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My Huntington movement encourages public engagement
My Huntington movement encourages public engagement

By AMANDA LARCH
NEWS EDITOR

A few months ago, different groups of people were unknowingly discussing one very similar topic: how to help Huntington grow, escape negativity and focus on the positives. From this, the My Huntington movement was formed, and it was officially unveiled at a press conference Monday, with donors, business owners and commit-tee members alike sharing their personal stories of their beloved Jewel City.

By coming together, these groups, consisting of Marshall University, the City of Huntington, business owners, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the America’s Best Community Team, worked to create the My Huntington movement to give people an opportunity to spread their love of Huntington.

Speaking at the press conference, Tyson Compton of the Convention and Visitors Bureau said it is a movement rather than a campaign because of the unique way people came together to create it and because of the many ways to support it, from donating money to joining others sharing their testimonies.

“Sure there are a lot of people in and around Huntington who have great stories to tell about why they’ve chosen Huntington to live, start their businesses, retire, attend school and invest here,” Compton said. “They love our city, and they want to share why they think it is special. These positive stories that we want others to not just hear and see, but feel the passion and truth behind them. We were all working on our own campaign ideas to promote Huntington, but we came together through some events and rather than work separately, we realized that with having all these different themes, it would be much better if we started working together to develop a way for all these stories to be told using a single statement that punctuates through all of it.

That is: My Huntington.”

One other featured speaker at the conference was Franklin Norton, a Marshall student and managing editor of The Parthenon. Norton spoke of growing up in Huntington and compared the city to a college student.

“For me, Huntington is personal,” Norton, senior public relations major, said. “Huntington is kind of like a college student right now. There’s this sort of excitement, there’s this potential in Huntington that is really fun to be a part of and I almost feel like I’m coming of age with my city which is really neat to a lot of people. This is my Huntington, this is my home, my community, and I want to be part of that in whatever way I can. So, all of the experiences that I’ve had, all the lessons that I’ve learned about how to contribute to my community, for as long as I can, as long as you all let me. I’m really thankful to be a part, I’m really excited about this movement so that every person in Huntington gets this voice, every person gets to tell their story; we’re taking back the narrative and telling about my Huntington.”

MacKenzie Morley is one of 27 female business owners in downtown Huntington, and she spoke of her experiences of being a ‘Huntington transplant’ at the press conference. When Morley’s husband first told her they were moving to Huntington four years ago, she said she Googled the city, but what she found online made her anxious about the move. Morley credits the people of Huntington for changing her mind about the city, and now she said she is proud to be a business owner and raising her children here.

“I made friends, I spent time in the city downtown,” Morley said. “I absolutely fell in love, and what changed was this perception that I had from Google of being here, meeting people, introducing myself, my family to this incredible community and then taking it a step further and becoming invested financially by opening a business in downtown Huntington, which is the best decision I could have ever made.”

Morley said the changes occurring in Huntington are exciting, and to her, the My Huntington movement is about reminding people how great Huntington is.

“All you have to do is look, downtown specifically, at the personal investments being made by our developers locally,” Morley said. “The Market that just opened up is awesome. You look at the work that’s being done on Third Avenue, it’s incredible. We have big companies investing millions upon millions of dollars into our hotels because they get it. They understand that Huntington is on the cusp of a renaissance, and we are going to absolutely take it by storm; they want to get ahead of it and be a part of it because it’s going to be amazing. This is the city I’m choosing to raise my children in, to be invested in, to invest in my future and my footprint in, and it’s my Huntington. Everybody needs to be reminded of this, I think, because we sometimes get bogged down in the negativity or in just our own day to day lives, and we forget to stop and look around and see what’s really happening. This Huntington, my Huntington, our Huntington is going to be phenomenal. It already is, we just need to remind our people how great it is and what greatness is coming. That’s what this movement is about.”

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Governor’s Honors Academy takes over Marshall

By FRANKLIN NORTON
MANAGING EDITOR

Universities tend to be quiet over the summer, but not when nearly 200 high school honors students from all over the state come to town.

For the first time in 15 years, the Governor’s Honors Academy, a three-week summer program for academically motivated upcoming West Virginia high school seniors, has come to Marshall University.

“We all know how important honors students are to the future of West Virginia, and we’re excited to give students the opportunity to foster lasting mentorships and friendships during their time at GHA,” GHA co-dean Mallory Carpenter said in a news release. Carpenter works as the program manager for national scholarships in the Honors College. “We’ve modeled our program after the same core objectives we have in Marshall’s Honors College, which will give students a taste of college life while demonstrating the level of excellence we have come to expect from honors students.”

