shuler. "He knows more now than he did last year, and he's just looking really good. I'm looking for him to do a lot better this season than he did last season."

Cato started the 2011

season with a bang, throwing six incompletions and 115 yards against West Virginia University in the season opening loss.

Despite the early success, the then true freshman was the center of criticism.

"I've said all along I thought he came in in the fall and did a lot of things for a true freshman not to have gone through at spring ball," said Marshall head coach Doc Holliday. "Just his learning curve and having the opportunity to play for a whole year, he's going to make great strides."

"I respect Cato's game a lot," said Marshall senior receiver Aaron Dobson. "A lot of people don't give him credit. You have to think he was a freshman, but I've seen him progress a lot from last year to right now."

Rakeem Cato arguably had his best performance of the season in the most important game, the Beef O' Brady's Bowl.

In the game, the Florida native passed for 226 yards and two touchdowns, momentarily hushing his critics.

"It's crazy how much he's progressed from when

he first came in as a freshman," Dobson said. "You can't really expect a lot as a freshman coming in at quarterback, I know how it feels to be a freshman at receiver and how fast the game is."

Now Cato is in his first spring practice with the Herd and said he knows how critical the five weeks are for him and the team.

"This spring is very important," said sophomore quarterback Rakeem Cato. "We have a new system, and a fast offense, and everybody needs to get their wind. It's good to work with everybody and get everybody on the same page and just come out every day of spring ball and go hard."

Cato said he is admittedly his biggest critic and knows what he needs to do to make not only himself, but in turn the entire offense better.

"I'm trying to get bigger in the weight room and come out here and get faster and stronger," Cato said. "I'm going back to last year and looking at film and seeing what I did wrong and turning my mistakes into good plays. I'm just having fun out here and trying to

get the job done."

Dobson was Cato's number one target last season with 331 more receiving yards than any other receiver for the Thundering Herd.

Dobson said Cato's ability to catch up with the program and overcome adversity is what makes the Marshall quarterback different from others.

"He's definitely caught up really fast," Dobson said. "He came in and had a couple of bad games, but he got the experience and I'm really looking forward to how he's going to play this year."

The connection of Cato and Dobson will be critical to the Herd's success in the fall, and Coach Doc Holliday said Dobson will have a key role in Cato's success. "He's (Dobson) a good player," Holliday said. "Excellent receivers make quarterbacks better and he's a good one."

Marshall offensive coordinator Bill Legg said Cato has plenty of room to improve and that he has no doubt that "Cato will work extremely hard to meet his goals."

"He did some very, very

positive things and gained a lot of valuable experience last fall,"

Legg said.

"He's got to learn from it, and he's got to use the things he did well and continue to repeat those and take the things he didn't do well and figure out what he needs to do to make the corrections."

Cato is not only the number one quarterback for the Herd, but he is currently the only active one, as A.J. Graham was dismissed from the team and sophomore Blake Frohnappfel is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Jarrold Clay can be contacted at clay105@marshall.edu.



Men's rugby readies for end of season

BY ANDREW FROBEL
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University men's Rugby team closes in on the end of tournament play with a sharp young roster.

The Marshall men's Rugby team has a 25-man roster and said they expect to have more men join the team in the following season.

Going into next season, the team expects to have more recruits with larger numbers to add onto their roster.

Men's Rugby ended their fall regular season with a 5-1 record. The team was off to a successful start however, ended up losing in the semi-finals.

Throughout the off-season, the team was in the process of making a major change competitively.

Corey Sowards, sophomore biology major from Barboursville, W.Va., said the team made the tough decision to move from a club team into a Division I program.

According to Marshall University Rugby alumni, in years past, they were a Division I program.

"We slowly downgraded to Division 2, Division 3, and then eventually downgraded into the club level," Sowards said.

The team had the chance to become a Division I program based on how well they played in the regular season and the opponents they faced.

The men's rugby team were invited into Division

1, but opted out to play in Division II for recruiting purposes.

"We plan to enter next season playing at the Division 2 level and then move up to Division 1 for a much more competitive atmosphere," Sowards said.

