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The Parthenon, November 7, 2018

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BASKETBALL EDITION

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Men’s basketball newcomers ready to start 2018-19 season

By MORGAN GRIFFITH
THE PARTHENON

Seven new members of the Marshall men’s basketball team will experience their first collegiate season, and the Herd gears up for its 2018-19 regular season.

From high school to Division I basketball, Marshall’s roster includes six freshmen and one redshirt freshman. The rest of the roster is made up of nine returning players, including senior guards CJ Burks and Jon Elmore, who were both named to the Conference USA Preseason All-Conference Team last month.

One freshman, in particular, 6-foot-5 guard Taevion Kinsey, has been drawing a lot of attention toward the Herd after his dunks started going viral on social media. Kinsey’s highlights were showcased on ESPN in August, after a video of his acrobatic dunking caught the network’s attention.

“It is very exciting when your dunk goes viral, especially because I didn’t think it was going to,” Kinsey said. “I’ve been doing this for a long time, but getting to college, where there’s a lot of cameras and people watching made it easier to go viral.”

TAEVION KINSEY

The 6-foot-5, 177-pound guard from Columbus, Ohio, signed with Marshall last April. While Kinsey was a senior at Eastmoor Academy in Columbus, he was named to the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association all-state second team and averaged 19.5 points per game, according to Herdzone. In the Herd’s final exhibition game last week against West Virginia Wesleyan, Kinsey and Burks led the team with 10 points each.

This will not be the first time Kinsey is playing alongside teammate 6-foot-6 freshman forward Cam Brooks-Harris. The two were teammates on an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team while in high school. Brooks-Harris is from Zanesville, Ohio, where he attended Zanesville High School.

During his senior year, Brooks-Harris was the 2018 Player of the Year in the East Central Ohio League, and he was also named a first-team All-Ohioan by the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association. That same year, he averaged more than 20 points per game (herdzone.com). Brooks-Harris acknowledged the importance of playing at the level of the returning players.

“Everyone here is more experienced, bigger, stronger,” Brooks-Harris said. “We are trying to catch up and play at the level that they are playing at.”

Freshman guard Jeremy Dillon, a West Virginia native who played football and basketball at Mingo Central High School, had to make a decision when he was offered scholarships for both football and basketball. The 6-foot-5 guard received all-state honors for both sports. At Mingo Central, Dillon scored over 1,300 points and averaged 20 points per game. Dillon signed with the Herd last November.

Dillon was also a Kennedy Award winner and named West Virginia High School Football Player of the Year after leading Mingo Central to an undefeated season and its first state championship in 2016. Dillon acknowledged basketball would be better on his body and said he is excited to see what the team can do this season.

“I just felt like in the long run basketball will be better on my body,” Dillon said. “I’m looking forward to seeing what we can do this year; hopefully, this year we will go deeper in the tournament.”

Brooks-Harris and Dillon will practice with the team, but will not play in games this season. Marshall head coach Dan D’Antoni announced Monday that Brooks-Harris and Dillon will both redshirt this season.

The Herd has another West Virginia native in freshman guard Deandria Murphy. Murphy is from Huntington and earned all-state and All-Tri-State honors while playing at St. Joe High School. The 6-foot-3 guard averaged 24.7 points and 6.6 rebounds per game helping his school to the state tournament. Murphy will be ineligible for the first semester after transferring from Alderson-Broaddus midway through last season.

D’Antoni did not stop his tri-state recruitment there. Freshman guard Luke Thomas grew up just five miles from Marshall in Proctorville, Ohio. The 6-foot local attended Fairland High School, where he averaged 15 points per game his senior season and led the school to a 20-4 record and an Ohio High School Athletic Association Division II regional semifinals berth. Thomas accepted Marshall’s offer as a preferred walk-on.

“I felt like it was a great fit for me,” Thomas said. “I’ve always loved Marshall, that’s where I wanted to play and coach D’Antoni gave me the opportunity.”

The Herd also added redshirt freshman 6-foot-9, 350-pound guard Ian Bennett, who sat out last season. Prior to Marshall, Bennett spent two years at Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Virginia, where he was a part of the team that went 47-1 and won the 2016 Prep National Championship.

