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## The Parthenon, December 7, 2012

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# THE PARTHENON

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## Dead Week: 'Business as usual'

By **MARCUS CONSTANTINO**  
THE PARTHENON

Dead Week, the one-week period before final exams start, began Wednesday. Unless you had it marked in your calendar, chances are you did not even notice.

"(Dead Week) didn't have much impact at the beginning, and it doesn't have much impact now, in my opinion," Steve Hensley, dean of academic affairs, said. "That's what I hear from the students. For students, it's sort of business as usual during Dead Week."

According to the Marshall University Undergraduate Catalog, Dead Week is

designated as the last five class days of the fall and spring semesters. During Dead Week, instructors cannot give exams that are worth 15 percent or more of the total course grade.

Instructors, however, are still allowed to assign new material, and can have due dates for major projects or papers during Dead Week as long as the date is listed in the course syllabus at the beginning of the semester.

There are some other exceptions to the Dead Week rules. Night classes, lab classes, freshman English composition courses and any classes meeting once a week are exempt from Dead Week.



Dead Week is not applicable to Inter-session or Summer Session courses.

Corley Dennison, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, said many students' frustrations with Dead Week come about because they do not

understand what Dead Week is and how it works.

"Dead Week was created, in essence, to allow students time to finish their assignments," Dennison said. "Dead Week does not mean a professor cannot have assignments during Dead Week; it means all large assignments – like papers, research projects, speeches, those kinds of things – are supposed to be listed in the syllabus so the students knows it's coming. The idea is that during dead week, a professor won't drop a large paper or a big test or something like that right at the end of the semester without fair warning."

Hensley said instructors often make assignments due during Dead Week as a final opportunity to cover material to better prepare students for final exams – not out of an "act of evil."

"I think the concept of Dead Week where you have a break in new material and you hope to consolidate all that and prepare for final exams... that's the ideal world," Hensley said. "The real world is something different. The truth is you're trying to catch up."

Dennison said Dead Week has been implemented at Marshall University for

See **DEAD WEEK** | Page 5

## Harrell to keep job during internship

By **SEAN DELANCEY**  
THE PARTHENON

Ray Harrell Jr. will keep his office of Marshall University Student Body President while interning at the state legislature.

Harrell will be taking part in the Judith A. Herndon Fellowship, where he will join 10 other students working along legislators as they draft legislation during their 60-day session.

Harrell said most of his job involved communications through phone and e-mail, which he would still be able to do while interning with the legislature.

"I don't feel that this will inhibit my ability to do my job as president," Harrell said. "If I don't feel like I can do either one well, I will re-evaluate the situation and makes cuts as necessary."

Harrell said the only tangible difference is his staff will have to attend more meetings in his absence and report the information back to him.

EJ Hassan, president pro tempore of the senate, said Harrell's internship wouldn't interfere with the continued success of the Student Government Association.

"My obligation is first and foremost to the senate," Hassan said. "Though, Ray knows that I'm always available to ensure the SGA operations run smoothly."

Harrell said a new president would take office in April following student government elections in March.

Sean DeLancey can be contacted at delancey2@live.marshall.edu.



## MU art professors win best in show

By **SARAH SMITH**  
THE PARTHENON

Two Marshall professors won best in show in the West Virginia Arts and Crafts Guild show at Parkersburg Art Center in November.

Frederick Bartolovic, assistant professor of art and ceramics area coordinator, and Michelle Strader, part time Marshall art professor and art teacher at the Huntington Museum of Art, collaborated on the winning work.

The work, titled "Coalescence," is made with ceramic and coal.

"It also excites me to know that our work, which doesn't attempt in any way to take a political stance on the controversial subject of coal, ended up winning," Bartolovic said. "Inevitably, using coal as a medium in one's work is a bit loaded, and I am happy to see that the West Virginia Arts and Crafts Guild were open to our artistic representation of this beautiful natural resource."

Bartolovic said winning this show was a type of welcoming to West Virginia.

"I was quite surprised and honored when we won the award," Bartolovic said. "We both only recently moved here to West Virginia, and I feel in many ways this is an expression of West Virginia welcoming myself and my profession, or my artwork to the state."

See **SHOW** | Page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
TOP: Coalescence I, Ceramic Stoneware  
BOTTOM: Coalescence II, Ceramic Stoneware

## Report says NASA on verge of losing edge

By **AMINA KHAN**  
and **ROSIE MESTEL**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

LOS ANGELES — Years of trying to do too many things with too little money have put NASA at risk of ceding its leadership in space exploration to other nations, according to a new report that calls on the space agency to make some wrenching decisions about its long-term strategy and future scope.

At a time when other countries — including some potential adversaries — are investing heavily in space, federal funding for NASA is essentially flat and is under constant threat of being cut. Without a clear vision, that fiscal uncertainty makes it all the more difficult for the agency to make progress on ambitious goals such as sending astronauts to an asteroid or Mars while executing big-ticket science missions, such as the \$8.8 billion James Webb Space Telescope, says the analysis released Wednesday by the National Research Council.

"These problems are not primarily of NASA's doing, but the agency could craft a better response to the uncertainty," wrote the report's authors, a group of 12 independent experts led by Albert Carnesale, former chancellor at the University of California, Los Angeles. "If the United States is to continue to maintain international leadership in space, it must have a steady, bold, scientifically justifiable space program in which other countries want to participate, and, moreover, it must behave as a reliable partner. Despite decades of U.S. leadership and technical accomplishment, many of these elements are missing today."

The report, commissioned by NASA at the behest of Congress, said the agency lacked a long-range agenda that enjoyed widespread support from government and the public. The authors also made plain that many of the problems boil down to money.

"NASA cannot execute a robust, balanced aeronautics and space program given the current budget constraints," the report warns. "There is a significant mismatch between the programs to which NASA is committed and the budgets that have been provided or anticipated. ... This mismatch needs to be addressed if NASA is to efficiently and effectively develop enduring strategic directions of any sort."

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## AMA hosted speed-networking event for medical students

By **ASHLEY KILLINGSWORTH**  
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University American Medical Association chapter hosted specialty speed dating Thursday to give current medical students the opportunity to meet physicians in specialty fields.