Chris Mahoney, junior business major from Front Royal, Va., said the teams they will have to face in the upcoming season would bring much more competition to the table.

"Teams that we have been

used to facing are Eastern Kentucky University, Ohio State, Wittenberg, Ashland (OH) and Wright State," Mahoney said.

Mahoney said this upcoming season, they are moving into the Mid-American Conference where they will play teams like Ohio University, Kent State, Slippery Rock, Akron and Bowling Green.

During the spring season, the team competes in tournaments across the Midwest and parts of the south.

With a 4-2 record thus

far in the spring season, the men's team hopes to increase the wins as the season comes close to an end.

In a tournament in Savannah, Ga., the team played in the men's division, where they lost to the defending champions, Wisconsin, by one point.

The men's rugby team said they strive for success each and everyday on and off the field.

Andrew Frobel can be contacted at frobel@marshall.edu.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Marshall men's rugby team take the pitch during the spring season.

CORRECTION

In the April 3 edition of The Parthenon, a photo identified a member of the women's tennis team as

sophomore Kelsi Halbert. The photo should have instead identified the player as junior Dominika Zaprazna.

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KEEPING ZUMBA FIT
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OPINION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

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.

STAFF

CRYSTAL MYERS

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

myers132@marshall.edu

WILLIAM LINEBERRY

MANAGING EDITOR

lineberry2@marshall.edu

KATIE QUINONEZ

NEWS EDITOR

quinonez@marshall.edu

JAKE SNYDER

SPORTS EDITOR

snyder100@marshall.edu

KELSEY THOMAS

LIFE! EDITOR

thomas336@marshall.edu

ADAM ROGERS

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

rogers11@marshall.edu

MARCUS CONSTANTINO

PHOTO EDITOR

constantino2@marshall.edu

TYLER KES

DIGITAL EDITOR

kes@marshall.edu

ARIAN JALALI

COPY EDITOR

jalali@marshall.edu

JOHN GIBB

ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

gibb@marshall.edu

PATRICK WEBB

CARTOON EDITOR

webb190@marshall.edu

CONTACT US

109 Communications Bldg.
Marshall University
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755
parthenon@marshall.edu

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.

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EDITORIAL

Supreme Court's decision on strip-searches is another embarrassment

In a 5-to-4 decision Monday, the Supreme Court ruled that law enforcement officials have now can strip search anyone arrested, no matter the seriousness of the crime, before putting them into a jail. What this means now is this: No matter what crime a person has been arrested for, they can now be made to strip naked and have their body examined by officers.

The majority opinion stated, that government had no place to "second guess" the judgments made by law enforcement officials in the field. Despite 10 states having laws against such strip-search proceedings, and the Fourth Amendment which protects United States citizens from illegal search and seizure, the Supreme Court has made another decision that further degrades basic rights of citizens.

The dissenting four justices stated that this is, "a serious affront to human dignity and to individual privacy." They also stated that strip-searches should not be conducted on individuals arrested for minor offenses such as those involving drugs.

Strip-searches should only occur if officials have reasonable cause. One example of this law in action was a nun being strip searched for "trespassing" at an anti-war demonstration. If this example does not illuminate where we are going in this country, thanks to awful decisions made by the Supreme Court, little else could demonstrate it with such clarity.

With this decision, along with the National Defense Authorization Act signed into law by President Barack Obama on Dec.31 which allows U.S. citizens to be "indefinitely detained" if thought to have association with terrorist groups, our civil liberties are continually being further restricted.

This Supreme Court has held many disappointments. They have let down the American people and the Founding Fathers of this country who created the Constitution. Citizens United? Health care? There should be no debate about basic human rights. And now strip searches. Every chance they have had to defend the most basic principles of democracy, they have failed.

GUEST COLUMN

It is vital to celebrate women's history

BY DAVID J. PITTENGER
DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS

During much of April, the Marshall University Women's Studies Program will host a number of innovative and informative events on campus that celebrate women in history and the important social and legal milestones that have advanced the civil liberties and rights of women in America.

