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Assessment Day to focus on support services and information technology

BY BRITTANIE BARTON
THE PARTHENON

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

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

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

There will be three information technology focus groups throughout the day. Kelli Johnson, reference and instruction librarian, said the first session will run from 10:30 a.m. through 11 a.m. and discuss the new TEGS rooms on campus.

“We just wanted to gather some student suggestions in terms of what they think about the spaces and the technology in there, how they’ve been used in their classes and suggestions to improve them,” Johnson said.

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

“Generally, every semester, we take a look at our website and we really want to make sure it is providing the information students and faculty need,” Johnson said. “This is a great opportunity to gather information from people who are using the website.”

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

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

“This year, the provost has announced advising as a major campus initiative,” Reynolds said.

“Last fall, there were a number of work groups that came forward with hope to improve advising on Marshall’s campus. This will be students’ opportunity to contribute to the conversation we have been having.”

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

In addition to meetings See ASSESSMENT I Page 5

See SENATE I Page 5

LOCAL AGENCIES OFFER SERVICES FOR THOSE IN NEED

BY MOLLY URIAN
THE PARTHENON

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

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

According to a study released Thursday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 59 children are diagnosed with a disorder on the Autism spectrum for boys to one girl. The rise of autism cases is largely because of broader screening and better diagnosis.

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

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

“We have a little over 200 people registered for our services,” Grote said. “We offer a variety of services for families. Some of them are resource services, but our direct service-delivery model is called the Family Focus Positive Behavior Support Process. We can work with approximately 85 families all around the state in a year’s time and we work very closely with them.”

“We help the families develop a team, and then we support the family and the team members in developing a comprehensive plan for that individual child,” Grote said.

“We then reach the families and team members on how to implement the plan. We are really looking to increase the quality of life for children and their family.”

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

“We encourage those and Marshall students to come out and walk, ride or run for our event,” Grote said.

Huntington resident Anna Bellomy’s seven-year-old daughter, Isabella, was diagnosed with autism by age three.

“For many years, Isabella was indifferent to humans and animals,” Bellomy said. “She had to isolate and only engage in parallel play with her twin sister. Isabella is an interesting case because as far as I know, the girls are identical. This means they share the same DNA. However, Isabella is more severely disabled by her autism.”

“We get the strangest looks in public places due to some of her eccentricities,” Bellomy said. “I have to be her greatest advocate. So many skills that people take for granted, Isabella has not learned. If autism creates stresses to be better in the world is not to autism friendly at this point.”

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

“The stress is overwhelming,” said Bellomy’s daughter, Isabella. “This is my miracle child.”

Molly Urban can be contacted at urian@marshall.edu.
Suspect in shooting at Cal. religious college is ex-student

By MAISIE FURMAN

LOS ANGELES Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES—The man suspected of shooting and finally wounding multiple people at a religious college in Oakland had been expelled from the school as a student at the school.

Pompeo Joseph Kihl, who founded Oikos University about 10 years ago, told the Oakland Tribune he was not sure if the alleged shooter had been expelled from the school or dropped out voluntarily. He said he heard about 30 gunshots and saw smoke in his office for safety.

Lucie Garcia, a teacher at the school, said she heard a half-dozen shots in the middle of a lesson before someone yelled that someone had a gun. Garcia said she didn’t really know much about the school or its history.

The school is not far from Oakland International Airport and the Oakland Coliseum. Dramatic live television footage showed officers swarming around the small Christian university, with a heavy police presence, including several heavily armed officers.

According to its website, Oikos University is a Christian university that was established specifically to serve the community of Northern California in general and San Francisco and Oakland areas in particular.

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Women’s tennis team stays hot

BY LAUREN RIGGOWTER

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

The Herd was led by strong singles play by junior Kasia Racins and sophomore Maria Voscekova. Kacina, broadcast journalist major from Beijing, China, is 11-5 on the season and has gone 8-1 in her last nine matches.

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

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

“Last week some key players off last year’s team,” Mercer said. “Players have had to step up and play new positions, and I’m proud of the way they have responded to the pressure.”

The Herd started the season 2-3. Since then, they have gone 8-1 including a seven-match win streak. The Thundering Herd posted a 7-2 record in March with victories vs. Liberty, Virginia Tech, East Tennessee State, West Virginia, Wofford, East Carolina and Eastern Kentucky. The only loss for the Herd came on the last weekend of the month against Virginia Commonwealth.

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

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

“Maria and Dominika have played really good together,” Mercer said. “They have a really good chemistry, they have a really good feel for each other. We’re clicking for us. Everyone is doing everything they can to guarantee a victory.”

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

Senior Hightower can be reached at high0015@marshall.edu.