For the duration of the program, the students attend two classes daily and participate in other activities the rest of the day. This year’s program is focused on “Growing a Culture of Honors and Your Digital World,” a combination of STEM topics and the arts and humanities. Students can take classes ranging from Make Some Noise: Popular Music and Political Advocacy to Discrete Math, Competition Math, and the Math of Casinos.

Doug Squire, professor of mathematics at WVU, who teaches the Math of Casinos, has been teaching at GHA for 8 years now. Having been a student in the program 20 years ago, he knows personally how powerful the impact can be on students.

“It changed my outlook on everything,” Squire said. “Twenty years ago, I was a lot different coming in than I was leaving.”

Squire said the program helped him to gain a certain pride in his state, as he got to see all that West Virginia had to offer students like him.

“West Virginia gets a bad rep and state schools get a bad rep, and it’s just not like that at all, and I think they see that a lot here,” Squire said.

The students will be on campus and exploring Huntington through July 21. Franklin Norton can be contacted at norton18@marshall.edu.

Cicada Books and Coffee offers a new twist on tradition

By SADIE HELMICK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Cicada Books and Coffee, located at 604 14th Street, West Huntington, offers a fresh take on Old Central City. After two years of planning and dreaming, Katie Norman and her mother opened Cicada Books and Coffee with the hope of becoming a “third space.”

“We really want to be a community fixture. We want to be a place where people are comfortable coming in and hanging out, meet with friends and play with board games,” Norman said. “We want to be like a third space, a place other than home or work, where people are out spending time in their community.”

Norman, a senior at Marshall University double majoring in English and biology, decided to open the business after years of consideration.

“My parents actually have wanted to start a bookstore in Huntington for a really long time and it never really panned out. A couple years ago my mom moved into an apartment about two blocks away and she saw this building for sale and I said like, ‘you know we really could do something with this building,’ and we decided to try it out,” Norman said. “We have been working on this for last couple of years, just slowly while doing other things. I am a student at Marshall, and she has a different business, so we have been just sort of working at it in our spare time. We have always been book lovers and while finding a viable business plan we added coffee to the mix, making a natural combination.”

Old Central City is home to The Wild Ramp and many antique stores, but with the new addition of Cicada Books and Coffee, Norman sees potential to get more visitors in the west end.

“We really like this part of the city. I think it’s really cute, and it has a lot of potential to be a really cool community area, with The Wild Ramp down here, especially,” Norman said. “There are a lot of shops that are owned by retired people who really only open when they feel like it, so we wanted to have something down here that is always there and sort of a staple of the street. We have long hours, we want to be somewhere where people can just stop in while they are doing thing down here. We want to help boost the area. We hope we can draw in people who maybe otherwise wouldn’t be at this other end of town, or wouldn’t be exploring the rest of Huntington.”

Dawn Nolan is a barista at Cicada Books and Coffee and a Marshall graduate. While attending Marshall, Nolan studied English literature and sees this new store has a combination of two of her interests.

“To combine my interest in literature and coffee, this seemed like the perfect combination,” Nolan said. “This space is just different. You can feel the laid back atmosphere and the colors sort of draw people in, it feels like something different down here.”

Cicada Books and Coffee offers many genres of books including fiction, nonfiction, classics, recent popular literature and mystery novels. The coffeehouse offers specialty coffees, lattes, cold brew and tea, as well as locally made pastries, cookies and donuts. Cicada Books and Coffee is open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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New LEAD Center to bring together all aspects of student involvement in MSC

By AMANDA LARCH
NEWS EDITOR

The newly established LEAD Center encompasses all aspects of student involvement and leadership on Marshall University’s campus. The LEAD Center is the result of a collaborative effort to bring together those involved in Fraternity and Sorority Life, volunteer services, campus activities and the Student Government Association, and house them in one cohesive unit. Located in the Memorial Student Center’s lower level, in the old MU ID office and beside the LGBTQ+ office, the LEAD Center offers a place for all students and student leaders on campus.

Matt James, assistant dean of Student Affairs, worked with the vice president for Student Affairs to help create the LEAD Center last semester after researching similar programs at other universities.

“As student affairs admission grows, we wanted to consolidate all of the services on the involvement side of student affairs,” James said. “And so, the division is broken into a development side and an involvement side. The involvement side encompasses student activities, Fraternity and Sorority Life, student organizations, leadership programs and any type of community engagement. We did some research at other schools, and we are utilizing the acronym LEAD; it’s leadership, engagement, activities, development, and that encompasses the four directors’ offices who are housed in the LEAD Center.”

