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THE PARTHENON

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Former student athlete trains youth at local business



HEATHER BARKER | EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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EDITORIAL: Unity Month celebration of diversity

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Marshall grad uses education, connections to create business

By **HEATHER BARKER**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

One Marshall University graduate is creating opportunities for young athletes in a community he did not grow up in, but in the community he said has greatly impacted his life while getting his undergraduate degree.

Kyle Sniatecki, who is originally from Buffalo, New York, came to Marshall on a soccer scholarship to study marketing and management. He said he realized the connections he built while at Marshall could help him launch a business in something he is passionate about.

"I mean, somebody who's seven hours away, coming from a big market in New York, you know, probably could have went back there," Sniatecki said. "But the fact that through Marshall, through the athletic program, through the relationships I've built, I saw an opportunity, and I saw potential in kind of starting my own thing right here in Huntington."

Sniatecki opened a soccer training business, called Soccer by Sniatecki, in February 2014 after noticing soccer players in the community needed a consistent training presence they may not get through local leagues and teams.

"As far as the training side of it, there wasn't really anybody facilitating that here," Sniatecki said. "You could play on a club team; you could play on a team at the Y(MCA). But as far as if you wanted to get soccer-specific training that was high quality and that could be customized to that specific age range, or that specific player, nobody was really doing it."

Through the business, participants, starting from age five through college-age, can partake in individual training, small group training or team training, catering the skills and exercises to each group.

"So, facilitating those groups of anywhere from two to six, and focusing in on just various skills of the game, so ball control, passing, shooting, dribbling, defending, attacking, really focusing on activities that allow you to improve, but most importantly game realistic," Sniatecki said.

Sniatecki also created a soccer league in Kentucky called Eastern Elite Soccer Academy for girls and boys between the ages of nine and 18. Although based in Kentucky, the club also includes players from Ohio and West Virginia.

Between juggling Soccer by Sniatecki and the Eastern Elite Soccer Academy, Sniatecki said finding a way to handle it all can sometimes be difficult, but it is all worth it.

"There's really not a balance, which I'm okay with," Sniatecki said. "I think, for me, I just enjoy all of it, right? Whether that's a young kid that I'm working with, whether that's a team I'm working with, whether that means, you know, traveling to Cincinnati for a game to coach, all of it is part of it. And I embrace the change with it. I embrace the long hours with it, because, at the end of the day, I'm getting to do what I want to do."

Sniatecki is not alone in his training and coaching, but his staff includes three other trainers for Soccer by Sniatecki, including Brady Raymond, Brandon Stacy and



Karson Boyce.

"Most importantly, myself or my staff, we're having a direct impact to what's going on here in the community and a positive impact," Sniatecki said. "The text messages, the calls, all the time and effort that's put into it, in my mind, is worth it. And I think you got to find little joys within those long days, that make it worth it... But soccer has really kind of just been my identity, really, for all of my life."

When players are ready to move on to college soccer, Sniatecki offers guidance through his personal experiences of college recruiting.

"I've been thankful enough to go through that process, and it's a grueling process, especially for somebody who hasn't gone through it, who doesn't know how to communicate with a coach, how to put together highlight film or really how to promote or market themselves," Sniatecki said.

Sniatecki said he is always looking for more trainers and coaches and would like to offer more Marshall students and graduates internships and/or jobs.

"If I can help Marshall grads or I can help people that are going to Marshall right now, I want to do that," Sniatecki said. "I want to be invested in the community, and just like people gave me a chance, I want to be able to give back."

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More photos and video can be viewed
online at marshallparthenon.com.



HEATHER BARKER | EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Clients of Soccer by Sniatecki complete drills during training sessions March 11.

People are laughing at Coseri, but that's the point



AMANDA LARCH | MANAGING EDITOR

Cody Lambert, Nate Cesco and Nathan Thomas collaborate on a new sketch idea March 9 in their office space at CoWorks.

By **AMANDA LARCH**
MANAGING EDITOR

“Work like a company and promote like a band” is Nate Cesco’s business model for Coseri, a Huntington-based sketch comedy group. From writing and producing a feature length film, to producing and filming a talk show and creating more sketches and web series, Coseri members will continue to be busy the next few months, Cesco said.

Since August, Coseri members Cesco, Cody Lambert, Nathan Thomas and Liz Northcote have been writing, producing and publishing more content than ever before, including short films, holiday specials and a web series about the new Fallout game.

Northcote now lives in Maine, where she is attending graduate school, but Cesco said she still regularly helps the Coseri team. For a time, Cesco and Lambert lived in Chicago, but they still worked as closely as possible with Coseri until they both moved back to Huntington last year.