C-USA Hitter of the Week

Senior Marshall softball

By Carrie Smith

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

In game one, the Herd fell behind 6-0. Gray Stafford doubled in two runs, and Alfredo Brito also hit a double, bringing in another run and putting the Herd within one. In the sixth inning, the score was levelled when Stafford again drove in another run.

Start Aaron Blair struck eight and allowed eight hits in six innings of work. Stafford, a junior, had two hits in the seventh and allowed two runs, two hits and two walks, giving up five runs through the next three innings.

Senior Mike Mason recorded the loss, giving up six runs (three earned) off of six hits and two walks. He was able to fan three in the plate, bringing in seven Ks away from 39C career strikeouts, a feat only four pitchers in Marshall history have done.

Saturday’s offense was led by junior Isaac Ballou, who went 3-3 and brought fifth on Marshall’s all-time list for career strikeouts, a feat only four pitchers in Marshall history have done.

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Marshall left a total of nine on base during Saturday’s contest as they fell to the Flames 8-0.

The Herd was working hard, but all the puzzle pieces finally fit together handily, when the team rallied to a 12-8 victory.

“We battled all weekend, and it was a good comeback win,” junior Alfredo Brito said. “It’s just always nice when everyone we can compete when we play to our potential.”

Brito singled in the eighth to bring his hitting streak to 13 games.

“It’s not really something I think about much,” Brito said. “I’m just excited for our win.”

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

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

“The past 10 games I’ve been struggling a little, so I put in a big swing and also got the right on the right track situation,” Meeks said.

Also in the eighth inning, junior Isaac Ballou hit a career milestone. On a 1-0
A constitutional amendment is needed to reverse Citizens United

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

“Corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires.” Supreme Court Justice Stevens said. “Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their ‘personhood’ often serves as a useful legal fiction. They are not themselves members of “We the People” by whom and for whom our Constitution was established.” It is a shame that the other Justices could not agree with this sentiment. Also, they did not and now it is time for the people of this country to right the wrongs that our leaders have made.

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

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

BY MICHAEL MCATEER

Within the past couple of weeks, I have noticed that the parking around campus has freed up significantly. What before spring break would be packed meant several parking spots and even Third and Fourth Avenues for a single parking meter was now open season for parking. It can only attribute the change in available parking and the subsequent absence of crime from this, with the weather change. Spring is in the air and no one wants to be cooped up in a classroom when there is sun and fun to be had on the commons – I get that! Somewhere else I have also noticed, which has given me pause, is the number of young women who choose to run or jog around campus at night. A woman, alone at night with her buds blasting, looks to me like targets for sexual assault and it scares me. I was going to write a column for this week that would support any fears for vulnerable young women. I looked into the Marshall University Police and Huntington Police reports for crime stats, but what I found was that I can just look for trouble. The Marshall University Police Department reports that there has only been one reported rape on campus in the past three years. That seems nearly impossible to believe, but that is what has been reported. As for the Huntington Police Department, its annual report says that as of 2008 “the family unit investigated 487 cases, 33 of which were sexual assaults.”

By comparison, they investigated “229 domestic battery and domestic violence complaints, 329 sexual assaults, 5677 sexual assaults for women and men, educational institutions, support groups and court-based intervention. SARA promotes awareness and educate the campus community regarding rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault and other sexual offenses.” This sounds like something of which I was interested to find that MUPD is offering a program. The Sexual Assault Education Awareness program, in association with the women’s studies. The SARA program “provides services that include crisis intervention, educational programs for all students should make themselves aware. So any fears of young women jogging around campus do not correlate into sexual assaults on campus or in the city of Huntington. So, what type of crime did rank high in the Huntington Police blotter? Of the forensic police cases in the report, there were “13 homicides, 37 burglaries, 13 robberies and four sexual assaults” in 2008. I am not a criminologist, but I would guess that these numbers are not bad in accordance with a city of our size. What did seem pertinent for us, for our city, was the number of drug trafficking cases which were reported. “During the year 2008, the Vice and Narcotics Unit was most notably responsible for the arrest of 245 individuals and the seizure of less than 100 grams of cocaine, 35 firearms, 559 units of heroin, and multiple currency seizures.” Two thousand five hundred grams is more than five pounds of cocaine in 2008 alone. And those figures seem to be nothing about the numbers of drug trafficking crimes being handled by the police, according to the CDC, “West Virginia, which has a rural and impoverished population, had the highest rate of drug overdose in the country with 21.1 occurrences per 100,000.”

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**W.Va. has a serious problem: Drug overdoses**

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Algae shows promise in biofuel tests

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

Anyone with a fish tank knows that there is plenty of energy in those tiny algae out of water. Within the next decade, though, the energy in algae may not be in the tank, but in the classroom, thanks to researchers at Texas A&M U. who are developing algae biofuel.