John Davitt, chair of Marshall University's

Medical students and professionals participate in a "speed dating" networking opportunity sponsored by the Marshall chapter of the American Medical Association in the Don Morris room of the Memorial Student Center on Thursday.

MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

American Medical Association chapter, said the event was created to give Marshall medical students an idea of what it is like to be in a specialty field.

"Basically, the event is just for medical students to meet physicians from various specialties and kind of get an idea of what it really involves being in a specialty," Davitt said.

The event featured five 15-minute rounds of networking with professionals about their specialty field.

Nafeeza Hussain, first year Marshall medical student, said she participated in the event to gain information on specialty fields medical students do not have the answers to.

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# NEWS

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## Huntington Area Food Bank prepares for Holiday season

By ERIKA RITTENHOUSE  
THE PARTHENON

The Huntington Area Food Bank is a non-profit organization that works in correlation with the Feeding America. Feeding America is the largest hunger relief agency in the country.

The HAFB's mission is to help feed hungry people by distributing nutrients, food and grocery product through the agencies network. The HAFB envisions a future where no person in the service area goes hungry.

"With the holidays coming up we've had so many people and organizations express interest in donating food or helping out in our warehouse," Katie Quinonez, HAFB interim assistant director of development, said. "Yesterday we had a woman come in

and donate \$1,000 what she would have normally spent for Christmas presents on her children. She said since her children have grown and are out of the house, she wanted to do something useful with the money. We really appreciate the support from the community during the Holiday season."

The HAFB provides food to pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, senior citizen and youth programs. Members that are a part of these different agencies receive food for free or pay sheltered maintenance fee of 19 cents per pound and must be a private non-profit organization.

There are over 100 volunteers that help keep the HAFB running. Approximately one million volunteers nationwide come out to food banks all over



the country to help sort products, pack grocery bags and staff special events.

"I've only been volunteering at the food bank for a couple weeks now," Abigail Willis HAFB volunteer and Marshall University student, said. "I really enjoy volunteering a lot because of the energy in the atmosphere. I can just tell that everyone who works or volunteers at the bank wakes up and is ready to go. They are passionate about

helping people in the Huntington area and I think that's amazing."

HAFB helps to feed over 96,000 people each month. These people are families that struggle to meet basic needs due to loss of employment or the downfall of the economy. The HAFB provides food for more than 260 agencies and 17 counties of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio.

Cash and small donations are accepted by the HAFB as well. For every dollar donated to the HAFB 7 pounds of food is distributed. Food donations come from local, regional and national resources. As the holidays approach, the HAFB prepares for its busiest season of the year.

Erika Rittenhouse can be contacted at [rittenhouse4@marshall.edu](mailto:rittenhouse4@marshall.edu).

## POLICE BLOTTER

The following was compiled from Marshall University Police Department reports.

By BISHOP NASH  
THE PARTHENON

### ONGOING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOLVED

On the morning of Friday, Nov. 30, Marshall police spoke with the victim of an ongoing domestic battery case who claimed she was also being stalked. The victim claimed that her ex-boyfriend had recently become overly-demanding and aggressive, leading to her leaving the relationship. The suspect began stalking to victim and a domestic violence petition was filed with MUPD. The suspect has been arrested and the case is currently under investigation.

### CAR THEFT IN SIXTH AVENUE LOT

MUPD received a complaint Friday, Nov. 30 of a full-size spare tire stolen from the student lot in the 1800 block of Sixth Avenue. The incident occurred between Wednesday and Friday afternoon. Police are currently reviewing surveillance video and the case remains open.

## Little movement is made on 'fiscal cliff' budget talks

By CHRISTI PARSONS  
and LISA MASCARO  
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON  
BUREAU (MCT)

WASHINGTON — Congress and the White House appear no closer to an agreement on the year-end budget crisis, although House Speaker John A. Boehner and President Barack Obama have opened lines of communication that could produce a deal later this month.

The president on Thursday enlisted a Virginia family to humanize his effort to preserve tax rates for low- and middle-income households while raising them on the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans. Republicans are fighting to keep the lower rates for everyone.

The Santana-Massenburg family of Falls Church, Va., would be snared if Washington failed to find agreement. All lower tax rates are set to expire Dec. 31, resulting in a \$2,200 tax increase for average Americans.

"They're keeping it together, they're working hard," Obama said of the family. "For them to be burdened unnecessarily because Democrats and Republicans aren't coming together to solve this problem gives you a sense of the costs involved in very personal terms."

The president sat around the family's dining room table with Tiffany Santana, a high school English teacher, and her husband, Richard, who works at a Toyota dealership. They and their 6-year-old son share the spacious apartment with Tiffany's parents, Velma and Jimmie Massenburg, who work as a child-care provider and postal worker, respectively, to help pay the \$2,000 monthly mortgage.

Because the family has two sets of working adults as income earners, they can expect to lose about \$4,400 next year if the tax cuts, first enacted in the George W. Bush administration, expire. Congress was wrapping up other business this week as negotiations produced little movement toward compromise on the looming fiscal cliff of tax hikes and across-the-board spending cuts that lawmakers originally mandated as incentive to find a

better way to trim the budget.

"It's primarily a Boehner-Obama negotiation, but that doesn't appear to be going very well," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. "My conclusion is, the president really does intend to take us off the fiscal cliff because he sees political advantage in doing so."

The president and his Democratic allies in Congress maintain that wealthier Americans should pay more, saying the country can no longer afford the estimated \$900 billion cost of continuing the Bush-era tax rates for another decade.

Several influential Republicans have suggested the GOP should accept the president's offer to extend the tax rates for most Americans while the broader budget battle continues. The Democratic-controlled Senate has already passed a bill that would extend the lower rates on the first \$250,000 earned for families and \$200,000 for individuals.

Top Republicans are seeking steep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security in exchange for producing some new tax revenue. And they are attempting to shift blame to Obama for steering the nation toward the fiscal cliff.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, sought to refocus attention on the nation's \$16 trillion debt load, a once-powerful "tea party" issue.