“So far, I think the last few months since I’ve come back from Chicago and so has Cody, it’s been building; that’s one of the reasons I came back,” Cesco said. “Chicago is a great comedy city. Cody went up there with me for a little bit, and he came back before I did. And I was like, ‘If I’m here, you’re there, we have another writing partner, Liz, who was going to Maine, and it’s like, if we’re all in different places, this thing falls apart. Do we believe in this thing?’ We both said yes, so I came back, and we started making stuff in August again like really regularly. We’ve put out more since August last year than we did the years before.”

Coseri’s name is a mashup between “comedy” and “series,” and Cesco and Lambert created the group about four years ago. The pair met while performing stand-up comedy together, but Cesco said they knew they wanted to stand out from other sketch comedy content creators.

“We didn’t want to be just another sketch comedy YouTube, we want to make web series; we want that to be the

foundation of what we do,” Cesco said. “So, this web series coming up and this feature are positioning us to do that. I just think like we’re in that golden age of television still, where it’s like Netflix just dropping a series is a thing. And if we can scale that down to what we can make in Huntington and make a five-to-ten part web series every so many months, I think there’s an audience for that.”

Cesco said Coseri relies on help from the community, and he loves to support other local artists. Their office space, located in the CoWorks building in Huntington, has an entire wall dedicated to merchandise from local artists and businesses.

“I don’t think Coseri would exist if Black Sheep didn’t exist,” Cesco said. “One, that’s where I met Cody doing stand-up comedy there. Two, the staff there is so ridiculously nice to let us use their kitchen, their staff and time. We’ve had a lot of quesadillas and chicken and waffles writing stuff there.”

“I think if there is one thing I do want to stress, it’s how ridiculously down people are to collaborate in the area,” Cesco said. “People are just really excited that artistic things are happening, so there’s no sense of competition. Everybody wants to contribute to each other’s work. People are just excited to make things, and I think that they’re excited for us to make cool things. That’s something that from what I’ve seen is uniquely West Virginian and unique to Huntington too.”

Cesco said one of his goals for Coseri is working hard enough so that it eventually becomes a full-time job for its members. They are also working on launching a website and other side projects, such as a comedy tour for Lambert.

“We have a lot of content, and I think what we’ve learned in the last few months especially is if we really buckle down and grind it out that we can make it, and some of the stuff has gotten really good responses,” Cesco said. “The eventuality is figuring out how do you associate money with that.



AMANDA LARCH | MANAGING EDITOR

Nate Cesco acts out a sketch March 9 at CoWorks. Video outtakes can be found at marshallparthenon.com

Not that the goal is to make money; the goal is that I don’t have to be a social media strategist for another company and Cody doesn’t have to teach.

“We have features that we want to do,” Cesco said. “Cody wants to tour and do stand-up; I want to keep making web content and figuring out a way to monetize that, so we can just do that all the time and then make more and feel content in our lives. We’re not trying to get rich or have every person on the street watch us. I just want to be able to wake up and the first thing I think about is the video we’re making that day or the project that we’re in and then not be hungry by the end of the day because I did that.”

Cesco said Coseri is open to collaborating with others, and anyone interested in helping with or being in a sketch can reach out to them.

“All the time we get messages on the Facebook page,” Cesco said. “I literally got a message from a restaurant the

The full story, photos and video can be viewed online at marshallparthenon.com.

Students travel to Bolivia to serve over spring break

By **MEREDITH O'BARA**
THE PARTHENON

Members of the campus ministry Baptist Campus Ministry, BCM, spent spring break in Cochabamba, Bolivia working with the organization House of Hope to serve a community in need.

The week was spent helping and connecting with the Quechua community in Bolivia, said Sandra Clay, a sophomore international business major.

"Our main work was building a church in the Quechua community," Clay said. "Groups before us have worked on it, so we picked up where they left off. We put grout in between the bricks and made it weathertight, as well as aesthetically pleasing."

Before the community received help from missionaries and BCM, a building for a church was not there. Tatum Ferris, a sophomore elementary education major, said this was the reason for the group to build a new one.

"We assisted in building this church for the Quechua people because their community, originally, which is about 270 church members, were meeting under a tarp every time they would get together," Ferris said. "Outside of one of their houses there was this open piece of land, but it wasn't very big, and they put a tarp over it to keep them out of the winter."

House of Hope created a simple way to build structures that even those without prior knowledge of construction could do, Ferris said.

"Basically, what happened was the organization designed this brick that they could lay as Lego blocks, so it was very easy to assemble," Ferris said. "They laid the brick on three walls, and we grouted."

Time was spent not only building the church, but also connecting with the community, despite the language barrier, Clay said.