This year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the passage of legislation leading to the creation of Title IX. With the simple assertion, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance," this

federal regulation has had far reaching effects on the equality that women now enjoy on college campuses. Let us not forget, too, that it was a mere 92 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

As I ponder our nation's history, I am often reminded of the chorus from "Big Yellow Taxi" : "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got til it's gone." Perhaps that line captures the essence of the need for a vital women's studies program at Marshall. The advancement of women's civil liberties, indeed the civil liberties of all people, must be continually studied and protected.

It is also important to recognize that while history often focuses on notable individuals or specific events, the course of history often reflects the ripples in time created by people whose

names have been forgotten. It is, therefore, with some pride that I relay the history of my great aunt, Gillie Aldah Larew.

Gillie was born in 1882 in Pulaski County, Va. She attended Randolph-Macon Woman's College, where

programs. Therefore, it is notable that Gillie was able to attend the University of Chicago for graduate study in mathematics. She earned a master of science degree in 1911 and a PhD in mathematics in 1916. Although she was able to nimbly navi-

At RMWC she was a much beloved teacher who encouraged many women to take the study of advanced mathematics seriously and thereby motivated many generations of women to pursue graduate study in mathematics. In 1946, Mary Church Terrell, who held a master's degree from Oberlin College (one of the first schools to become coeducational), was denied membership in the Washington D.C. Chapter of the American Association of University Women because she was black. Gillie led the charge to revise the AAUW's bylaws to reverse this act. At the 1949 meeting of the association she argued, "Shall we who are now members of this association, not by virtue of birth or social position, but by virtue of a college degree prove less than willing to work for practical educational ends in the fellowship

of other holders of degree?

And how shall we in certain areas where tensions exist summon the persistence and faith to make real this implied fellowship of college women?" The by-laws were changed.

Gillie retired from RMWC in 1953 after serving as professor of mathematics, chair of the department of mathematics, and dean of the college. She lived a peaceful life and died in 1977.

While I am clearly proud of her legacy, I am most impressed by her willingness not to be a conformist within the social and political conventions of the day. Hers is a lesson that I hope all Marshall students learn — when one abandons a sense of individual rights and responsibilities in order to comply with the whimsical trends of the day, one's identity as a free person is lost.

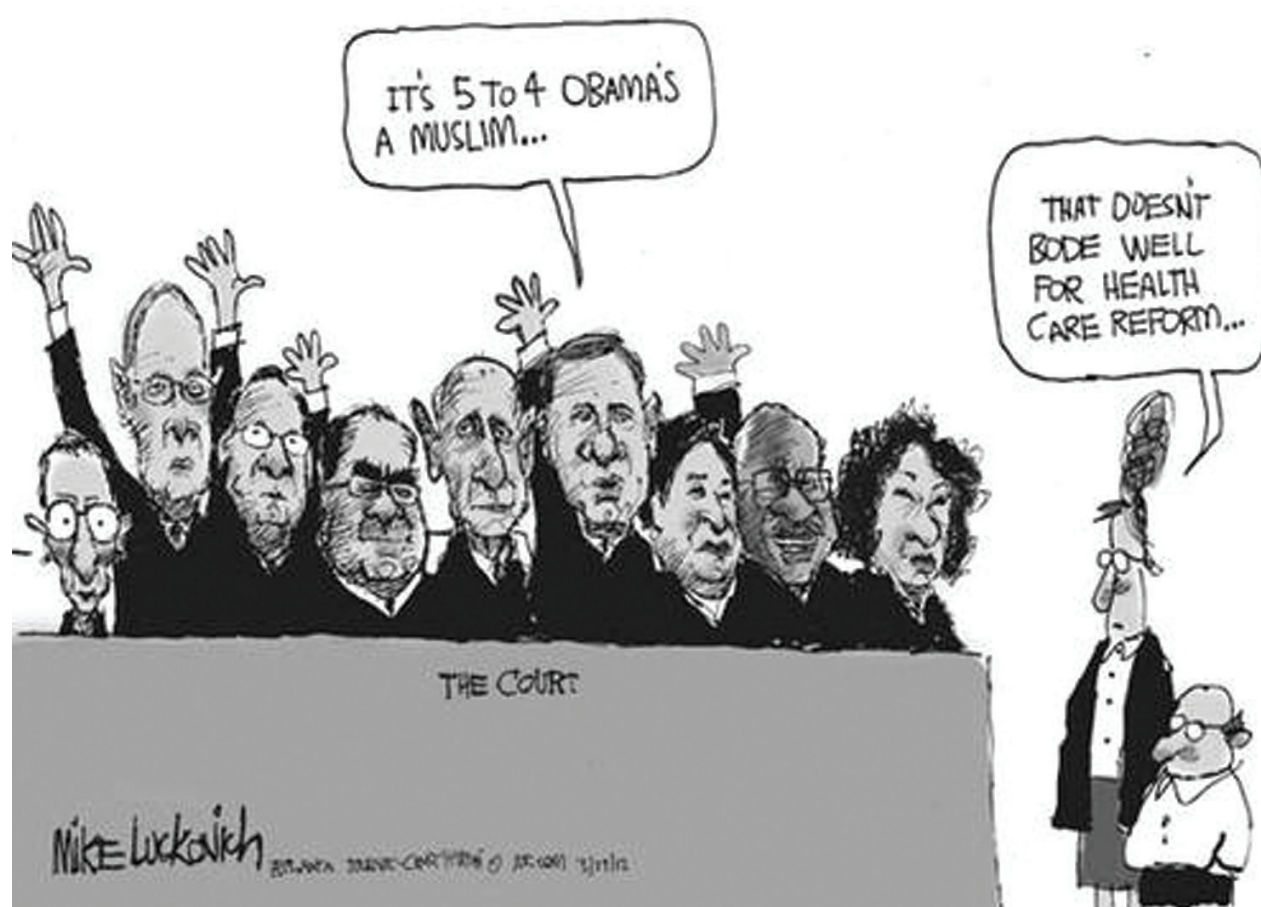
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When one abandons a sense of individual rights and responsibilities in order to comply with the whimsical trends of the day, one's identity as a free person is lost.”