Republicans intend to extract additional spending cuts in exchange for the administration's request to raise the nation's debt limit to cover its obligations. But Obama has said he will not negotiate over the issue as he did in 2011 and expects lawmakers to either extend the government's borrowing authority or give him the power to do so.

Republican Rep. James Lankford, a conservative freshman from Oklahoma, noted that the spending cuts the GOP wants are to pay for last year's increase in the debt ceiling.

"We're waiting for the White House at this point," he said. "We have to have as much or more cutting as we raise the debt ceiling. They've got to get this resolved."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCT DIRECT  
TOP: Couple Sarah, left, and Melissa Adams show off the first same-sex marriage license approved at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office at the Whatcom County Courthouse in Bellingham, Washington, Thursday, on the first day that the state's law legalizing gay marriage went into effect. RIGHT: Diana Wickman, left, and J.P. Persall, of Sequim, celebrate after receiving their marriage license during ceremonies at the Thurston County Courthouse shortly after midnight on Thursday.

## In Washington state, same-sex couples line up for marriage licenses

By BRIAN M. ROSENTHAL  
and ALEXA VAUGHN  
THE SEATTLE TIMES (MCT)

SEATTLE — Hundreds of King County residents made history early Thursday by getting some of Washington state's first-ever marriage licenses for same-sex couples.

Lined around the county's downtown Seattle administration building, snaked through a winding queue and, finally, crammed into a processing room, the couples cried, shared love stories and passed around flowers.

Just after midnight, they rejoiced. "I am so glad this night has finally arrived," County Executive Dow Constantine said of Washington's official recognition of same-sex marriages. "This has been a long struggle nationally and in our state."

Constantine, a longtime gay-marriage supporter, signed the first license at 12:01 a.m., when the voter-approved Referendum 74 formally took effect around the state. Recorder's Office staffers planned to stay open throughout the night and until 6:30 p.m. Thursday to

accommodate as many gay and lesbian couples as possible.

More than 200 couples were in line to get licenses at midnight.

The first to actually receive them was a group of community leaders, including the acknowledged matriarchs of the movement in the state, West Seattle residents Pete-e Petersen and Jane Abbott Lighty.

"It's very humbling to be chosen first. We feel like we're representing a lot of people in the state who have wanted this for a long time," said Petersen, 85, who has been with Lighty for 35 years. "It's hard to explain the thrill that we are really going to get married."

Washington is now one of seven states that allow same-sex marriage. The District of Columbia does, too, and Maine and Maryland will soon, after also approving it last month.

Same-sex couples here can't legally exchange vows until Sunday, because state law mandates a three-day waiting period after a marriage license is issued.

But many of those who got the state's

first same-sex licenses Thursday said the wait will seem like nothing compared with the wait they have already endured.

Garriel Keeble and Chris Grekoff said they agreed to marry 40 years ago, after meeting four years earlier.

"I guess it was a long engagement," Keeble said cheerily as she entered the gates outside of the administration building.

"Things have really changed in the past 40 years," the 62-year-old added.

For Kelly Middleton and Amanda Dolente, the wait to marry has not been quite so long. The Auburn couple has been together for a year and a half, including eight months as domestic partners.

On Wednesday, they were the first in line outside the administration building. It was 4 p.m., hours before they would get a marriage license.

"We've been so anxious about this," said Middleton, a 24-year-old aerospace quality inspector, bundled up in a hooded sweatshirt to fight the cold. "This day couldn't have come soon enough for us."

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	C-USA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
SMU	0	0	8	1
EAST CAROLINA	0	0	6	1
TULANE	0	0	7	2
HOUSTON	0	0	6	2
SOUTHERN MISS	0	0	6	2
MEMPHIS	0	0	5	2

# SPORTS

	C-USA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
UCF	0	0	4	2
TULSA	0	0	5	3
MARSHALL	0	0	5	4
UAB	0	0	4	5
UTEP	0	0	2	4
RICE	0	0	2	5



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Column

## Cedric Golden: It's time for a fresh(man) approach for Heisman

By CEDRIC GOLDEN  
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN (MCT)

Johnny Manziel will make history Saturday night when he wins the Heisman Trophy.

For the second straight year, a kid from Texas will hoist the coveted trophy, and for the first time, a freshman will stand as the best player in college football.

At least for the first time in the eyes of Heisman voters. There was a time when those eyes were more trained on older players, but I'm hopeful that Manziel's ascension will change those outdated perceptions.

Sometimes people get too hung up on the age of football players. Darrell Royal famously said, "If a dog will bite you when it's grown, it will bite you as a pup." Manziel did not play like someone without game experience. He embraced the obstacle that was his inexperience, and he did not shy away from big challenges.

When I consider which player should win the Heisman, I look at three areas: numbers, impact and the eye test. Manziel has the numbers, with an SEC-record 4,600 yards of total offense. His impact can be summed up in A&M's 10-2 record and its program-changing upset of defending national champion Alabama, along with the most popular nickname in college football. As for the

eye test, few players leaped off the screen like Manziel did this year. It took me back to Michael Vick's days at Virginia Tech. You just couldn't wait to see what he would do with the ball.

Nowhere in my criteria did I mention classification, because Manziel shouldn't be labeled or restricted by how many snaps he's taken in college football. If anything, his winning the Heisman Trophy would remove the freshman stigma from future Heisman campaigns. Herschel Walker (1980), Michael Vick (1999) and Adrian Peterson (2004) turned in tremendous debuts, but all lost to upperclassmen. The timing couldn't be better, and it's about time a freshman with Manziel's credentials be considered the favorite.