"Along with working on the church, we got to socialize with the Quechua community," Clay said. "Members of the local Quechua community worked

with us on the church as well. They only speak some Spanish, so it was hard to communicate, especially with the elders. We brought along soccer balls and got to play with the kids."

Even though the days were long, and each day gave BCM members an array of challenges, they were still able to enjoy their break, said Alayna Guthrie, a sophomore health sciences major.

"Our typical day, throughout the week, was wake up, have breakfast and go straight to the work site, and we would work all day and then come back and have dinner," Guthrie said. "One evening, we went out for ice cream, one night, we went to the park and played soccer or we would do nothing and just relax."

Through the work, socializing and evening outings, Ferris said her favorite part of the trip was the relationships she made with community members and the joy they had.

"We built so many relationships with the people, even though there was a language barrier," Ferris said. "We were able to build those relationships with people, especially the children. They absolutely loved it. Every time we got off the bus there, they would run to the doors because they were so excited to see us and that was awesome. It was really cool to see that even though they had very little, they seemed to be the happiest people I had ever seen."

Guthrie said the happiness and gratefulness the community members had was unlike anything she had ever seen and changed the perspective of her own life.

"The fact that we were able to help them, and seeing how grateful they were for that, even though they were perfectly content with where they were, was beautiful," Guthrie said. "To see that they were so okay with where their church was, and where they were worshiping, made me have a kind of reality check. I do not need all these things to be happy. I

see BOLIVIA on pg. 10



PHOTO COURTESY OF TATUM FERRIS

Members from the Baptist Campus Ministry, BCM, traveled to Cochabamba, Bolivia to help the Quechua community.

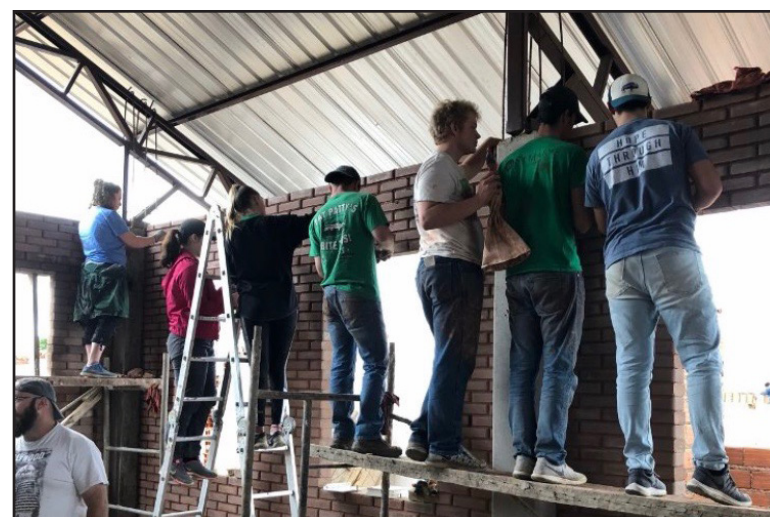


PHOTO COURTESY OF TATUM FERRIS

BCM Members help grout walls for a church being built in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

SGA approves funding for student organizations, seeks female mascot return

By **JESTEN RICHARDSON**
COPY EDITOR

The following Student Government Association updates were taken from the announcements and decisions made and the events that occurred at the SGA student senate meeting Tuesday, April 2, as well as additional information provided by the SGA.

Senate Bills:

—Senate Bill 76.46 was approved.

This bill is a funding request for \$500 to be allocated to the university-recognized organization Ratio Christi by the SGA. The funds were requested for study materials, replacement advertisement materials, an end of the

year banquet at Fat Patty's and annual conference fees.

—Senate Bill 76.47 was approved.

This bill is a funding request for \$250 to be allocated to the university-recognized organization Pakistan Student Association by the SGA. The funds were requested for a day trip and for gifts and refreshments provided at a ceremony for new members.

—Senate Bill 76.48 was approved.

This bill is a funding request for \$500 to be allocated to the university-recognized organization the Organization of African Students by the SGA. The funds were requested for travel for a meet and greet, for food prep materials for a Taste of Africa event and for board

materials and T-shirts.

—Senate Bill 76.49 was approved.

This bill is a funding request for \$500 to be allocated to the university-recognized organization Delta Sigma Pi by the SGA. The funds were requested for a Grand Chapter Congress conference registration.

Senate Resolution:

—Senate Resolution 76.17 was approved.

This resolution is a recommendation by the student senate to reinstate Marsha the bison, Marshall's second mascot, before the start of the 2019 football season.

Jesten Richardson can be contacted at richardso164@marshall.edu.