> DAVID PITTENGER

she completed a degree in mathematics. At this time in our nation's history, women could only obtain a college education from women's colleges or from one of the miniscule number of private colleges that offered coeducational

programs. Therefore, it is notable that Gillie was able to attend the University of Chicago for graduate study in mathematics. She earned a master of science degree in 1911 and a PhD in mathematics in 1916. Although she was able to nimbly navi-



The Fourth Amendment:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

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PHOTO BY JIMMY DEMARCO

Students perform at the College Gospel Explosion in the Don Morris Room in the Memorial Student Center. The event was sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha and Jon Austin, junior accounting major from St. Albans, W.Va.

GRANT

Continued from Page 2

professional development.

“The hope is to expand the pilot project to other counties and offer these services to them as well,” Brumfield said. “West Virginia is leading the nation in access to pre-school education. We would like to align practice and philosophy from pre-school to

kindergarten.”

The transition process could be different depending on the background experience of the child and family and this factor can make transition difficult.

“Some pre-k classrooms are not found within a school but this is different throughout the state,” said Holly Moore, chief professional development officer for the Harless Center. “Sometimes

they are embedded in the schools which mean that the parents are aware of how the school works, the atmosphere, the school bus system, and other school components. But in Cabell County, many of the pre-k classrooms are community partners and are not physically in the K-12 schools — and sometimes there is a disconnect. We are trying to bring the partners together and make it easier for families.”

Starting out a child’s education in the right way is key to their success through school, Brumfield said.

“This transition is so important because kids need a solid foundation in their education. We want to start them off on the right foot so the concepts they develop in pre-school can last them through college,” Brumfield said.

Hilary Freeman can be contacted at roush89@marshall.edu.

CONTACT

Continued from Page 1

actions that do not seem right at the time.

Marshall students can help by volunteering on their hotline which is constantly up and running on any given day. They can follow CONTACT of Huntington on Facebook or either look at their website for information they can pass along to others.

Students can also help by placing a quick message on their news feed about sexual assault awareness violence month so other will learn about this month.

CONTACT of Huntington will have a booth set up in the student center all month long handing out information to who ever needs it, or to just talk about their past experiences.