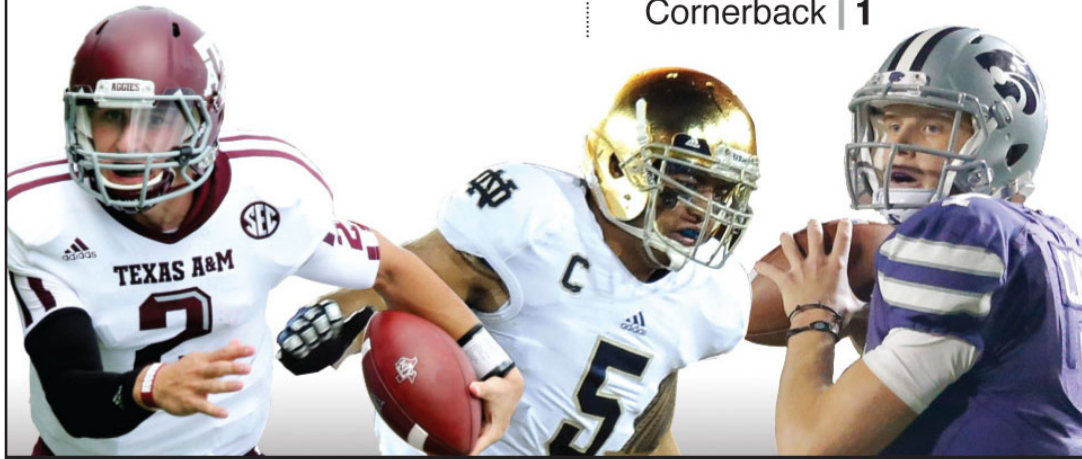
The freshman argument is a silly one, especially in Manziel's case. He's in his second year on campus, which would make him a sophomore in the classroom. Try this one on for size: Had he entered just one game for Ryan Tannehill last season and taken just one little snap in mop-up duty, he would be classified as a sophomore today. So one snap makes that much of a difference? Actually, it makes no difference. Manziel is a talent for all ages.

The Heisman should be given to the best player, not to the best upperclassman.

### Heisman trophy

The Heisman trophy, voted on by members of the media and former winners, is the most prestigious award in college football.

#### Three finalists, 2012



Johnny Manziel

Manti Te'o

Collin Klein

**Texas A&M**  
Quarterback  
Freshman

- Passed for 3,419 yards and 24 touchdowns
- Eight straight games with 300 or more total yards
- Set a new SEC record for total yards in a season

**Notre Dame**  
Linebacker  
Junior

- Helped lead team to an undefeated season
- Ranks third in Notre Dame for career tackles with 427
- School record of seven interceptions

**Kansas State**  
Quarterback  
Junior

- Passed for 2,490 yards and 15 touchdowns
- Totalled 49 rushing touchdowns between 2011 and 2012
- 2012 Johnny Unitas award

Source: heisman.com, MCT Photo Service

Graphic: Melina Yingling

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#### Past winners, by position

Running back	38
Quarterback	30
Fullback	3
End	2
Wide receiver	2
Cornerback	1

## Knicks' three-pointers overwhelm LeBron and Heat

By IRA WINDERMAN  
SUN SENTINEL (MCT)

MIAMI — With Carmelo Anthony sidelined, LeBron James had the opportunity to stand alone Thursday night.

He didn't realize how alone he would be.

Despite coming within one assist of his second triple-double in as many games, James, with little in support, could only stand and watch as the New York Knicks put together an over-the-top barrage of three-pointers to move to 2-0 this season against the Miami Heat with a 112-92 victory at AmericanAirlines Arena.

The loss was the Heat's first of the season at AmericanAirlines Arena after a franchise-record 8-0 start at home and came despite 31 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists from James.

The problem was it came with Heat center Chris Bosh shooting 3 of 12 and Heat guard Dwyane Wade 3 of 13.

And with the Knicks shooting 18 of 44 on 3-pointers, including 8 of 13 in the third quarter, when they went from a half-time tie to an 18-point lead in the period.

With Raymond Felton scoring 27 points and four Knicks converting multiple 3-pointers, the Knicks strengthened their hold on the top spot in the Eastern Conference, as the Heat continued their meander through the first six weeks of the season.

The Knicks jumped the Heat with a 3-pointer from Jason Kidd and a pair from Felton to move to a 64-55 lead early in the third quarter, after neither team led by more than six in

the first half.

The Knicks, converting those eight 3-pointers in the third, the most by any team in any period this season, pushed their lead to 18 in the third quarter before the Heat closed within 90-80 going into the fourth, with James with 27 points, nine assists, nine rebounds and precious little support at that stage.

Coming off Tuesday loss in Washington to the league-worst Wizards, it was the Heat who were expected to be dealing with injury concerns. Instead, it was the Knicks who played shorthanded.

Despite ailments limiting the Heat's Udonis Haslem, Mario Chalmers, Norris Cole and Shane Battier, all four were in uniform and in the rotation.

The Knicks, however, were without Anthony, who lacerated a finger on his left,

non-shooting, hand during the waning seconds of Wednesday's victory in Charlotte.



ROBERT DUVOIS/SUN SENTINEL (MCT)

The Miami Heat's Chris Bosh appears angry as he and teammates head to the bench for a timeout during the game against the New York Knicks at American Airlines Arena in Miami, Thursday.

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See NHL | Page 5

## Commissioner Goodell considering eliminating kickoffs in NFL

By TOM ROCK  
NEWSDAY (MCT)

With the NFL at least considering the idea of eliminating kickoffs, a proposal that commissioner Roger Goodell mentions in this week's TIME magazine, the Giants and Jets seem to believe that the rules are just fine as they are now.

"I think it's a good part of the game," special teams coach Tom Quinn said of kickoffs. "I think kicking off from the 35 has decreased the number of injuries. We continue to see that trend."

Domenik Hixon was a kickoff returner in the past, and also was involved in one of the catastrophic injuries that the league is trying to eliminate with new rules. In 2007, it was Hixon, then a rookie with the Broncos, who hit Bills tight

end Kevin Everett on a kickoff. Everett suffered a fracture and dislocation of his cervical spine that his doctors characterized as "life-threatening" the day after the injury, and stated it was likely to leave him with permanent neurological impairment. Although he did regain the ability to walk, Everett never played football again.

"How safe can you really make the game? I guess that's the question that I would have," Hixon told Newsday when told of the proposal. "Eventually you would almost have a flag football league. Injuries are going to happen. They're trying to prevent them, which is obviously good. But you eliminate that, you're going to eliminate a lot of jobs, too, for sure."