Rounding up the Marshall freshman is 6-foot guard Wilhelm von Arndt. The 175-pound guard is from Stockholm, Sweden and spent last season at Calusa Preparatory School in Miami, Florida. Arndt is a walk-on at Marshall and plans to do whatever it takes to help his team.

“As of now I’m trying to do everything I can whether that’s bringing energy to practices, cheering people on, dressing not dressing, playing not playing,” von Arndt said. “I’m focused on doing my best and trying to get better.”

The Herd begins its regular season play with a 7 p.m. tipoff today at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky.

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Marshall women’s basketball looking to improve from last season

By SYDNEY SHELTON
THE PARTHENON

After the Marshall women’s basketball team finished last season with a record of 9-20 overall (3-13 Conference USA), the Herd looks to turn things around with a new season.

The Herd women take on Indiana State today at home for its season opener, and head coach Tony Kemper said he is hopeful for his team.

“It is a group that is still learning roles,” Kemper said. “I do think that we can be a good basketball team.”

Kemper said that despite last year’s struggles, the team still had some positives, and they plan on carrying those things over to this season.

“Last year wasn’t the season that we wanted,” Kemper said. “There were some positives last season even in a struggle. I think they were fighters last year when things weren’t going their way and I do think that carried over.”

The Herd used the offseason to work on conditioning, rebounding and growing as individual players and as a team. Kemper said he sees improvements.

“We have talked a lot about our conditioning,” Kemper said. “I think that has improved and is still something that we can still make strides in. We talked a lot about improving our rebounding, last year rebounding was a big deficiency for us and that is something that we have to close the gap on if we are going to have a chance to have a better team so they have worked on that a lot.”

The Herd tallied 988 rebounds as opposed to opponents’ 1,113. Marshall out-rebounded an average of 12.9 times per game in conference play, which represented the worst mark in the league by a wide margin.

Senior guard Shayna Gore, who was second team All-Conference last season, returns to the court for the Herd. She is ranked first in program history in three-pointers with 207 and fifth in points with 1,439.

“We saw what happened to us last year and we don’t want that to happen to us again,” Gore said. “So [last season] has motivated us, and the ranking has motivated us to do better so I think that is going to help a lot.”

C-USA has Marshall ranked 13th out of 14 teams in the C-USA preseason polls. FIU was the lone team picked to finish worse than the Thundering Herd.

Another returner for the Herd is junior Khadaijia Brooks, who returned from a leg injury. She credits the team’s chemistry and said it will be the key to a successful season.

“This is a team where we get along very well,” Brooks said. “We laugh together, we have fun together, we go out together, we support other teams together. I think in terms of that, that chemistry will rely on the court and help us win games.”

Redshirt senior guard Taylor Porter was also out last season and is an important returning player for the Herd. Porter scored 24 points against Penn State in 2016.

“To have those two players sitting out a year ago—those are two people who really know what it takes at this level,” Kemper said. “Getting them back will be really nice for us.”

Other returning players for the Herd include Logan Fraley, Kristen Mayo, Ashley Saintgene, Tana Driver, Taylor Pearson, Brianna Toney and Jovana Vucetic.

The team welcomes freshmen Lorelei Roper; Kia Sivils and Aerial Adkins, along with junior college transfer Princess Clemons.

The Herd also made two new additions to its coaching staff in the offseason with assistant coach Adria Crawford and director of basketball operations Liz Brown.

“(Crawford and Brown) are both young, they both have a lot of energy,” Kemper said. “They relate well with the players, which is pretty important in this day and age. I have been very pleased with both of them.”

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Hal Greer to be honored by statue

By GRETCHEN KALAR and SYDNEY SHELTON
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University will honor Hal Greer with a statue in 2019.

President Jerry Gilbert has created a committee to focus on the state after he proposed the idea of a sculpture for a recognition of Hal Greer.

“The committee has sent out a call for proposal,” Gilbert said. “We had six people express interest and has been narrowed down to three individuals.”