Unity Month brings campus-wide celebration, recognition of diversity



PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

Students and faculty walk together in October 2018 for the seventh annual Unity Walk.

By **TIARA BROWN**
THE PARTHENON

The second annual Unity Month kicks off Friday with Lessons in Drag. Unity Month was created in order to invoke conversation, celebrate diversity and create an inclusive atmosphere, said Zelideth Rivas, head organizer of Unity Month and professor at Marshall.

“Unity month seeks to promote the diversity of people, cultures, different languages at Marshall University and also to unite Marshall University under one banner,” Rivas said.

With graduation coming up, this month is a nice way of reminding people what the college can be and what they will be taking with them once they walk across the stage and begin their lives and careers beyond Marshall, Rivas said.

“Students need to know that they too are welcome here and that college is certainly a time for exploring, learning and understanding others,” said Will Holland, co-organizer of the events and director of community outreach and volunteer services at Marshall.

Everyone at Marshall and those within the Huntington community are welcome and encouraged to learn about others while becoming “as accepting as you can be,” Holland said.

“It is a pretty divisive time throughout this campus and also this nation so anytime we can put a positive spin on our differences as oppose to dwelling on them is a very valuable skill to hone in on,” Holland said.

The message behind Unity Month is very important and that is why it is more than just a day or only one event, Holland said.

“It is saying that this is one of our top priorities,” Holland said. “And if the community can just understand that, ‘Hey Marshall University gets it. They celebrate diversity and are very welcoming.’ If they can glean that from our message, then that would be mission accomplished.”

The first event will be Lessons in Drag, featuring two drag queens educating attendees on what drag consists of, along with an academic aspect going into performance, race and other parts of it. This will be a time to teach others in an entertaining way while celebrating the LGBTQ faculty, staff and students.

A Paint and Sip co-hosted by the Campus Activities Board will feature the Diversity Bison. An informative speech will also be given on diversity along with why the Diversity Bison was created.

A group of faith leaders will come together, as they did last year, for the Interfaith Dialogue, bringing together different faith leaders from the Huntington area along with faith-based organizations on campus to have a discussion with anyone who would like to attend and share their own beliefs and what it means to them. Pre-registration is encouraged for a head count and can be done by contacting willholland23@marshall.edu.

Key speaker Farrah Jaquez, a professor at the University of Cincinnati and Marshall graduate, will be talking about community engaged scholarship on health equality. This is achieved by going out into the community and finding the academic way of speaking that can empower a community to do better.

The lineup of events for Unity Month will end with the Diversity Awards, which will occur at President Jerry Gilbert’s house. The ceremony will highlight the students, staff and faculty nominated, and nominations can be completed by going to <http://www.marshall.edu/diversity/unity-month> and will be open until April 8. People who are nominated are those who encourage diversity and go above and beyond to do so at Marshall university, Rivas said.

“It’s a celebration of being inclusive and socially conscious,” Rivas said.

Tiara Brown can be contacted at brown1021@marshall.edu.

Deadline approaching for peer mentor applications

By **JESTEN RICHARDSON**
COPY EDITOR



When he first came to Marshall University, he did not know a lot of people, but with the help of the university community he was able to cultivate new friendships.

“I like to think of life like bus stops,” said Nathan Korne, a senior digital forensics and information assurance major. “And right now my bus is coming to the end of the road, where my time was at Marshall, but I can look back and I see, like there are students just getting on the bus right now and going through these different stops.”

Korne said he thinks having a really “welcoming and open and fun” environment in his UNI class really helped him to feel integrated and a part of the Marshall community, and for him what was really helpful when he came in as a freshman was when people decided to invest and build a relationship with him.

Wanting to do the same for other incoming freshmen, while also earning one credit hour toward graduation, Korne said he decided to try “passing the torch” by participating in the UNI 100 Peer Mentor Experience his senior year, an experience which allows current Marshall students to aid incoming freshman while earning college credit.

Peer mentors work with facilitators to teach incoming **see DEADLINE on pg. 10**

Weekly Poll Results

	Y	N
Have you listened to The Parthenon Podcast this semester?	19%	81%
Do you regularly read the print edition of The Parthenon?	40%	60%
Do you believe the U.S. government should shut down the U.S./Mexico border?	21%	79%
Do you believe it should be mandatory to vaccinate children?	97%	3%
Are you satisfied with the SGA election results?	73%	27%

This poll was conducted on The Parthenon’s Instagram, @MUParthenon. The results reflect responses from an average of 57 individuals.



RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

Family, brotherhood bring men's basketball managers, team together



KIERAN INTEMANN | SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall men's basketball co-head manager Danny Feck prepares to rebound a shot from one of the Herd's players during warmups prior to a Conference USA Tournament game against Southern Miss on March 14.