The latest proposal, which

is in the TIME article, was promoted by Bucs coach Greg Schiano.

From the article: "After a touchdown or field goal, instead of kicking off, a team would get the ball on its own 30-yard line, where it's fourth-and-15. The options are either to go for it and try to retain possession, or punt. If you go for it and fall short, the opposing team would take over with good field position. In essence, punts would replace kickoffs, and punts are less susceptible to violent collisions than kickoffs."

"That's interesting," Hixon conceded. "It definitely becomes a different strategy for sure."

Jets special teams coordinator Mike Westhoff doesn't want to see kickoffs eliminated.

"I like the kickoffs, I just

believe in them," Westhoff said. "I know the collision part and I think that's something you have to be careful of. But I think if you teach it the right way, it can be done properly."

Westhoff said he and Mike Pereira, the former NFL vice president of officiating who is a rules analyst for Fox Sports, wrote a rule proposal last season aimed at eliminating blocking in the back by the

kicking team.

"The kickoff team can smack the blockers in the back. It's legal," Westhoff said. "My thing is when's it ever good to hit somebody in the back?"

Westhoff also said he is in favor of player safety and would push for certain changes to be made, but not necessarily on kickoffs. He also said he had not heard about the fourth-and-15 from your own 30-yard-line

idea mentioned in the article.

Quinn said several NFL special teams coaches met last spring to discuss different ideas to make kickoffs safer. It was around that time that Giants president and CEO John Mara, a member of the Competition Committee, said he could see "the day in the future where that play could be taken out of the game. You see it evolving toward that."

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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.

### Column

## Sex ranks in a fulfilling life

By GABRIEL STOFFA

IOWA STATE DAILY, IOWA STATE U. VIA UWIRE

Breaking news here folks! A recent study discovered that sex/making love is the most pleasurable, meaningful, engaging and happy thing for people.

But seriously, a study at U. Canterbury joined the small but meaningful ranks of researchers attempting to track and measure the happiness and well-being of relationships in day-to-day life.

The areas of distinction paint an interesting picture of what a "full life" could be described as. Granted, the means of gathering results — achieved through text-messaging — might not seem like the most reliable of methods, but hey, this is the new millennium, and our robot phones are almost an extension of our bodies.

Drinking alcohol/partying came in second in the "pleasure" category, but only 10th in "meaning," while still hitting fifth in "engagement" and second in "happiness." Again, not a big surprise given that drinking alcohol/partying tends to lead to sex/making love.

There are oodles of fun activities, or not so fun activities, to peruse at leisure, but when the fun of that has dwindled, take a moment to look at what all of this might mean.

Could this be a fair representation of the times? There are, of course, outliers to the generalizations of folks finding sex to be the pinnacle of happiness, but despite the comical obviousness, the sex result along with the other rankings could really tell us a lot about how to operate in life.

Think about the results of the study in terms of marketing. Such information makes the crafting of commercials or other gimmicks to get a person to buy something a far cry easier if it is agreed upon that making a person happy will sell more things.

And political campaigning or policy formation gets a nice leg up as well. With information measuring and tracking how to achieve a "full life," issues can be tailored or addressed with specifications that otherwise might have been cast aside in favor of those wacky "traditional" notions a lot of older generations subscribed to.

Not that traditional views of "full life" are not worthwhile, but that the current 35-and-under crowd, the "younger" generations, might really be serious when they say to their parents — as spoken by "da Dawson" himself, James Van Der Beek, in "Varsity Blues" — "But I don't want your life."

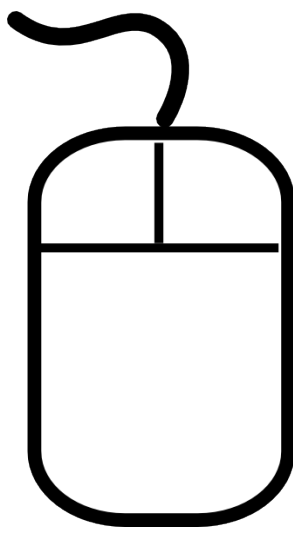
The applications could do some good with assessing psychological hurdles challenging some, or cause restructuring of jobs to account for what makes people happier, and hence more productive. Who knows how far you can stretch the information for application?

Research that examines what people really want also opens the door to potentially kicking in certain taboos in talking points. There are still some folks uncomfortable with certain topics — sex for example — and as such avoid learning about aspects for what could very likely be the most fulfilling thing in their lives.

There will be people arguing that the results don't represent them, or that will deny the "validity" of some of the rankings, but that's opinions for ya. Everybody has to be special, or have some distinction. Meh.

The reality remains: The results do seem to be a reasonable assessment of folks. Well, of the younger generations at least, as we tend to have this whole "new" outlook on life due to our global village upbringings; that and our adoration of sharing every detail of our lives, compared to the less "out there for all" outlook of many previous generations.

## ONLINE POLLS



### How do you study for finals?

- Short bursts over time
- Cram session at the end
- What is studying?

### Do you think the Thundering Herd men's basketball team will fare better or worse in Conference USA this season?

- Better 70% - 17 votes
- Worse 29% - 7 votes

Visit [marshallparthenon.com](http://marshallparthenon.com) to share your opinion.

### Editorial

## Same-sex marriage now legal in Washington

Let us take a moment to give a big shout out to Washington state for not continuing the trend of religious arrogance and making it so people who love each other can be legally married regardless of gender.

The law went into effect Thursday at 12:01 a.m., but with the state's three-day waiting period the earliest weddings can take place is Sunday.

And after hundreds of same-sex couples picking up their marriage licenses, we can assume Sunday will be a busy day for courthouses across the state.

While this is a huge cause to celebrate, it is difficult to not take a second to think it is utterly ridiculous we live in a society in which this is not already a naturally recognized right.

Being able to bond legally with the person you love should not be determined based on the gender of those involved. Religion has no place in government — period.