While the LEAD Center is operating during the summer, its official opening will be August 21, with a ribbon cutting and ceremony. Faculty and staff, including James, are in the process of moving and relocating their offices.

“We’ll be working as one unit really to strategically enhance our engagement opportunities for students on campus,” James said. “Instead of having all these offices siloed out, I think all of us working together to achieve the same mission is really going to help with student retention but also with student recruitment. We’re excited to officially launch the LEAD Center on August 21; we’re going to have a grand opening, and we’re going to invite students to come down. But this will be a culture change, getting students to come to the lower level of the Student Center instead of going upstairs. The upstairs is going to be administration and other services provided by student affairs, but any type of involvement initiatives or students wanting to become engaged on campus, we’re going to have them come downstairs and meet with us in the LEAD Center.”

Nick Wright, director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, said he is most excited about the LEAD Center being a central location for those working in student involvement.

“I started here in January, so I think the thing I’m looking forward to most is going into the fall semester, we’ll be fully staffed,” Wright said. “There won’t be any vacancies and this summer we’ve all been creating a unified vision of how we support students and engage students. The fall semester will be the time we actually get to see our vision, hopes and dreams come to fruition. Everything is centralized. Even before I got here, clubs and organizations were upstairs and volunteer services were on the first floor. We were all scattered throughout the Student Center. I think having a hub where students can go, and they know if they want to get engaged, if they want to do service, if they want to do anything, they just go to the LEAD Center and will be okay.”

Along with directors of Greek life and SGA, Dakota Maddox, recently hired director of student activities and the Campus Activities Board and Will Holland, community outreach and volunteer services director, as well as Andy Hermansdorfer of student organizations, can be found in the LEAD Center. James said having all those involved in student leadership together is the LEAD Center’s main purpose.

“The Greek community has always kind of been isolated,” James said. “They’re here, and everyone else is over there. Our Greek students are leaders on campus, most of them are involved in other student organizations so why do we not simply put everyone in the same house? Because our Greek leaders can help our non-Greek students grow as well as our non-Greek students can help our Greek students grow. We have to operate as one Marshall student community. One of Dr. Gilbert’s initiatives for our students is to get more engaged in the Huntington community. Our Greek students do community service, our student organization leaders do community service, and our student activities component is down there as well. Putting all of those minds together can only create bigger initiatives and initiatives that are going to touch more students and get more students involved.”

Wright said the LEAD Center is open to and accepting of everyone and all students hoping to get involved on campus.

“Anything anyone wants to do on this campus, you just come to the LEAD Center and you’ll be in good hands,” Wright said. “Everyone is welcome to come and get engaged and get involved.”

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By AMANDA LARCH
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall University’s student body president, Hunter Barclay, and vice president, Hannah Petracca, recently attended the Campus Leadership Summit conference in Washington, D.C. A student from the University of Virginia and employee of the Campus Leadership Project heard of Barclay and Petracca’s campaign at Marshall, contacted the pair and extended an invitation to the summit, which was presented by the Campus Leadership Project. For three days, the Marshall representatives assembled with other student government officials from across the nation to learn from many of America’s leaders, including President Donald Trump.

Barclay said it was humbling to be at the White House and in the presence of the president. “Hannah and I sat five rows back from the president of the United States, the leader of over 326 million Americans,” Barclay, senior pre-med major, said. “In his remarks, the president provided great advice that not only applies to student leaders but also any student who wishes to evoke change: ‘And speak your mind. Ask questions. You’re at such an important part of your life because you are making the decision for the rest of your life right now. This is your big time. You’re most wanted; everybody wants you. You’re young. You’re smart. You’re brilliant. And this is the time that’s going to really guide the rest of your lives.’”

Barclay was given the opportunity to ask both Jared Kushner, senior advisor to the president, NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine and Kellyanne Conway, counselor to the president. “I had the opportunity to ask senior advisor Jared Kushner for his advice to a new administration,” Barclay said. “His advice was to stick to what you believe in, respect the establishment and make allies. Moreover, after asking counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway a question about the opioid epidemic, I learned Huntington is a national leader in substance abuse response. I was encouraged to know that the federal government has identified Huntington as a national leader in responding to the substance abuse epidemic. I was impressed that Mrs. Conway provided an answer that was specific to Huntington. She referenced her visit with First Lady Melania Trump to Lily’s Place and referred to it as a ‘gold standard.’ It is encouraging to know that this administration is looking toward Huntington as a national leader.”