Allyson Warner can be contacted at warner65@marshall.edu

BLUE

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affected, and it is not uncommon anymore.

“Someone you know is probably affected by Autism, or it could possibly affect your family one day,” Law said.

Autism Speaks’ website states that Autism affect one in 88 children and one in 54 boys in today’s society.

Both Law and Lynch said that there are numerous ways to join the fight against Autism, including wearing your own blue attire, participating in an Autism walk or donating money to Autism Speaks. They hope that the Marshall community and Huntington join them this April is raising awareness and money to stop autism.

Joanie Borders can be contacted at borders9@marshall.edu.

TREE

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you’re walking on street trees,” he says.

Ferris Kawar, a recycling specialist in Burbank, Calif., said about 1 percent of what goes to the landfill is wood — an amount he calls “obscene.”

Branches from downed trees become mulch, he said, but the trunks often go to the landfill.

Setting up a system to use downed trees, perhaps in a public-private partnership, is a pet project for the city’s Public Works Department recycling coordinator, Kreigh Hampel. The obstacles include finding space

for processing the trees and for storing lumber. But the payoffs: fewer trees sent to landfills, less transporting of lumber and something less tangible.

“People have a connection to wood. They don’t want to see it go to waste,” said Marina del Rey, Calif., furniture maker Cliff Spencer,

among a growing number of artisans and entrepreneurs for whom fallen trees offer not only beauty and durability but an environmental opportunity.

“Here’s the value of urban lumber: It’s growing in your town, on your streets,” Spencer said. “We have a botanical wonderland.”

TONI

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“Toni wants to be able to pay back for what the community has done for her,” Greenhill said. “If Toni is healed here on Earth, she will become the CEO of the organization. If she does go to heaven, then we will continue to honor her legacy. She wants to be able to raise money for cancer awareness and to be able to help those who want to take time off work to spend with their sick, loved ones. Toni realizes the challenges people face when they cannot pay their bills. “Team Toni”

will be a legacy that will carry on forever.”

Greenhill said she just simply wants Toni to see the impact she has truly made on others.

“She doesn’t realize how many people look to her Facebook everyday or look for her smile,” Greenhill said. “Toni’s story has spread all across the nation. We even had some celebrities who wanted to be involved with the welcoming and we loved the idea of all these famous people wanting to be involved, but I wanted this to be about Toni. I have never in my life known a person to have this big of an influence

on people at the exact same time.”

Holly Black, cousin to Toni and Chesapeake, Ohio resident, has been part of “Team Toni” since it began and also helped with the homecoming rally.

“Our small town has really come together to support Toni,” Holly Black said. “We wanted the community to know how inspirational Toni has been. She’s never lost her faith in God and never let herself get discouraged. She has become an inspiration nationwide to many people who do not even know her, they just know her story.”

Cody Methax, Marshall

junior, was one of many supporters who rode in the limousine as Toni was escorted by policemen.

“She was more than happy to see everyone,” Methax said. “It was unbelievable and means more than you could ever imagine, not only to her, but to her whole family. Nothing could take the priceless look off her face when she saw the entire community giving love and support in her honor.”

Donations for Toni Black can be made to First Century Bank.

Molly Urian can be contacted at urian@marshall.edu.

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MANCHIN

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the board of advisers named the scholarship after her parents, Paul and Dixie Nicely. Fenger revealed two portraits in honor of White’s parents that will hang in the Forensic Science Center.

The accreditation will

remain for five years until it’s up for reevaluation in 2017. “The accreditation body also decided that Marshall University will be the model system for the United States so far as a digital forensics program,” Fenger said.