The three final artists have not been named yet.

Don Van Horn, Dean of the College of Arts and Media said the competition was set up so that each sculptor will present a proposed budget for the creation and delivery of a finished sculpture. That budget is part of the package of materials being submitted for consideration by the committee set up to facilitate the process. Those materials are due later this month and will include photographs of a model for the sculpture, drawings presenting concepts for the installation of the sculpture, proposed budget, and proposed timeline without setting a specific start date since funds will need to be raised in order to undertake the project.

The final plans, drawing and models will be seen by the committee Nov. 16.

During the game against Western Kentucky Jan. 12, Marshall will host the Hal Greer family, unveil the drawings and kickoff the fundraising efforts needed in order to build the statue in memory of Hal Greer, Gilbert said.

“It is an exciting undertaking to memorialize Greer’s many contributions to Marshall University through a bronze statue,” Van Horn said.

The statue will be located near the Henderson Center of Third Avenue in Huntington.

In 1966 Huntington honored Hal Greer with Hal Greer Day. Later in 1978, Huntington also honored Greer by renaming WV route 10, Hal Greer Blvd.

The Huntington-born basketball player Greer was the first African American to play basketball at a state university in West Virginia. While at Marshall, he led in rebounds and field goals during 1956-1958. He is still ranked seventh for all-time field goals, eighth for all-time rebounding and 20th for all-time scoring.

He was later drafted to the Syracuse Nationals (who became Philadelphia 76ers in 1963) as a second round (sixth pick, 13th overall) in the 1958 NBA Draft. Greer was a 10-time All-Star and in 1982, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

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By MADISON DAVIS
THE PARTHENON
Habitat for Humanity partnered with Marshall University Monday to organize a wall build for students, staff and community members to help build a home for a local family.

Volunteers from the Marshall community were able to hammer nails into boards to begin with the infrastructure of the new home.

Taylor Burke, vice president of the Marshall chapter of Habitat for Humanity, said events like this helps to promote their chapter.

“We’re really trying to grow our chapter,” Burke said. “It would be good because the restore does a lot of great work and we have so many volunteers here at Marshall, so if we can be of source for their volunteers, I think that would be really great.”

Volunteers were able to add a personal touch by signing a “blessing board,” with words of encouragement for the future homeowners.

David Michael, executive director of Huntington’s Habitat for Humanity chapter, said these events are good for bringing younger volunteers in.

“It’s really nice to have a group of young energetic college students to come out and get involved,” Michael said. “It gives them a little bit of an opportunity to hammer nails into inanimate objects and kind of destress.”

The home will be built on 59 29th Street in Huntington’s Highlawn community. Several churches as well as businesses in the Highlawn community raised money to help fund the building of this new home.

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By MADISON DAVIS
THE PARTHENON
Hurricane Florence, the category 4 hurricane that smashed the Carolinas in mid-September, had more of an impact on Marshall University than some may realize.

Multiple organizations on Marshall’s campus, including Campus Activities Board, have worked together to organize a Hurricane Florence relief drive.

Students, staff and the general public may drop off supplies such as toothbrushes, bandages, hand towels and other hygiene or cleaning products to any of the residence halls until Nov. 15.

Community Engagement Chair for CAB, Emilie Christenberry, said she decided to step up and help organize the drive because the hurricane reminded her of the 2016 flood in her hometown of Elkview, West Virginia.

“This hurricane relief drive is important to me because even though Marshall is my home away from home, I know what it means to deal with the devastating effects of flooding,” Christenberry said. “Many of my friends and my school were affected by the major 2016 West Virginia flooding, and I don’t want anyone to ever feel alone during a time like that. As a community, my town came together to get people what they needed and to make sure we were there for each other. I want to continue to help people who have to deal with these tragedies and hope other people continue to do so as well.”

There are two buckets set up in each residence hall lobby, one for cleaning supplies and one for hygiene products.

After collection of the buckets Nov. 15, the organizations involved will be taking a service trip to Wilmington, North Carolina, to deliver the buckets and work in different areas that assistance is needed for recovery.