Petracca said she enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many other students involved in student government. “My favorite thing I learned from the conference was that other student leaders from all over the United States were experiencing the same struggles and had the same ambitions that we have for our university,” Petracca, junior marketing major, said. “So, it was awesome to meet amazing student leaders from as far as California and as close as Virginia. We learned about the ways that they have seen their ideas executed, what worked for them and what didn’t work for them. It was a really great experience to meet people in the same position that had some of the same goals and desires for their universities.”

Barclay and Petracca said they enjoyed the opportunity to work with and learn from other student leaders, and they can take their newfound knowledge and channel it into their efforts at Marshall. “Hannah and I shared our platform with student government leaders from across the nation,” Barclay said. “We received advice on mental health solutions from leaders from Alabama. We received advice on textbook affordability from leaders from Mississippi, Texas and Maryland. It was encouraging to know the reforms that Hannah and I are working on are not only happening at Marshall, but student government leaders from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast are also tackling issues related to campus safety, mental health, textbook affordability and free speech.”

“Hunter and I really appreciate the
MEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE

Aug. 13 @Home
Aug. 18 @Seton Hall
Aug. 24 @Home
Aug. 27 @Home
Aug. 31 @Dayton Tournament

Sept. 3 @Dayton Tournament
Sept. 7 @Home
Sept. 11 @Virginia
Sept. 16 @South Carolina
Sept. 22 @UAB

Sept. 26 @Butler
Sept. 29 @Home
Oct. 3 @ETSU
Oct. 9 @Home
Oct. 13 @Kentucky

Oct. 16 @Home
Oct. 20 @Home
Oct. 23 @Home
Oct. 27 @New Mexico
Nov. 3 @Home

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
Marshall swimming earns academic recognition

STAFF REPORT
The Marshall University Swimming and Diving Program has been added to the list of Scholar All-America for the third time.

The students in the program maintained a 3.6 GPA during the 2018 spring semester, earning them a rank of 23rd nationally.

Teams that maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher are added to the list by the College of Swimming and Diving Coaches Association.

Other teams from Conference USA who earned this national recognition were Rice University, Florida International University, North Texas University, Florida Atlantic University and Old dominion University.

Marshall was ranked second among the Conference USA teams, coming behind Rice.

The Marshall Swimming and Diving Program is coached by Bill Tramel, who

Marshall to offer football ticket mini plans

STAFF REPORT
The Marshall University Athletics Ticket Office has begun selling football tickets through their Ticket Mini Plan.

The plan allows buyers to purchase tickets for any three home football games. These plans will cost $99 for sideline seats and $69 for seats in the lower and upper sections of the Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

The ticket office will hold a “Choose Your Seat” program that allows customers to see what seats are available and to ask a ticket office employee questions regarding their seats. The “Choose Your Seat” program will be held on Saturday, July 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the football stadium.

England’s soccer coach wins hearts

By DANICA KIRKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP) — In an age of tattoos, tongue piercings and tensions over Brexit, a soft-spoken man in a dark blue waistcoat and striped tie is uniting England amid dreams of victory in soccer’s World Cup.

Coach Gareth Southgate is the buttoned-down leader of a new generation of players who speak softly and let their victories silence critics. And England supporters have found that refreshing after years of underperforming teams led by stars such as David Beckham, who became as much a celebrity as an athlete.

“He’s very much about a team spirit. It’s more about the collective — you can see it in the way he deals with the squad,” said Paul Willis, who was in the stands last Saturday in Samara, Russia, when England reached the semifinals with a 2-0 victory over Sweden. “We had superstars, but we didn’t have a team.”

Southgate’s focus on teamwork and civility has made him an unlikely icon in a country that is deeply divided by bitter arguments over plans to leave the European Union and a widening gap between rich and poor. England Captain Harry Kane may be the tournament’s leading scorer; but fans are donning waistcoats and ties — even as the country enjoys an unusually hot summer — in homage to Southgate as pundits extol the 47-year-old coach’s calm leadership.

“He has shown us the value of courtesy, kindness, hard work and that most derided of virtues, niceness,” columnist India Knight wrote in the Sunday Times. “He has redefined not just how to be a manager, but how to be a man.”