Zachary Morris can be contacted at morris243@marshall.edu.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Alpha Xi Delta puts autism's name in lights



BY JOANIE BORDERS
THE PARTHENON

The Alpha Xi Delta sisters are not simply becoming “blue” about Autism. They are being proactive this April to raise awareness and funds for their philanthropy, Autism Speaks. Starting Tuesday — World Autism Day — and continuing

throughout the entire month of April, the sisters will be shining blue lights on the Alpha Xi Delta sorority house to raise awareness for autism. “Autism affects more children than AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined,” said Morgan Lynch, senior secondary education major member from White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. With Alpha Xi Delta being partners with Autism Speaks

on a national level, Lynch said her and her sisters really expose students and the community to the reality that autism is becoming extremely common in today’s society. Erica Law, president of Alpha Xi Delta, said the sorority is just one of the many efforts across the world. The Statue of Liberty and Sydney Opera House are two others that will sport blue lights in support of

Autism this month. Not only will Alpha Xi Delta be lighting their house blue, but they have also provided various other organizations on campus with blue lights in hopes they will join them in the fight against Autism. Apart from the lights, the sorority will be having a competition Wednesday to see who can raise the most money. The competition will also include a

talent show. “All the sisters are trying to wear blue as much as possible, and we all changed our profile picture to something related to autism,” Law said, whose own profile picture states “Keep calm and light it up blue.” Law said the fight against autism is important because there are so many people

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Send fallen trees to craftsmen instead of chippers

BY MARY MACVEAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES
(MCT)

LOS ANGELES — Three men in neon-colored hard hats push the blade through a black acacia tree trunk, slicing it into 3 1/2-inch-thick slabs and exposing stunning lines and swirls. “That acacia’s beautiful,” says John Dominguez, the director of a 2-month-old partnership between Anaheim, Calif.-based West Coast Arborists and Woodhill Firewood in Irvine, Calif., adding that the old-growth grain is something that “you’ll never see” on the market today. It takes eight minutes to cut each 11-foot-long slab because the wood is so hard, says Tom Rogers, owner of Woodhill Firewood, which

takes in 600 tons a day from tree trimming and removal jobs. The acacia should yield eight to 10 slabs, he says. Each might surpass 250 pounds, and with luck they’ll be sold to artisans to make tables and other pieces. That tree, which fell in Monrovia Canyon Park in December, and a nearby deodar cedar that fell in Arcadia, Calif., are examples of salvaged wood furniture has produced a secondary trend: rising efforts to ensure that urban trees, including those that fall during storms, don’t end up in landfills. It’s not a new idea to turn such trees into lumber, and some communities such as Lompoc, Calif., have embraced it. The state of California has even lent equipment to those who

want to try milling. But until recently, trees that fell or were removed by homeowners and cities in Southern California were mostly treated as trash — perhaps firewood or mulch, officials say. Dominguez, who has been charmed by wood since playing standup bass in youth symphonies, would like to make more connections with furniture makers and wood artisans and see more closed-loop recycling: A tree falls and gets turned into lumber that’s used in flooring in, say, a city building.

“Walk into City Hall, and
See TREE
Page 5



UWIRE.COM

OSU professor to bark on classics

BY HENRY CULVYHOUSE
THE PARTHENON

A professor from the Ohio State University will visit Marshall University to discuss dog breeds during ancient times April 20. Classics professor Michael Meckler is a fellow at the Ohio State University Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies. His expertise includes Roman history, Medieval Latin and Celtic traditions. The Marshall department of Classics is sponsoring the event.

Classics professor Eric Chrol said Meckler is well-known in the classics field. “He is fairly well-known in our field, but I don’t know if other folks are familiar with him,” Chrol said. “From what I understand, he is a dynamite speaker.” Chrol said the event will appeal to a wide audience. “Having Meckler come and talk about the way people view dog breeds and animals both in the ancient world and today will be accessible to anybody from kids to your parents,” Chrol said. Chrol said he expects the

talk to go very well, despite any rivalry between the Ohio State and Marshall. “The food we’re having at the reception will not include any rotten fruit or vegetables,” Chrol said. “Hopefully, it won’t be something to drive people off, I assume he’s a good man — even though he’s at the OSU.” Meckler will speak at 3 p.m. April 20 in the Shawkey Dining Room at the Memorial Student Center. Henry Culvyhouse can be contacted culvyhouse@marshall.edu.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Supporters of Toni Black, local 22-year-old diagnosed with stage four lung cancer last year, line Route 60 awaiting her arrival home. A rally stretched from Beckley, W.Va., to her hometown of Chesapeake, Ohio, to welcome Black home Tuesday evening.

TEAM
Toni

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