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Heritage Station welcomes Moonlight Cookies

By LEANNA OWENS
THE PARTHENON

Heritage Station in Huntington is the new home of Moonlight Cookies, a cookie shop which was once based at the Wild Ramp.

“Our customer base blew up,” Molly Paxton, co-owner of Moonlight Cookies, said.

Molly Paxton and her wife Anna, owners of Moonlight Cookies, said they chose to move their business to Heritage Station after their popularity soared at the Wild Ramp.

Moonlight Cookies’ new location is closer to St. Mary’s Medical Center and Cabell Huntington Hospital, both of which Moonlight Cookies delivers to on a regular basis, Molly Paxton said.

Moonlight Cookies joins several businesses at their new location including Taps, Brown Dog Yoga and several unique artisan shops.

“Everyone in Huntington takes care of each other,” Molly Paxton said. “The people here at Heritage Station are the reason we’re here.”

The shops at Heritage Station are well known as locally owned and operated, Molly Paxton said, and Moonlight Cookies is no different.

“We do it locally,” Molly Paxton said. “We use as many local ingredients in our cookies as possible.”

The menu at Moonlight Cookies includes chocolate chip cookies, peanut butter cookies, salted caramel cookies, turtle cookies, and chocolate potato chip cookies.

The salted caramel and turtle cookies are the most popular right now, Molly Paxton said.

Starting the week of Nov. 13, Moonlight Cookies will have a gluten free cookie option.

Moonlight Cookies also serves tea including chai tea, green tea and pumpkin spice, and other drinks such as hot chocolate.

“We make what we like,” Molly Paxton said. “There’s so many coffee places, but there’s no good tea shops where you can find good organic teas and get a whole pot of tea.”

Moonlight Cookies is also partnered with Sullivan’s Records, a record store in Charleston, as an official auxiliary store, meaning that Moonlight Cookies sells Sullivan’s Records in their shop.

“We’re also going to be selling used books for Homeward Bound Books,” Anna Paxton said.

Moonlight Cookies is open Tuesday to Thursday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to 12 a.m.

“I make pretty damn delicious cookies,” Molly Paxton said.

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Local groups to discuss LGBTQ+ domestic violence

By HANNAH GRAHAM
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students and faculty are invited to attend the Relationship Violence and LGBTQ+ Community Talk from 12 to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8 in the Shawkey dining room of the Memorial Student Center. Marshall’s Women and Gender Center is collaborating with Branches Domestic Violence Center in order to educate students on how people in queer spaces can deal with domestic abuse, and how others can help create safer environments for them.

“Often, conversations around domestic and relationship violence center around cisgender women,” Claire Snyder, program coordinator of the Women and Gender Center, said. “But we know that LGBTQ individuals also experience high rates of violence of all kinds.”

The interactive training session will be facilitated by Sara Blevins, an employee of Branches Domestic Violence Center. Participants will learn about how violence impacts the LGBTQ+ community, unique barriers that stop LGBTQ+ people from accessing proper resources, and what Marshall students can do to help.

“This training is for LGBTQ members and allies alike,” Snyder said. “It provides valuable information to all, and it’s powerful.”

Snyder said because LGBTQ+ members are often forgotten about in the important discussion of domestic violence, the Women and Gender Center feels it is important to include LGBTQ+ narratives in the discussion. This training will focus on how domestic violence is experienced differently by members of the LGBTQ+ community, and how people outside of that community can be best equipped to provide a safe space for victims and survivors.

Students are encouraged by Branches and by the Women and Gender Center to take part in this interactive training, and become part of the conversation in helping to put a stop to relationship violence.

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Expectations rising for Marshall basketball

By KIERAN INTEMANN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When the preseason AP Top 25 college basketball poll was released a week ago, just one team from Conference USA had any consideration – Marshall, which received one 25th-place vote.

The expectations for the Thundering Herd in 2018-19 are lofty after winning the school’s first conference championship since a regular season Southern Conference title in 1988 and reaching the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history. The conference tournament title was the first for the Herd since winning the Southern Conference tournament in 1987.