Southgate displayed his character after England’s July 3 victory over Colombia, offering a supportive hug to Colombian player Mateus Uribe after his miss in a penalty shootout helped England advance. The England coach understood Uribe’s agony, having missed a similar shot at the 1996 European championships. The moment of empathy also reminded the country how Southgate once lampooned his own failure with a Pizza Hut commercial in Southgate’s compassion sparked a hashtag for the coach’s real and imagined acts of kindness such as “#GarethSouthgateWould

See ENGLAND | pg. 10
EDITORIAL: ‘Recovery Boys’ reveals hope in recovery

In 2017, Elaine McMillion Sheldon’s documentary “Heroin(e)” showed an honest, frightening and hopeful depiction of Huntington’s fight for recovery. Sheldon’s new documentary, “Recovery Boys” follows four men through their journey of rehabilitation in the small town of Aurora, West Virginia.

“It’s a depiction that is both honest and loving - something that, as a native of West Virginia, I believe we need right now. For Appalachians, the struggle with opioids has been a long one – starting in the 1990s – and my generation plays a central role,” Sheldon said in her Director’s Statement. “Each year, I learn of more of my former classmates who are battling addiction – some of them losing their lives to overdoses, others committing crimes that lead to prison sentences and the lucky ones receiving the help they need.”

This is the harsh reality that many West Virginians experience, but this reality is leading to innovation throughout the state to help people who are struggling with substance abuse.

According to the Herald-Dispatch, Cabell County’s overdose totals have decreased by 41 percent in the first six months of 2018, compared to the first six months of 2017. “This is something everyone in the community has been working together toward,” director of Cabell County EMS, Gordon Merry, told the Herald-Dispatch. “Everyone is working toward a common goal, and I think we’re headed in the right direction. We’re getting more people into rehab. That’s just a fact. That’s our ultimate goal - to get these people back into society where they can be productive.”

Sheldon’s documentaries have gained national attention. Places like Huntington and Aurora have created programs that can be replicated throughout the country. These programs give people a reason to have hope. “I make this work for those whom society has given up on and for those who are still fighting. I make this work to increase awareness and empathy, because the stigma and shame still remains present in our society,” Sheldon said. “I make this film not to victimize, pity or make excuses for individuals, but to uplift the stories of people who are actively trying to make change, no matter how big or small.”

Huntington is still fighting. West Virginia is still fighting. There’s hope in this state. Sheldon’s documentaries reflect that.

LET ME BE FRANK: On ‘My Huntington’

By FRANKLIN NORTON
MANAGING EDITOR

For me, Huntington is personal. It’s where I grew up, where I learned how to ride a bike, went on my first date, graduated high school and started living on my own. It’s where restaurant owners know me by my name and where you can’t ever seem to drink coffee alone.

For too long, Huntington has been beaten down by harsh criticisms. And yes, while Huntington faces significant challenges, that does not diminish the fact that this community is special and unique. Good, exciting things really are happening here. Light shines bright in darkness, and that’s what the My Huntington movement is all about.

It’s all of our stories. It’s all of our experiences. And we are going to tell those stories, and we are going to take back the narrative.

We’re not going to settle for negativity, and we’re not going to stay beaten down. If we look for the light, we will find it. For those who are searching for darkness, well, they’re sure to find that, too. But that goes for any city in any country on any continent. I choose to look for the light.

There’s this excitement, this potential in Huntington, that pulses through its sidewalks, and this excitement comes from people who care enough to try.

It comes from people who are willing to ask the question, “Why not Huntington?”

As a college student on the cusp of my professional career and personal life, I want to be a part. I want to get my hands dirty with all of the people in Huntington who are putting their hands in and saying this is My Huntington. This is my home–my community–and I want to be a part of that.

All of the experiences I’ve had, all of the lessons I have learned, I want to contribute to my Huntington.

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New provost ready to take the herd by the horns

By FRANKLIN NORTON
MANAGING EDITOR

Marshall University’s senior administration gained a fresh face on the first of July, with the start of the new provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, Jaime Taylor.

Taylor, who comes from a lengthy background in higher education at Austin Peay State University, was born in Spain while his father served in the United States Air Force. His mother named him after famous Spanish bullfighter Jaime Ostos. His family moved to Tennessee when he was five years old, and he spent many summers driving right by Huntington as he went on family vacations. When he saw that the provost position at Marshall was available, he was immediately drawn in due to the university’s national reputation as well as his admiration of President Gilbert’s leadership.

“I am extremely pleased Dr. Taylor has accepted my offer to be provost and senior vice president for academic affairs,” Gilbert said in a news release. “He has an outstanding history of accomplishments in enrollment management, relationship building and shared governance, academic program development, community partnerships and fiscal management. Dr. Taylor will be an excellent fit for Marshall University.”

Taylor received his bachelor’s degree in physics from Austin Peay State University, and later earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. in in engineering science from the University of Tennessee Space Institute. He started out on the faculty at Austin Peay, where he then went on to chair the physics and astronomy department and also served as interim provost.