KIERAN INTEMANN | SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall men's basketball co-head manager Jacob Garnes (center) rebounds a shot during warmups as Thundering Herd players go through shooting drills prior to a Conference USA Tournament game against Southern Miss on March 14.

By **TAYLOR HUDDLESTON**
THE PARTHENON

The strive and determination of team, family and brotherhood bond is the core of Marshall University men's basketball. The atmosphere is life-changing, and even a way of life for the Marshall men's basketball managers, the managers said.

The managerial staff consists of Calvin Covington, Parker D'Antoni, Danny Feck, Jacob Garnes, Cameron Molina and Ryan Thomas. The graduate assistants are Patrick Herlihy and Milan Mijovic.

As a manager for a NCAA Division I basketball program, there is a lot of work and dedication to the program. There are many long days and nights where basketball does not stop. The main responsibilities of a manager involve being around the basketball players and coaches. Rebounding, cleaning up sweat and continuous support are just some of the duties that these managers perform on a day-to-day basis to make the team better.

"It's a special opportunity and a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Feck, Marshall's co-head manager who is pursuing a degree in sports management. "Over these four years, I have learned a lot that I did not know before. I've met some great people. Being around these people for the last four years, managers, players, have taught me so much."

Mijovic, a current graduate student studying business with a double undergraduate degree in international business and finance, is a former player for the men's basketball team who is now a graduate assistant for the team. He said that the transition from a player viewpoint to manager is seen differently.

"I definitely think they earn some more respect

from me now that I see how much effort they (managers) put in," Mijovic said. "It's just different behind the scenes work they've done for us that we didn't even know or think about. They are a really important piece to be successful."

As a manager, it is important to be confident and generate support for the basketball players.

Molina, a junior sports management major, has transitioned from being a manager for a junior college basketball team to a Division I team.

"The difference is huge," Molina said. "The expectations are way different. You have to be here and your mind has to be basketball every day. You can't slack off. It's a lifestyle. Nobody appreciates it and nobody gets it, but at the end of the day it's basketball and it's fun."

The relationships between the players and managers are special, a bond that cannot be broken, Thomas, a junior sports management major, said.

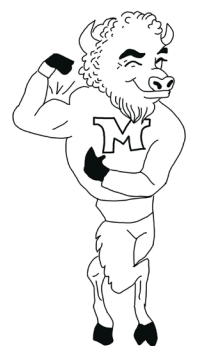
"It's simple. Family. When I got here my freshman year, I feel like I didn't take it as serious as I do now," Thomas said. "Once that first year goes by, you really realize how important this job is. It's more than just a job. This has become a life for me. Every day when I come out here, I work my butt off. I give it my all for these guys, the coaches, the community. A lot of people don't realize what we really do. We're a part of the team. This is life."

As the season winds down with the Thundering Herd currently participating in the CollegenInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT), the entire team is focused on winning another championship.

Taylor Huddleston can be contacted at huddleston16@marshall.edu.

Keep up with everything Marshall sports and follow

@MUPnonSports
on Twitter!



MU cheer to compete in NCA Collegiate Cheer Championship

By **TAYLOR HUDDLETON**
THE PARTHENON

The endless counts of “5, 6, 7, 8” and “1, 3, 5, 7, 9” runs through all of the Marshall University Cheerleaders heads as the team prepares to head south to the Sunshine State to compete in the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Collegiate Cheer Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida, this week.

Last year, the Herd made history and placed third in the national competition. Since the 2000-2001 season, the team has competed in the national competition for the most part, said Jake Gilliam, head coach of the Marshall cheerleading team.

“It’s a big event,” Gilliam said. “There’s two brands under the college cheerleading, UCA and NCA, so our brand is a lot of different schools from different areas. We go against a lot of Division I schools. It’s dance and cheer.”

Gilliam said that there are multiple divisions at the two-to-three-day event. The Herd is competing on consecutive days, with the first day being preliminary run and a finals run. Afterwards, it will be placed in an advance D1-A Small Coed Division, which is what the team will compete in.

While at the event, there will be a mascot competition and a partner-stunt competition, in addition to the dance competition.

Sophomore cheerleader Chris VonScio joined the cheerleading program this year and is

competing in his first NCA competition.

“I’m looking forward to showcasing our routine we’ve been working on all year and going down there (to Florida) with the team,” VonScio said. “Just all of us getting together and putting all our hard work in that we’ve been waiting for and spending a good week with my team.”