It is fine if a person does not believe in same-sex marriage, but the fact our country has made, and continues to support legislation

making it illegal is plain wrong.

It is idiotic to enforce religious beliefs through law. Completely idiotic.

If churches want to bar same-sex couples from being married within the walls — that is one thing. But for our government not to allow them to be married within courthouses is un-American.

America is based on tolerance and understanding — well at least that is what we would like to believe.

Fortunately Washington, along with Maine, Maryland, New York, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and the District of Columbia have started the fight against big government telling us who we can and cannot love.

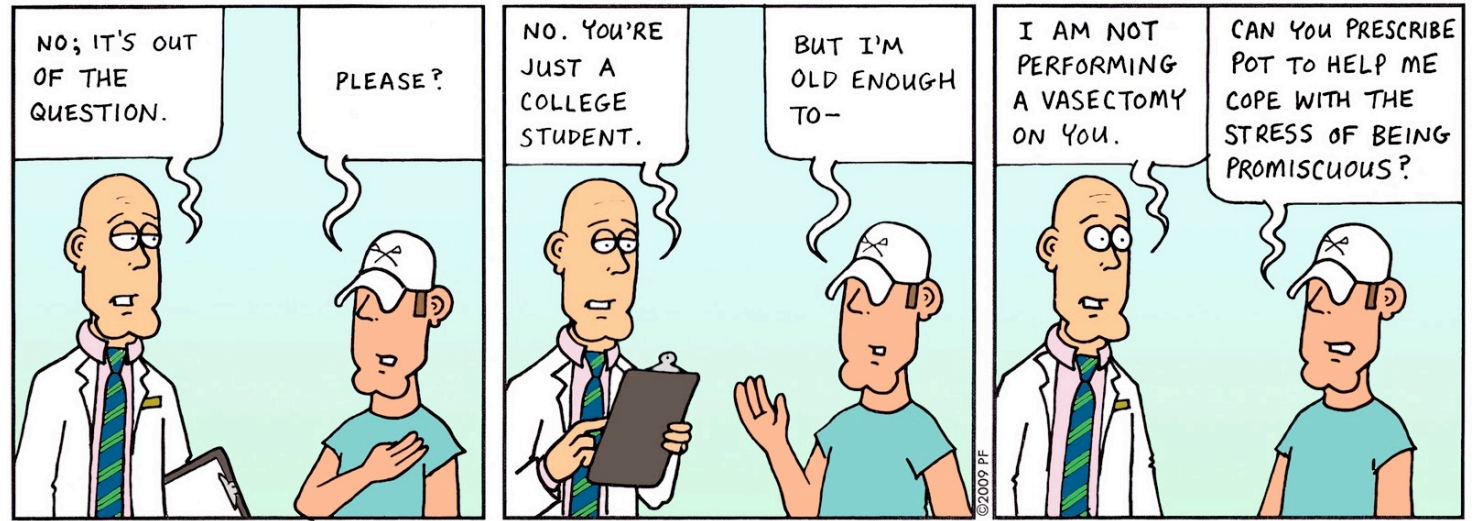
And before you think this is some crazy liberal conspiracy — the law in Washington passed by popular vote. The majority of the people decided to step up and be human beings.

Good for them.

Now if the rest of the country could stop forcing people to follow their religious beliefs against their will.

## BLUNDERGRADS

by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)



### Column

## Guide to the 'fiscal cliff'

By DOYLE MCMANUS

LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

Are we about to go over a fiscal cliff? It's looking more likely, but it may not be as alarming as it sounds.

Here are three things you need to know about the impending crisis over the so-called fiscal cliff, the combination of tax increases and automatic spending cuts due to kick in at the turn of the year:

First, it's not really a cliff; it's merely a steep, scary slope. If Congress doesn't act, federal taxes will increase by more than \$500 billion next year and federal spending will be cut by about \$200 billion. The impact would be equivalent to subtracting about 4% of gross domestic product, enough to push the economy into recession.

But that's not going to happen — at least, not abruptly. The tax increases scheduled for the first of the year can be delayed either by a stopgap act of Congress or by a stroke of Timothy F. Geithner's pen. (The Treasury secretary can simply postpone any change in tax withholding until a deal is made.) Spending cuts can be slowed down as well. So if Congress fails to make a deal by Christmas, that doesn't mean the economy automatically tips into a recession.

Congress knows that, which is why almost nobody in Washington expects a comprehensive agreement on taxes and spending to be concluded in the next two weeks. When

have we ever seen Congress make a deal before its back was against the wall?

That's why President Obama called for a stopgap bill — "a down payment" — in an interview Tuesday with Bloomberg Television.

In Washington, an optimist is someone who thinks Congress will find an orderly way to postpone real negotiations until January. A pessimist is someone who agrees that the negotiations will be postponed, but in a chaotic way that sets off panic in the financial markets. And a realist is someone who thinks a little panic is needed to give each side an excuse to compromise on deeply felt fiscal principles.

Second fact: The Democrats have the upper hand. They just won a presidential election, plus two additional seats in the Senate, plus a handful of seats in the House. The issue of tax rates was the clearest choice presented to the voters, and most of them favored Obama's plan to raise tax rates on the wealthy.

House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, and his colleagues dismissed the outcome as "a status quo election" in their letter to Obama on Monday, but that was whistling past the graveyard. A Pew Research/Washington Post poll released Tuesday found that a solid majority of Americans say they will blame Republicans if an agreement is not reached.

"The testosterone levels on the Republican side are dramatically lower" than

before the election, said Charlie Cook, Washington's preeminent analyst of congressional anthropology.

Some Republicans are reluctantly admitting that they will have to accept higher tax rates on upper-income households as the price of even a stopgap deal. But the proposition divides the party deeply because it requires a break from the doctrine of ever-lower taxes that has defined the GOP for 20 years or more.

Needless to say, Democrats have been enjoying the spectacle of Republican disunity. Obama insists the increase in tax rates is "a matter of math," but his tough line is also serving a political purpose, driving a wedge into the ranks of his opponents.

So far, Democrats have managed to duck tough decisions on how much to cut from Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Their day of reckoning will come, but probably not until next year.