Marshall head coach Dan D’Antoni said, “The ceiling is a lot higher than it has been. The team will get better as the season moves forward. We want to keep pushing the program forward.”

That goal of pushing the program into the next level will have its challenges. The Herd was picked to finish second in Conference USA this season behind Western Kentucky. The Hilltoppers received nine of the 14 first-place votes; Marshall earned the remaining five. Despite not being picked to win the league, D’Antoni said he is still confident in his squad’s ability.

“There’s a lot of high expectations and hope,” D’Antoni said. “We have more depth, we’re more athletic and deeper in our lineup than we have been. We have to put all the parts and pieces together. If we do that, we’ll be as good or better than we were last year.”

DAN D’ANTONI

There’s a lot of high expectations and hope. We have more depth, we’re more athletic and deeper in our lineup than we have been. We have to put all the parts and pieces together. If we do that, we’ll be as good or better than we were last year.”

“I spent the summer working out across the country, including a trip to the Chris Paul Basketball Academy, where he roomed with Loyola Chicago point guard Clayton Custer. Elmore also worked out for multiple NBA teams before returning to Marshall and said this team has a chip on its shoulder.

“’When you go out there with the West Virginia state emblem and the Marshall emblem on your chest, it kind of makes you play a little bit harder,’ Elmore said. ‘We go out there and play against teams from ‘basketball states,’ while some people don’t even know West Virginia is a state, so when we go out there and leave victorious, it’s a pretty good feeling in the back of your head knowing you’re representing the state.’

After defeating Glenville State, where Elmore’s older brother Ot is an assistant coach, and West Virginia Wesleyan in a pair of exhibition games, the Thundering Herd begins the regular season Wednesday night at Eastern Kentucky. Marshall’s first home game is Sunday afternoon against Hofstra.

Kieran Intemann can be contacted at intemann@marshall.edu.
The Marshall men’s basketball team opens the 2018-2019 season today on the road against the Eastern Kentucky Colonels.

“We’re going to play hard,” head coach Dan D’Antoni said. “They’ll put on a show.”

The Colonels finished last season with a record of 11-20 (5-13 Ohio Valley Conference), and return their leading scorer senior Nick Mayo, the 6-foot-9 power forward. Mayo averaged 18 points and 6.7 rebounds per game last season.

Marshall finished last season 25-11 (13-5 Conference USA) overall and won the Conference USA tournament, resulting in the team’s first NCAA Tournament appearance in 31 years.

The Herd defeated Eastern Kentucky last season at home, 91-71, led by Jon Elmore and C.J. Burks scoring 26 and 25 points, respectively. The two senior guards were the only pair of teammates in the country to average 20 points per game in the 2017-2018 season.

“IT’s very unusual to have two guards average 20 points,” D’Antoni said. “Just looking forward to watching them do some spectacular things.”

The Herd comes into the game today having won its two exhibition games against Glenville State and West Virginia Wesleyan.

Marshall will feature many new faces to the team, including the anticipated debuts of freshmen Iran Bennett and Taevion Kinsey in actual game action. Bennett figures to replace Ajdin Penava, who is playing overseas in Spain, in the starting lineup this season.

Kinsey put on a show during the dunk contest for spectators during Herd Madness, its purpose to increase anticipation for the upcoming season.

“Point guard Jarrod West, now a sophomore, will look to build on his legacy that was highlighted during the NCAA Tournament in March. He plays like a senior,” D’Antoni said. “Whatever team he is on in practice usually wins. He hit a pair of big threes against Wichita State.”

D’Antoni also referred to the hometown West and Elmore as “Gym rats” and said they are “hard working, West Virginia kids.”

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. in the Alumni Coliseum in Richmond, Kentucky. The Herd looks to start the season 1-0 on the road, building momentum for its return home to play Hofstra on Sunday.

By MICHAEL MORGAN

CONTRIBUTOR

Herd men’s hoops takes on Eastern Kentucky to open season


The Herd is picked to finish second in the C-USA preseason poll.