Freshman Meghan Tate is not on the competition team but is heading down south to participate in the competition as Marshall’s mascot, Marco. Incorporating a school’s mascot into a routine adds points to the team’s overall score.

“I’m super excited to be out there with my team,” Tate said. “Even though I’m not on the competition team, I’m still out there supporting and gaining my team more points. It’s just the best opportunity.”

VonScio and Tate both said their favorite part of being with the Herd is all the friends they have made and the people they have met.

Every year since Gilliam has been the coach, the Herd has moved up a ranking each year and is hopeful to move up to the top with this week’s performance. Gilliam is hopeful to place in the top-three category.

“Our ultimate goal is always just to hit the best routine that we can hit,” Gilliam said. “Hit all of our skills and make sure everybody has a good experience.”

Taylor Huddleston can be contacted at huddleston16@marshall.edu.



RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

Marshall cheerleaders pose in a stunt before the men’s basketball game versus UTEP on Jan. 31 in the Cam Henderson Center.

Thundering Herd seeks improvement at Irish Creek Intercollegiate

By **MILLARD STICKLER**
THE PARTHENON

As Marshall’s men’s golf team prepares to hit the links at the Irish Creek Intercollegiate, head coach Matt Grobe said there’s a lot for his team to work on.

“All of us have parts of our swing that we have to pay attention too,” Grobe said. “Parts of our short game that need attention too. We got some (players) that needs some work around the green. We got some that need a little help on their ball striking. Then we have some that need to get a little mental work in.”

Grobe said his hardest job is trying to find the right five players to choose each tournament with a team consisting of eight solid players.

The Herd is coming off the three-day Furman Intercollegiate when it placed 14th out of the 21 teams present and Grobe said that the atmosphere around the team is positive.

“I feel really good about where we are at right now,” Grobe said. “I feel like (the team) is really starting to have a little bit of confidence. We have gotten off to some bad starts in

the fall, and we have continued to just get better and better.”

Grobe said he hopes he sees the fight his team showed at the Furman in the upcoming matchup and that there is always room for improvement.

“I felt like the team fought really hard,” Grobe said. “The one thing that is still a little bit frustrating as a coach, and it’s one of those things that I think you worry sometimes as a coach, is that you have gotten too close to your guys because you care so much for them.”

Grobe said despite the lack of results on the scoreboard, the team is playing better as a whole.

“I think we are a better team than we are scoring. So, I would like to see us score a little bit better,” Grobe said. “I think ball striking wise and short game wise, I have watched us with some of the best teams in the country this fall and the spring and we are just as good as those guys. We just are not scoring as well right now. For me, I would just like to see the scores get lower and lower.”

Freshman Kyle Mitchell, who tied for 30th out of the 120 players present in the Furman Intercollegiate, said that he is confident going into the Irish Creek Intercollegiate.

“I feel really good about my game,” Mitchell said. “I feel really confident in my ability and I know that I can play very well.”

Mitchell said that he hopes to keep up the performance he showed at the Furman in the upcoming event.

“It was a big turning point for me with my ball striking and my swing,” Mitchell said. “I feel like if I can keep that up then I will have no problem scoring at Irish Creek.”

Despite this, Mitchell said he recognizes there is still room for improvement.

“Mainly (I have been) just (working on) my striking and short game,” Mitchell said. “(I) just need to continue to do what I have been doing. I really struggled at the beginning of the season so just making progress with my game, just keeping it steady and keeping up with my routine.”

The Herd will travel to Kannapolis, North Carolina to participate in the two-day Irish Creek Intercollegiate event. The first day of play is scheduled for Saturday with the event ending on Sunday.

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THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and Wednesdays during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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EDITORIAL

Unity Month a unique celebration of diversity



April always begins with April Fool's Day, but the many other aspects of the month are no joke. Across the country, people will observe National Child Abuse Awareness Month, National Autism Awareness Month and National Parkinson's Awareness Month. Other, more lighthearted matters are highlighted during this month, such as Amateur Radio Month, Lawn and Garden Month and National Poetry Month. April is a time for spring weather and Easter Sundays; it's when major league baseball gets into full swing, and it's when we celebrate our earth

each April 22.

But for Marshall University, April means Unity Month.