Third fact: It may not be apparent, but progress is being made.

When Obama issued his initial proposal last week for \$1.6 trillion in tax increases, \$350 billion in health-care spending cuts and \$50 billion in new stimulus spending over 10 years, Boehner dismissed it as "non-serious." He was right, in the sense that Obama didn't take a significant step toward the middle; it was merely an opening bid.

Boehner's counterproposal Monday was equally unserious.

The Republicans proposed that federal revenue should rise by \$800 billion, half of Obama's figure, but without raising tax rates. They also proposed spending cuts twice as big as Obama's. In short, it was another opening bid.

But it was signed by the leaders of the GOP's conservative faction, Reps. Eric Cantor, R-Va., and Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis. In 2011, when Boehner tried to cut a deal with Obama that would have included \$800 billion in new revenue, Cantor and Ryan never clearly signed on.

With the ball back in Obama's court, the president offered on Tuesday to meet somewhere in the middle, just as long as Republicans agree to some increase in tax rates.

"I recognize that I'm not going to get 100 percent," Obama said in his Bloomberg interview. "I'm happy to be flexible."

He was asked whether he would insist on the top tax rate returning to the Clinton-era level of 39.6 percent, and carefully ducked the question — meaning, no. He agreed that Republicans are right to insist on specific cuts in spending on Medicare and Medicaid, not just vague promises of future cuts. And he left the door open to raising the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67, which is anathema to many liberals.

This is not the outline of a deal — not yet. But as Erskine Bowles, the author of another compromise plan, said this week, "Every offer put forward brings us closer to a deal."

# Marshall student affected by Superstorm Sandy

By JOSHUA PRINCE  
THE PARTHENON

Superstorm Sandy, known as the perfect storm, affected the eastern seaboard with torrential flooding, high wind and even brought snow in the Appalachian Mountains just before Halloween.

Many Marshall students are from West Virginia and were not affected by Superstorm Sandy, but Samantha Arminio, Alpha Xi Delta, was impacted by the storm. Arminio grew up in New Jersey on the Jersey Shore and never thought she could be affected by a hurricane. The Jersey Shore, seen on the MTV reality television "Jersey Shore," suffered severe damage during the storm.

She does not want people to focus on the reality show, but to focus on the reality that people lost everything they owned.

As the storm approached the New Jersey coast, it forced Governor Chris Christie to implement mandatory evacuations for coastal residents. Arminio was nestled in the mountains of Huntington, out of harm's way as the storm approached her hometown. She was left helpless as the hurricane ravaged her town.

Huntington and the Marshall community was spared from the storm by only receiving a light accumulation of snow. Huntington which normally does not see snow before Halloween had Huntington residents and students surprised.

Arminio and her sorority sisters set up donation tables to help raise money for her community. Arminio said she is very lucky because her house did not suffer damage from the



Marshall University student, Samantha Arminio, grew up in New Jersey and seeks to help her community.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

everything is a positive atmosphere. Many of the traditions that belong to the shore are now gone," Arminio said.

Arminio returned home for Thanksgiving break but realized that she was restricted to go across the bridge to the shore. She spends a lot of time with family and friends on the shore but this year she did not know what to do. This is her life and it is destroyed, it is affecting her and people around her.

Arminio's mother did a lot of volunteering for relief and when she saw her mother, she wanted to make an impact at Marshall. Arminio started on a small scale by passing a jar around at her sorority house. When she saw her sisters putting ten-dollar bills in the jar it opened her eyes to realize that she can do more.

Sam raised \$70 from her sorority in just one night. Sam and her sorority sisters set up a donation table in the Memorial Student Center and raised \$250 in one week.

"My sorority supports me so much by doing this. We are all family and when they see one of us struggling we all struggle together," Arminio said. "I know that it is a small difference but I know that it is making a difference."

Arminio is certain the shore will be reconstructed but the question is will it be the same as before it was destroyed.

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hurricane and she is blessed that her family is OK.

"My community, people that I have grown up with, the area that I have grown up in is completely destroyed," Arminio said.

She said it very hard for people to relate what she is feeling, living three minutes away from the boardwalk, the beach and the rides that are no longer there, it is unbelievable that it is gone.

"When I saw the boardwalk destroyed, the beaches destroyed, immediately I thought back to me being a little girl running on the sand with my

mom and dad. This are just memories built up over a long period of time," Arminio said.

The famous roller coaster on the shore is now in the ocean. Arminio's mother rode the roller coaster as a child, and so did Sam. Sam said it is not just a roller coaster but memories and a symbol of her childhood.

Arminio is raising money because people of her hometown lost everything. They do not have food or clothing. Many people she knew lived in shore houses along the coast and now live in their cars.

"Nothing like this has ever happened to the Jersey Shore,

the players have proposed an eight-year contract maximum, with higher increases.

Thursday's meeting lasted about an hour, and it included 16 players, Fehr and his brother, Steve, who is special counsel to the NHLPA; Daly; and NHL attorney Bob Battersman.

Winnipeg defenseman Ron Hainsey said the NHL told players on Wednesday that bringing Donald Fehr back into the room was potentially "a deal-breaker."

Bettman, who said the NHL has no interest in bringing the mediators back into negotiations, said there was "no magic date" for when the season would have to be canceled if a CBA isn't in place. He said anything less than a 48-game season would not work.

## NHL Continued from Page 3

Bettman later called that view "almost incomprehensible" and that it's "not the first time (Fehr) said we're close when we weren't." He added that the last time Fehr said the sides were close, "we were a billion dollars apart."

The NHL wants a 10-year CBA that includes a "escape clause" after eight years, while the players' union has proposed an eight-year deal, with an "opt out" after six years.

Another major issue: The maximum length of players' contracts and salary variability from year to year. The owners want a five-year maximum limit on player contracts, with a daily increase capped at five percent;

## Knicks Continued from Page 3

Anthony warmed up before the game before retreating to the locker room.

While the Heat were whole, coach Erik Spoelstra changed his rotation. After starting Rashard Lewis in place of Battier the previous two games, Spoelstra this time started Haslem at power forward.