Herd football report card

STAFF REPORT

OFFENSE: F

This was by far the worst offensive performance of the season for the Herd and arguably a performance reminiscent of the pitiful 2016 season. Marshall failed to gain 250 yards on offense for the first time since the UTSA game in 2017 (a 9-7 loss), averaged a measly 1.4 yards per carry on 22 attempts (31 total yards) and turned the ball over four times, which resulted in 17 Southern Miss points. Because of the poor play from the offense, Marshall made a quarterback change midway through the game and will start Isaiah Green at quarterback for the first time in over a month next week. Think that gets magnified a bit in a two-point loss?

DEFENSE: B

It’s not the defense’s fault that Southern Miss won this game. The Herd limited Southern Miss to 222 yards on 70 plays, a mark of 3.17 yards per play, and forced a pair of turnovers (one was a special teams turnover). Marshall’s defensive downfall in this game was taking penalties that set up easy conversions and short fields for Southern Miss. An offsides and a pass interference call on the Herd allowed for Southern Miss to score what ended up being the game-winning touchdown in the fourth quarter.

SPECIAL TEAMS: C

Marshall forced a special teams turnover that was returned for a touchdown, but that’s probably the only positive one could take from this performance. Robert LeFevre averaged just 34 yards per punt and none of Justin Rohrwasser’s four kickoffs went for touchbacks. Doc Holliday’s inability to trust the field goal unit in longer distance situations forced a quick kick by Isaiah Green rather than a 48-yard field goal, which in hindsight would have won the game.
The Election of Our Lives

There was a lot on the line this election cycle. After a tumultuous two years in the political sphere, many Americans saw this midterm as an opportunity to show their disapproval, or alternatively, their support, of the direction the current administration is headed. Republican or Democrat: it is clear that this election mattered very much to many people in this country.

In West Virginia alone, early voting nearly doubled compared to the 2014 midterms election, according to data from the secretary of state’s office. There was clearly a passion pushing people to get to the polls as soon as they could.

Of the 174,506 early voters, the majority were registered Democrats, an indicator of the extreme angst many on the left feel toward the Republican-run federal government.

There have been many to say that this midterm election was the most important of their lifetime, including former president Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Cory Booker, Rep. Maxine Waters, evangelist Franklin Graham, actors Leonardo Decaprio and Jane Fonda and others. This has been a common phrase over the past several months, with many, including President Obama, saying the soul of the country was at stake.

“America is at a crossroads right now,” Obama told a crowd in Illinois. “There is a contest of ideas that is going on, about who we are and what kind of country we are going to be.”

It was, even as President Trump himself put it, a referendum on how administration is doing.

While elections like these can stir a whole host of emotions for many people, it is important to remember that as Americans we are all on the same team. We may not always agree with what we think is best for our team, but at the end of the day, we want the country to succeed.

The day after an election can leave some feeling sore, and others feeling a need to gloat. Let’s refrain from both. We have to get to work to make our country what it can be. Our friends and neighbors may have voted differently, but we must remember that, for the most part, what these people voted in the polls was truly what they feel was best. Friendship can transcend political ideology.

Now that the hateful political ads will be cut from the air, we need to focus on mending broken systems and broken relationships. In the words of President Abraham Lincoln:

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”
I spent my weekend surrounded by monuments, memorials, and metro stops in one of my favorite cities I have ever visited: Washington, DC. While it wasn’t the first time I have ever been there or traveled, it was the first class trip I’ve ever taken, and I have to say that navigating a city with my classmates is entirely different than any trip I have ever been on before. We were given freedom to explore the city on our own, and while making dinner decisions and figuring out which trains to take and stops to get off on was stressful at times, it was one of the most “grown up” experiences I have ever had. I learned so much, but I also made some of the best memories of my life and became so much closer with the people in my life. This weekend made me so grateful for college and the experiences I’m going to have, and I couldn’t think of any better new freshman experience to share with you all this week.