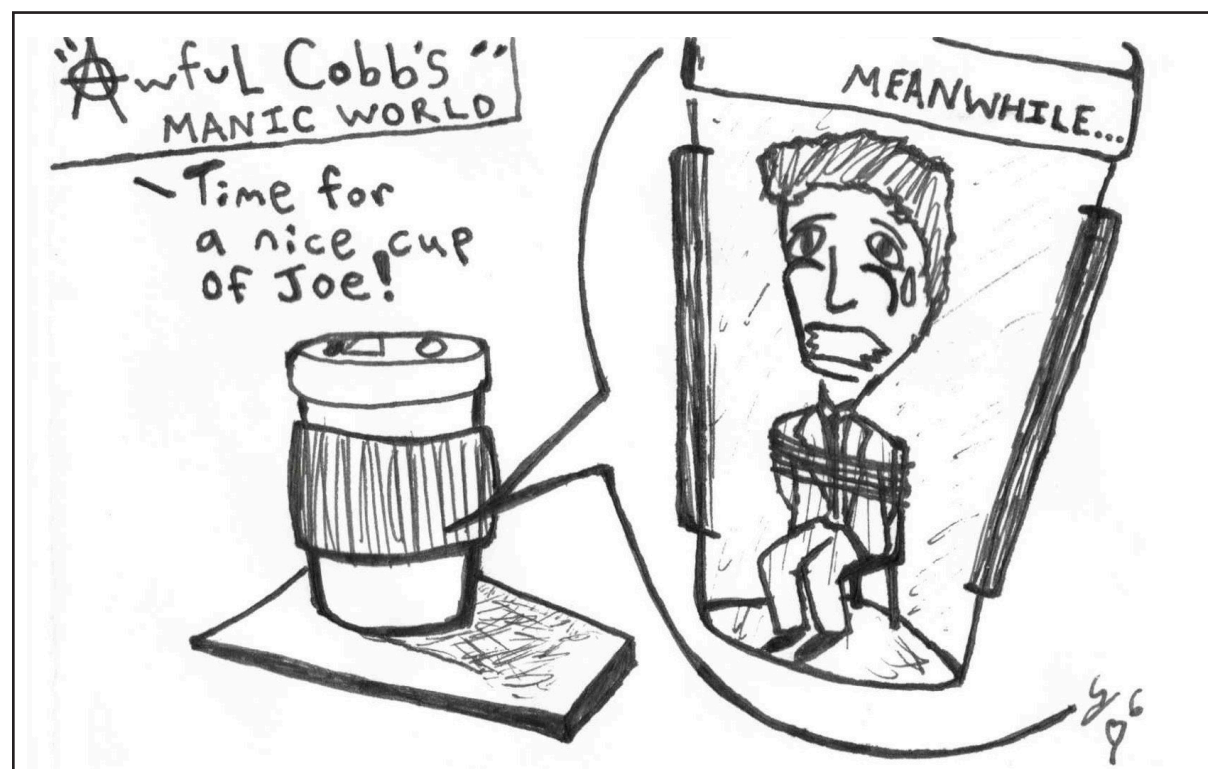
Marshall is open to all; our university promotes and encourages diversity. So, when was the last time we reflected on such a wonderful opportunity to go to a college that welcomes everyone and dedicates an entire month to unifying its campus? We are incredibly fortunate to have President Jerry Gilbert, as he strives to do so much for our Marshall family.

According to official Unity Month descriptions, it "seeks to initiate new conversations at Marshall to

foster an inclusive campus and celebrate our diversity. In the spirit of the Marshall University Creed, Unity Month events strive to promote an open, pluralistic and socially conscious community."

During this month's calendar of events, which are in part sponsored by the President's Commission on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, attendees at events will be able to experience an interfaith dialogue, a bone marrow drive and a diversity paint and sip. These are only a few of the opportunities to connect with those who are different from

see UNITY on pg. 10



TREY COBB | CONTRIBUTOR



GINGER'S GUIDE TO: Spring



By **AMANDA LARCH**
MANAGING EDITOR

Fall has always been my favorite season and favorite time of year. I don't know if that's because I'm a redhead, and all the brilliant colors seem to blend together to perfectly match me. Or maybe because my birthday is in November, and fall has some of the best holidays anyway. Plus, it's a precursor to Christmas. Maybe I love fall so much because of the clothing; there are few things I love more than wearing a flawlessly put together fall outfit, with a long cardigan, boots and a scarf. I certainly can't forget about the food either. The pumpkin pies, hot chocolate and Thanksgiving turkeys never fail to make my mouth water. But no matter the reasons, I've always been drawn to the autumn season, so much so that none of the other seasons seem to come close, except for winter. Winter is a close second.

But this year, I'm really enjoying spring. That could be because we often don't get spring here, and it feels like winter usually just melts into summer, with nothing in between. Right now, though, we're in the midst of spring, and I couldn't be happier, not even if it was November and I was in all my redhaired, fall glory.