“I’ve always liked to bridge the gap between engineering and physics,” Taylor said. “A lot of the work I did after I got out of school was in image processing.”

Much of the work in image processing that he was interested in is referred to as “soft computing,” the application of biologically inspired algorithms. In other words, he trained computers to work like the human brain, something that has become increasingly common in popular culture.

“In the early 2000s, late 90s, people started getting interested in what was called soft computing, so neural nets, creating algorithms that work like the human brain,” Taylor said. “I got very interested in that in the early 2000s.”

Throughout his many years in higher education, student success has been Taylor’s greatest interest and excitement. One such example of this comes from his complete restructuring of his university’s math program, that led from about 15 to 20 percent of students making it through college-level math, to around 70 percent of students moving forward with success. This model has since become something of national standard.

“What I really enjoyed was working with individual students,” Taylor said. “I really enjoy taking somebody like me, a rural student, and helping expose them to the entire world, and helping them know they can compete with anybody in the world.”

Taylor said he believes if you can set the bar for students, they can rise up to that bar.

“You have to help people realize it’s possible,” Taylor explained. “Once they realize it’s possible, everything about them changes.”

One thing he hopes to bring to Marshall is expanding opportunities to students from all over, showing them that success is possible for every individual.

“Everything at Marshall seems to be happening. It seems like the right people are in the right place—the community—things are moving forward.”

-Jaime Taylor, new Marshall University provost

Taylor said he and his wife, Stacy, have enjoyed the move to Huntington. The two have always lived in rural communities, so when they moved here, they decided to live in downtown, where Taylor said Austin’s Ice Cream is a constant temptation.

“I feel ridiculously fortunate,” Taylor beamed. “Everything at Marshall seems to be happening. It seems like the right people are in the right place—the community—things are moving forward. It’s just a huge amount of excitement right now. There’s several things I want to tackle, and it all seems very doable, because it’s already happening right now.”

When he isn’t training computers to think like the human brain or restructuring entire math departments, Taylor said he enjoys outdoor recreation, including hiking and biking. Two years ago, he biked from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh. However, when asked if he and President Gilbert, a biking enthusiast himself, had any plans to hit the trails, he joked that Gilbert’s biking skills are “on a whole other level.”

Franklin Norton can be contacted at norton18@marshall.edu.
MY HUNTINGTON cont.

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Included in the My Huntington launch are a series of advertisements depicting Huntington citizens telling their personal accounts of why they chose the city to live and work in. The ads will be running on television, radio and newspapers. The committee encourages individuals to create and share their own videos as part of the movement, too.

A fund for the My Huntington movement has been set up at the Foundation for the Tri-State Community for the other side of the effort, allowing those able to donate to the cause.

“The My Huntington committee approached the Foundation for the Tri-State, a non-profit community foundation, established to improve the quality of life in our community, about establishing a charitable fund to receive and manage contributions made to further the effort to promote the city,” Compton said. “The My Huntington fund has been established at the Foundation through donations by local businesses and individuals who are dedicated to highlighting the many positive and wonderful attributes that Huntington has to offer. As committee members shared the concept with others, the excitement grew, and support has been very enthusiastic. Some want to share their stories and others want to support the effort financially, which is what led us to call this a movement rather than a campaign.”

Another member of the My Huntington initiative is Marshall president Jerry Gilbert. He said he was inspired to assist in the movement after visiting high schools across West Virginia which had a negative perception of Huntington.

“It was like all they were getting was the negative media, and they didn’t consider the bigger picture, and that is all the positive things about Huntington,” Gilbert said. “So, we decided we needed to take charge of the message and create a positive movement which this, and it turns out ironically about that same time, we discovered that there were two or three other groups that were doing the same thing. We decided we’d all come together, and we put it under the name My Huntington.”

Gilbert said he is excited to see how Marshall students will get involved with sharing their stories for the movement and spreading the positive aspects of Huntington.

“I’m excited to talk about Huntington being a safe place despite the news media stories about what we see associated with the opioid crisis,” Gilbert said. “I think we’ve turned a corner on that. Marshall has been very involved in that, and we are finding solutions. We’ve been visited by national media to show that we are in fact taking control of the situation, and we are a safe place. It’s an exciting place, and a fun place to be. There are more good restaurants in Huntington than any other city that I’ve been to of this size. There are great things to do, so you see investment downtown like you’ve never seen it before. I want that message to get out to perspective students and their families, so they can say, ‘I feel great about sending my son or daughter to Marshall because Huntington is a great place.’ People care about other people, they care about Marshall, they care about the students. So, I think [students] can get involved by writing blogs, telling their stories to their friends, going back to their communities and saying, ‘I love Marshall, and I love Huntington, and here’s why I love it.”