If there’s one thing I learned above everything else, it’s that college gives you the opportunity to learn through so many more ways than just taking classes and doing labs and listening to lectures. Yes, those are important, but being given the chance to see another part of the country or world to learn can often be more beneficial than taking notes or tests. Learning about the founding of our country and how government functions is extremely important, but getting to see the nation’s capital first hand while seeing our founding documents and touring the buildings where laws are made offers so much more insight and allows it all to seem real and present, not just a abstract concept.

I also learned a lot about traveling and making friends this weekend, because I don’t think I’ve ever been closer to my roommates than when we were looking at metro maps together or dragging ourselves back to our hotel room after walking nonstop for 12 hours or ordering food to the hotel at 1 in the morning. All of these moments are ones that would have never happened if not for our opportunities to travel, and it allows all of us to grow and learn together, while also having one of the best weekends I have ever had. I can’t wait for so many more travel experiences throughout the rest of my college career, and I know that each of them will bring me a new ability to learn and experience the rest of the world with some of the best people I know.

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Parkland survivors vote for 1st time, months after massacre

By KELLI KENNEDY and MIKE SCHNEIDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — Nine months after 17 classmates and teachers were gunned down at their Florida school, Parkland students are finally facing the moment they’ve been leading up to with marches, school walkouts and voter-registration events throughout the country: their first Election Day.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student activists set their sights on the 4 million U.S. citizens turning 18 this year. They’re hoping to counteract the voter apathy that’s especially prevalent among the youth during midterm elections. Many of the activists, now household names like David Hogg, postponed college plans to mobilize young voters. Many of them support gun reform, in the name of their fallen classmates.

“It is kind of the culmination of everything we’ve been working for,” said senior Jaclyn Corin, one of the founders of the March for Our Lives group. “This is truly the moment that young people are going to make the difference in this country.”

Corin, who voted along with her dad at an early polling site on her 18th birthday, visited a half-dozen cities in just a handful of days last week, getting up at 3 a.m. to board planes.

It has been a whirlwind for the students, with celebrity support from Oprah to Kim Kardashian, a Time magazine cover, late night TV spots and book deals — but all of it misses their main target unless it motivates students to cast ballots by the end of Tuesday.

At a University of Central Florida event during the final week of election campaigning, Stoneman Douglas graduate and current UCF student Bradley Thornton escorted fellow students to the campus’ early voting site. UCF student Tiffany Mckelton said she wouldn’t have voted if the Parkland activists hadn’t shown up on campus.

“I’ve never voted in a primary election. I actually did it because of them,” said Mckelton, a psychology major from West Palm Beach.

In the past months they’ve boarded countless buses and planes, passed out T-shirts, and hosted BBQs and dance parties on college campuses around the U.S.

Thornton said talking things through of their fallen classmates.

“It’s really about tying it back to gun violence or tying it back to immigration or whatever that person is passionate about,” Corin said. “I’ve used that tactic so many times and it has actually worked.”

It remains to be seen what role the youth vote will play in this year’s midterms.

The 30-and-under crowd is more likely to vote in this year’s midterms than in the past. Forty percent say they’ll vote, compared to just 26 percent in 2014, according to a new poll by Institute of Politics at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. They’re being pushed, in part, by a strong disapproval of President Donald Trump.

Trends in Florida’s early voting suggest a surge in young voters.

Of the 124,000 people aged 18 to 29 who had voted in person at early polling stations as of Thursday, nearly a third did not vote in the presidential election in 2016, according to analysis by University of Florida political science professor Daniel Smith. About half of those new voters were newly registered.

“There are newly energized voters who sat out in 2016, or have registered since then, who are turning out. There’s no question about that,” Smith said.

In contrast, for people 65 and older who had voted early and in person, about 7 percent didn’t vote in 2016.

Matt Deitsch dropped out of college after the Feb. 14 shooting at Stoneman Douglas to help start March For Our Lives alongside his younger siblings, Parkland survivors Ryan Deitsch and Samantha Deitsch.

He said this year’s election will be a starting point, “not a culmination.”

“It’s where we really get to see what kind of push we really made to the needle,” Deitsch said in between passing out fliers to UCF students. “We’re running a really good race but there’s really so much work to do.”

Corin said the young activists will continue with their mission regardless of the election outcome.