Algae naturally converts sunlight into an energy source during photosynthesis and can be used as a type of biofuel in different ways. The most common ways include taking lipids, or fats, out of the algae to be biodiesel. An alternative method creates a hydrocarbon fuel similar to gasoline or diesel. Unlike biomass, however, algae does not have oxygen and is rich in energy, making it a more versatile fuel source and usable in aircraft.

“Overall efficiency, rapid growth rate and yield are the main advantages of using algae,” said Joshua Yuan, assistant professor in the department of plant physiology.

The research group aims to dream methods that would generate higher yields of algae. These yields could make it possible for algae biofuel to be produced on a larger scale, then sold as an alternative to gasoline. For this to happen, the process will have to become more cost-efficient.

“For the algae to be useful as a biofuel, there are some technical barriers,” said Shannon Xie, plant physiology graduate student. “For example, extracting lipids is very difficult because it is very costly. Right now, we are looking into using technology to harvest the algae more cheaply by cultivating it in a pellicle so you only need a filter to harvest.”

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

Another method the research group is examining involves photoregeneration, an alternative to photosynthesis, which occurs in combination with oxygen. Photoregeneration is less efficient than photosynthesis and typically causes a quarter of the carbon to be lost. Yuan’s research explores ways to use this lost carbon as an energy source.

“The pathway takes the extra carbon normally lost and shunts it towards hydrocarbon production and offers up to 514 kilojoules in money to make gas that costs the same as traditional gasolines,” said Ryan Syrotuik, molecular and environmental plant sciences graduate student.

Other methods currently studied by the researchers to improve algae’s use as a biofuel involve using genes from various algae species to create a type of algae that excels in the critical areas of efficiency, growth and yield. The possibilities of renewable energy sources like algae are also being explored by the government. In February, President Barack Obama announced his support for algae research and offered up to $147 million in new money to research and develop algae as a biofuel source.

“A major for departmental ac-

ences on Assessment Day, over 20 online surveys will be open for student completion from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 

The 4 p.m. general faculty senate meeting on April 25 will include reports from Kopp, Gayle Ormiston, University President, Marty Amerson, MU Board of Governors and Karen McNally, speaking on behalf of the advisory council.

No motions were made, and the next Faculty Senate meeting and Brummer adjourned after nine minutes.

Sarah Silco can be contacted at silcosl@marshall.edu.

Algae shows promise in biofuel tests

Continued from Page 1

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The agenda for two meet-

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The first meeting will con-

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ulty senate chair, assistant chair and recording secretary.

Selection for Executive Council representatives and standing committee liais-

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The 4 p.m. general faculty senate meeting on April 25 will include reports from Kopp, Gayle Ormiston, University President, Marty Amerson, MU Board of Governors and Karen McNally, speaking on behalf of the advisory council.

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The 4 p.m. general faculty senate meeting on April 25 will include reports from Kopp, Gayle Ormiston, University President, Marty Amerson, MU Board of Governors and Karen McNally, speaking on behalf of the advisory council.

No motions were made, and the next Faculty Senate meeting and Brummer adjourned after nine minutes.

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Easter: A historic holiday with modern celebrations

BY SHAUN FRENCH
THE PARTHENON

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

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

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

According to the History Channel website, Jews were the first to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Constantine ordered that Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday, the day Christ resurrected. Constantine ordered Easter to be celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox.

Today, Easter is known as a movable feast because it is not on the same day every year. It is observed between March 22 and April 27.

The origins of the holiday’s name are unknown, though according to the History Channel website, sources say it came from Easter — The Trinitarian goddess of spring and fertility. According to the website, other accounts say Easter is traced back to a Latin term “sabdoma alta,” or “white week,” which refers to Easter week and the white clothing people wore when baptized.

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

Easter’s resurrection is mentioned in the Bible, but the book does not mention anything about the Easter bunny. According to the History Channel website, this mythological hare has become the main symbol for this religious holiday. Rabbits are a symbol of fertility and new life because they are known to be heavy reproducers.

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

Chocolate and gifts were added to the colorful eggs while the nests were replaced by colorful baskets. Beth Thacker, junior forensic chemistry major from Ona, W.Va., said as a child she received an Easter basket.

Thacker said even though she was not baptized, she received an Easter basket. She added, “We would get Easter baskets, but still the main thing was we were going to church.” Thacker said, “We were going to celebrate Christ’s resurrection from the grave. As a five-year-old kid, I understood he rose from the grave, but I didn’t understand the significance of eternal life that has now. I would much rather celebrate Easter by celebrating the resurrection than getting an Easter egg.”

Churches celebrate Easter in different ways by having egg hunts, cantatas or a Passover feast. Steve Willis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Kenova, W.Va., said his church will have a Passover feast at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Family Life Center. He said he will talk of the last 12 hours of Christ’s life after the Passover feast.

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

“Tell Them” is at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday at River Cities Community Church at 4951 U.S. Route 60 East.

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