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ENGLAND cont. from 7

stop and help you put the chair back on your bike even if he was all dressed in his waistcoat and late for the game.”

Southgate became manager less than two years ago after the Football Association’s first choice was forced out after unguarded comments to undercover reporters. Since then he has quietly ushered out the last of the old stars and brought together a group of youngsters who modestly shrugged off compliments and give kudos to their teammates. Perhaps more importantly, he recognized the contribution of the fans, something that had been eroded during the superstar era. After every game, Southgate and his players walk across the field to applaud the supporters who have traveled to Russia to cheer for the team.

“We had lost a bit of connection,” Willis, a 57-year-old fan from Birmingham, said of past regimes. “That is now back. All the team and the back room applaud our input to the game.”

That has also translated into huge support back home in football-mad England. At least 20 million people, 38 percent of England’s population, watched Saturday’s victory over Sweden, according to figures from the BBC. Commentators say the actual number was much higher because so many people watched the game on huge screens in parks and shopping centers.

BARCLAY cont. from 5

opportunity we had this past week. It was incredible to visit the White House, tour the Capitol building, and spend time with student leaders from all over the country, but ultimately we spent those three days getting as many resources and contacts as we could to execute the idea that we have promised our peers,” Petracca said. “This year is going to be a busy one, and there’s a lot in store for Marshall. We couldn’t be more excited to work alongside our student body to make our university the best it can be.”

Amanda Larch can be contacted at larch15@marshall.edu.

INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE PARTHENON?

We are always looking for more people to contribute to The Parthenon. If you are interested in writing a column, drawing cartoons, taking photos or whatever you can come up with, email Franklin Norton at norton18@marshall.edu.
All three voted to confirm Gorsuch and are up for re-election in states that will be looking for assurances that the nominee would not overturn the Roe v. Wade decision establishing abortion rights.

On the Democratic side, the focus will be on Sens. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Donnelly of Indiana and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. All three voted to confirm Gorsuch and are up for re-election in states that Trump won handily. Whatever they decide will upset a large group of voters in their home states.

If Collins and Murkowski vote "no" and Democrats all vote "no," the nomination would be blocked. If McCain were to miss the vote, only one GOP defection would be needed to block the nomination if all Democrats were opposed.

Democrats are still stinging from the Republican decision to refuse to even grant a hearing to President Barack Obama’s choice to serve on the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland.

They are calling on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to wait until after the November congressional elections to schedule a hearing and vote. McConnell has rejected that, saying the decision to fill the vacancy under Obama was prefaced on it being a presidential election year.

Democrats say McConnell is being hypocritical in moving forward. While that argument won’t sway Republicans, their strategy could stiffen Democratic resolve to oppose the nominee. Liberal advocacy groups are challenging Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., to keep Democrats united.

Much of the groundwork for a successful confirmation comes in private meetings the nominee will have with individual senators in the coming weeks. For lawmakers who are not on the Judiciary Committee, it may be their only chance to talk with the nominee personally before a final vote. Gorsuch met with nearly three-quarters of the Senate before his hearings.

The process is arduous. Private meetings give way to days of testimony until after the November congressional elections to schedule a hearing and vote. Hearings for the most recent Supreme Court nominees have lasted four or five days, though there were 11 days of hearings for Robert Bork’s nomination in 1987.

The Judiciary Committee need not approve the nomination for it to advance. A negative recommendation or no recommendation merely alerts the Senate that a substantial number of committee members have reservations.

Before Trump announced his choice, advocacy groups made clear they will play an important role in the coming fight.

Groups that support abortion rights are planning a “Day of Action” for Aug. 26, the anniversary of the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

The liberal advocacy group Demand Justice will spend $5 million on ads through September and began airing spots Thursday in Maine and Alaska aimed at pressuring Collins and Murkowski. “Why won’t she rule out voting for Trump’s anti-choice pick?” both ads ask.

It also plans to run ads next week in Manchin’s, Donnelly’s and Heitkamp’s home states with a softer tone, asking them to continue protecting people with pre-existing health conditions by opposing a nominee who’d threaten that.

Meanwhile, the conservative Judicial Crisis Network said it will launch a $1.4 million ad buy in four states — Alabama, Indiana, North Dakota, and West Virginia — introducing the nominee in a favorable light. The spot was to launch Tuesday night and will run for one week. The group says it has reserved air time nationally and in those same states for four more weeks.