Haslem responded by shooting 5 of 5 in the first half, which ended tied 53-53. It was Haslem's first double-figure first half in two seasons.

It appeared the Heat would take a two-point lead into the break, but a shot by James off an inbounds pass with six-tenths of a second remaining

in the second quarter was ruled, upon video review, to have come after the buzzer.

James carried the Heat in the first half, with 18 points, seven assists and five rebounds. All the while, Wade was 2 of 8 from the field in the first half, Bosh 1 of 8.

The Knicks, who returned Kidd to their starting lineup and moved Ronnie Brewer to small forward in place of Anthony, trailed 26-22 at the end of the first quarter.

The teams entered with the top two records in the Eastern Conference, with the Heat having lost by 20 points in New York in their road opener and the Knicks' season opener, the Heat's worst loss of the season.

## Event Continued from Page 1

"What really drew me to the event was that there was a lot of the specialties in one room," Hussain said. "You could go from table to table from surgery to neurology to OBGYN and be able to talk to the doctors and ask them the questions that medical students don't necessarily have the answers to because they are in the fields, they know what it's like."

Hussain also said the event was a good opportunity to learn about how a specialty field can affect the doctors personal lives.

"You get to find out about their home life, family life, how they can create their own schedule, flexibility and all those things," Hussain said. "It was nice to get an insider perspective on the field."

Anna Clarke, first year Marshall medical student, said the event was very helpful with giving her insight on a variety

of fields she did not know a lot about.

"I'm just a first year so I'm not really sure what I'm going to go into," Clarke said. "I felt like it was helpful because there were specialties that I just had kind of an inkling towards but now I know a little more about that so it was great."

Clarke also said attending the event provided a great opportunity to meet physicians and build relationships for the future.

"I definitely felt like it was

very helpful," Clarke said. "Meeting different physicians and sort of putting in the face time so when I meet them in the future we might have more of a relationship."

Hussain said first year medical students are always swamped with the academics of medicine and the event offered a great opportunity to actually see what all of the specialties available to them are.

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## NASA Continued from Page 1

To that end, the report committee laid out four options for getting NASA's goals in line with its resources. It acknowledged that the most appealing plan — getting more money from Congress — was "unlikely given the current outlook for the federal budget." Other possibilities include relying more on partnerships with other countries and private companies; undertaking an "aggressive restructuring program" that eliminates jobs and facilities; or giving up one of its main focus areas, such as the astronaut program or its studies of deep space.

The report's authors did not weigh in on which course NASA should choose. But they emphasized that Congress and the White House couldn't afford to ignore an uncomfortable truth: "NASA's distribution of resources may be out of sync with what it can achieve relative to what it has been asked to do."

Close watchers of the space agency said the report summarized NASA's predicament well.

"I thought it was rather grim reading, but accurate," said Scott Pace, director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University who worked at NASA during the George W. Bush administration.

The report comes a year after the retiring of the space shuttle fleet, leaving the agency with no clear agenda for its flagship human spaceflight division. The current objectives — to send astronauts to an asteroid by 2025 and a manned mission to Mars in the 2030s — have been criticized by some experts as risky and remote possibilities. Even within NASA, there is no widespread consensus that these goals make sense, the report said.

In preparing their report, the committee members visited NASA's 10 field centers around the country. They also ran an online survey that drew nearly 800 responses.

What they found was little interest in a manned asteroid mission, either inside or outside the agency, Carnesale said.

And in spite of President Barack Obama's call for a manned mission to Mars in the next 20 to 30 years, there's more of an international appetite for revisiting the moon, Pace said.

That opinion will matter a great deal if the agency chooses to reduce its costs by forging more international partnerships. Gone are the Cold War days when NASA was flush and the United States could set its own agenda without significant input from foreign partners, the report pointed out.

## Show Continued from Page 1

Strader said the work was inspired by their move to West Virginia.

"The pieces that were accepted into the show were part of a larger body of work that was conceptually derived from our experience in moving to West Virginia and the adjustments we've made to settle here," Strader said. "We made work about the landscape abstracted, and the coal

that runs through the veins of the mountains."

Strader said they are currently working on a functional line of work for their studio, GeoCorpus.

The show will remain at the Parkersburg Art Center, located at 725 Market St. Parkersburg, W. Va., through Dec. 31, when it will be moved to an exhibition in Wheeling.

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## Dead Week Continued from Page 1

more than 20 years. He said Dead Week is based on a similar tradition in English schools called "Reading Week," a time period that allows students to catch up on papers and readings before final exams.

Dennison stressed that the idea of Dead Week is not for the week to be completely "dead" of any academic activity. In fact, he said it is possible for Dead Week to be a very busy time for students.

"A student might have the misfortune of having four classes, and all four classes having a paper due during Dead Week," Dennison said. "Providing they were in the syllabus, that student would perceive Dead Week as very stressful."

Hensley said some institutions have a "more elaborate" Dead Week in which classes are cancelled for the week leading up to final exams. He said Marshall has never done that and he does not think that would be the best solution.

"I think the concept of Dead

Week where you have a break in new material and you hope to consolidate all that and prepare for final exams... that's the ideal world," Hensley said. "The real world is something different. The truth is you're trying to catch up."

"The reality is in the real world, when you go out to a job, you will have similar dates, whether it be quarterly, annually or semi-annually, where you have to really prepare and do an important presentation or have important research done or have an important assignment done, so the schedule we're on here with peaks and valleys is really the same way the real world works also," Hensley said.

Dennison said to his knowledge, there have not been any major complaints or actions taken against professors for breaking Dead Week policies. Students who believe an instructor is in violation of Dead Week policy can report the infraction to the appropriate department chair.

Marcus Constantino can be contacted at constantino2@marshall.edu.

## Calling Marshall photographers

**The Parthenon is seeking talented and motivated photographers to join our photography staff for the spring semester. Those interested in having their work showcased in an award-winning publication can apply by taking an application located outside The Parthenon newsroom (Communications Building 109) and submitting it along with a bound portfolio. Additional information can be found on the application.**

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