“The fact that we’ve engaged a new generation of voters, that’s a win,” Corin said.

“I can’t tell you how many conversations I’ve had that were like, ‘Ah, I’m not interested’ ... and through just a simple, really nice casual conversation, they get this magical inspiration to vote,” Thornton said.

Corin said she’s encountered plenty of voter apathy along the way. The students often note that voter turnout in the last midterm elections was the lowest since World War II.

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“The Amicus Curiae series brings experts deeply
During Smith's lecture, he will discuss a constitu
right now,” Proctor said. “In America, the minority is in
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“We have to take time to sit down and learn from
Douglas Harding can be contacted at harding26@
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“Our age range for these lectures is probably some-
Smith’s lecture will be especially relevant consider
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dents and young people are the future of our country
and our world, so it is vital they understand what is
going on.”

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marshall.edu.
Editor’s Note: Jason Corriher, 40, is the assistant athletics director for media relations at Marshall University. Corriher oversees the sports information program within the athletic department and is behind every release that comes from Marshall Athletics. He is an integral part of Marshall Athletics’ day to day operations, especially when it comes to the media, as he acts as the gatekeeper between the student-athletes and the media. Corriher has been at Marshall since 2011, while previously serving in media relations roles at Ohio, Marist, the Bis South Conference and NC State. Corriher graduated from North Carolina State University in 2000 with a bachelor of arts degree in Mass Communication. Corriher and his wife, Kim, have one son, Gaffney. Spencer DuPuis recently interviewed Corriher using the Marcel Proust/Vanity Fair Interview format to reveal the most personal characteristics of the interviewees or rarely revealed side of public figures.

Q: What is your most marked characteristic?
A: Sarcasm, absolutely 100 percent sarcasm. I lay it on thick, at times too thick, and if you just met me for the first time it is off-putting to some. For people who know me they just roll with it a little bit, but that is severe.

Q: What is the quality you most like in a woman?
A: Intelligence, which starts with my wife, who is the most intelligent person I know and have known, and undoubtedly will know. She keeps me together, she is a wonderful wife, a wonderful mother and keeps our train rolling.

Q: What is your current state of mind?
A: I'm glad I did this interview, because its raised questions I've never really asked myself, to be honest with you. I don't have a motto, but if I should have a motto going forward it would be establish your value. No one more then you knows your value whether it's your value to your friends, your value to your employer, your value to your family. You're always going to have to be honest with the people who ascribe a certain value to you.

Q: What is your idea of perfect happiness?
A: Being able to look yourself in the mirror and know that you did everything that you could to accomplish success, that doesn't mean it is always going to happen. This is an old cliché, but it's very true, the one thing you can control is the effort, in anything you do whether its work, a relationship, you can always control the effort so if you look yourself in the mirror and know that you've done that.

Q: What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?
A: I've been very fortunate, and I don't know that I've experienced the lowest depth of misery. I'd say the loss of a close loved one.

Q: In which country would you like to live?
A: The United States of America, with the following asterisk: I have visited Canada and been on a cruise to the Bahamas, but I have not been anywhere else.

Q: Who are your favorite writers?
A: I read a lot of sports writers. Wright Thompson, he is a longform writer, and you don't see a lot longform writing anymore.

Q: Who are your favorite musicians?
A: I'm a scan button guy, so what that means is that when I get in the car, I just hit the scan button until I find a song I like.

Q: What are your favorite names?
A: I'm going to go with Jason, Kimberly, Gaffney, and Corriher, if I get to choose open-ended like that.

Q: What is it that you most dislike?
A: Dishonesty, I would say and that is pretty broad. But you are always striving to seek truth in whatever you’re doing, work, life, whatever it may be.

Q: Which talent would you most like to have?
A: Broadcasting, would love to hone my broadcasting craft. When I came to NC State University, I came there wanting to be Jim Nantz, Al Michaels, pick anyone like that.

Q: How would you like to die?
A: A long time from now, in my sleep. If that's the most painless option possible.

Q: What is your motto?
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Spencer DuPuis can be contacted at dupuis@marshall.edu.