What to expect in the Supreme Court confirmation battle

By KEVIN FREKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON (AP) — Let the bruising Senate Supreme Court confirmation battle begin.

Republicans are clamoring for a solid conservative majority on the Supreme Court while Democrats hope to sound a loud enough alarm about what Brett Kavanaugh, President Donald Trump’s nominee for the high court, could mean for such charged issues as abortion rights and gay rights.

Trump introduced Kavanaugh late Monday as his choice to succeed retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

The stakes are enormous and advocacy groups that don’t have to disclose who is funding them are spending heavily to shape the fight.

Democratic Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama has replaced Republican Sen. Luther Strange, cutting the GOP’s Senate majority to 51-49. Meanwhile, Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona is battling brain cancer and has not been back to the Capitol since December.

That increases the focus on two Republicans: Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. Both support a woman’s right to have an abortion and will be looking for assurances that the nominee would not overturn the Roe v. Wade decision establishing abortion rights.

On the Democratic side, the focus will be on Sens. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Donnelly of Indiana and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. All three voted to confirm Gorsuch and are up for re-election in states that support abortion rights.

While that argument won’t sway Republicans, their strategy could stiffen Democratic resolve to oppose the nominee. Liberal advocacy groups are challenging Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., to keep Democrats united.

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Step Up for Women prepares RCBI females for manufacturing careers

By HANNA PENNINGTON
LIFE EDITOR

In a program which is one of the first of its kind in the United States, 10 women from all over the Tri-State are training for careers in the manufacturing industry, a field in which jobs are typically held by men.

The Step Up for Women advanced manufacturing pre-apprenticeship program at the Robert C. Byrd Institute in Huntington is a 10-week, free of charge course funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, developed to prepare women for careers in manufacturing and give them the skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

Mike Friel, public information specialist at the RCBI, said the program began two years ago after an economic study from The Manufacturing Institute, a nationwide group for manufacturing, was released.

“They found that in the next decade, 2015 to 2025, there is expected to be 3.5 million job openings in manufacturing in the U.S.,” Friel said. “The scary thing is that the study found that it’s expected as many as 2 million of the 3.5 million job openings might go unfilled because of the skills gap in manufacturing, because we don’t have qualified people to fill those positions.”

Friel said it is important to recruit more women into the field of manufacturing, especially since females make up almost half of the U.S. workforce but only 29 percent of manufacturing jobs.

“So certainly if we have a lack of skilled workers, where do we turn? Well, we can turn and try to attract more women and get them interested in manufacturing and be very welcoming because sometimes in the past we haven’t been very welcoming to female workers,” Friel said. “Because we have a national grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for not only these pre-apprenticeships for women but to establish nationwide, we’re able to offer this program for free.”

Women participating in the program receive classroom and hands-on instruction time using manual and computer-controlled mills and equipment, as well as travel reimbursements and industrial work clothes and boots.

“We’re finding that after they get out of the program, they’re finding jobs, we’ve had very good placement rates, and we’ve received letters and emails from many new graduates talking about how it’s really turned out to be a life changing experience,” Friel said. “Sometimes it’s their first time working a job where it’s not minimum wage pay, we’ve heard things like, ‘this is the first time I’ve ever been able to buy a vehicle.’ One woman had purchased a house for the first time and said that she was excited because for the first time ever she would get to take her son on vacation. So those kind of things really make us feel good when we hear that from those graduates.”

Josh Jobst, machinist instructor at the RCBI, said while the program mainly gives women the skills they need to succeed as machinists or operators, it also prepares them for other production jobs, as well.

“We’re trying to get them in a production and manufacturing type environment,” Jobst said. “We’ve had students get hired on at an assembly line, so we’re not assembling things over here but it’s the same environment.”

Jobst said after training in the Step Up for Women pre-apprenticeship program, graduates will have a world of job opportunities to explore.

“This is what we have to work with, and it’s really good because it takes a lot of math and there’s just all kinds of information to be learned in this field, so it applies to a lot not just machinery,” Jobst said. “If you can do this, you can do a lot of stuff.”

Read more online at marshallparthenon.com.
Hanna Pennington can be contacted at penningto131@marshall.edu.

Photos courtesy of Robert C. Byrd Institute

A student successfully completes a production run on the HAAS CNC (computer-numerical-control) lathe in the hands-on lab at RCBI.

A student enrolled in the Step Up for Women pre-apprenticeship program at RCBI practices milling steel on a Willis conventional milling machine.