Is there any sweeter smell than walking outside after a spring rain shower? (They should really make a candle for that.) What about a prettier sight than Easter flowers in



AMANDA LARCH | MANAGING EDITOR

Though spring has never been one of Amanda's favorite seasons, she is learning to better appreciate its beauty.

bloom? Or a better feeling than the sun shining on your face and happily realizing it won't set for hours to come?

I'm sure there are better things than all of those, but I really don't think I've ever taken the time to appreciate spring before like I am this year. Just being outside the past few days has left me feeling invigorated and full of energy. As I mentioned, I normally love winter, but this year we had more wind and rain than snow, and it seemed like

most of the coldest days we had were sunny, which felt like a merciless tease. In the past few weeks though, we've had beautiful and warm, but not hot, sunshine and cloudless blue skies.

It's hard for me to think about seasonal depression and if the 'winter blues' could really affect me, because there are so many things I love about winter. As long as I've been in college, however, I've also discovered the things I don't love. The harsh wind blowing through my winter coat on the way to class is probably one of the most important reasons I've slightly changed my mind about winter. Not being able to go outside for long periods of time without freezing puts a damper on my mood as well, especially when I'm constantly longing for some adventure.

College is all about growing up, and I don't know if developing a deeper appreciation for all the seasons is part of that process, but it's definitely true for me. I'm really looking forward to enjoying the rest of spring and the beauty it has to offer, even if that just means visiting local parks and trying to capture all the lovely spring moments on my camera. That sounds like enough of an adventure to me.

Now if only I could learn to love summer the way I'm loving spring... But we'll save that for another day.

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

Jena's Creative Corner

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a work of fiction, written by a contributor to The Parthenon. This does not reflect The Parthenon's views.

By **JENA CORDLE**
CONTRIBUTOR

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

On a Sunday morning, not chilly but not quite warm either, two boys were riding their very old and beaten up bikes around town. Ty and Jake normally spent their Sunday's getting as much play time and adventuring out before the school week starts up again. Today, they thought it would be a good idea to ride their bikes through one of their favorite bike trails, which was a pathway to the creek where they often spent their time.

Upon their arrival, the creek was soft in its current and cold to the touch. The sound of the ripples carried through the scenery around them; as much fun and excitement they had there with their friends, it was rather relaxing for them. After plopping themselves down in the grass, Ty couldn't help but notice something glimmering in his peripherals. It was a glass bottle nudged between two rocks at the creek's edge, catching the sunlight just perfect enough to shine it right in his eyes. To his curiosity,

he inspected the bottle. It was green, most likely an old naked wine bottle.

"Yo, Jake, come look at this," Ty said to his friend while examining the bottle, to which he noticed something odd about it. It wasn't empty; the contents inside was simply a slip of paper and a keychain that looked oddly familiar. It was a sailboat, he shook and patted the bottle against his hand to get it out, but much to his dismay he had to pry it out with his skinny fingers. The paper was slightly water damaged, but while unraveling it, the words inscribed on it were untouched.

"What is that, what's it say?" Jake asked eyeing the odd piece of paper in Ty's hand.

"I think it's some kind of message in a bottle, it says, 'Meet me at this address.' with a heart and J at the end." The address listed below wasn't far from Ty's house; it sounded familiar as well, it was his grandpa's old house long before he was born.

"Should we go? I mean it's right by your house." Jake asked and somewhat suggested. The "message in a bottle" was very vague to him, and sketchy.

"I guess we could check it out, but no one lives there anymore. Let's take it to my grandpa first,"

see JENA on pg. 10

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JENA cont. from 9

Ty said.

The boys rode their bikes all the way back to town looking for Ty's grandpa, which they knew where he would be, it's where he always is on a Sunday morning. He's just leaving church, where the boys should be if they weren't out being kids on this particular Sunday. They approached the church in perfect timing as it was being let out and church members were scattered about in conversation with one another. Ty's grandpa was spotted laughing with the pastor on his way out.

"Grandpa!" Ty hollered from across the crowd of people while an abundance of known grandfathers in town turned their heads at the boys. Ty and Jake made their way up the church stairs to his grandpa.

"Hey you're a little late to church don't ya think?" His grandpa chuckled out.

"I have a question, me and Jake were by the creek and we found this." Ty stated holding the bottle towards him in one hand and the note and keychain in the other. His grandpa's eyes glimmered at his grandsons

findings, as he knew all too well what it was.

"My my, now how in the world did you find that?" He asked as he gently grabbed a hold of the items, but sticking the sail boat in his pocket for safe keeping.

"What is it?" The boys asked almost in unison.

"I wrote this, for your grandma. A long time ago before we ever married, we lived a creek away from each other. So I'd send her messages downstream and she'd find me at school with a hug, and if I was lucky a smooch. I always wondered what happened to this one, I've kept the other matching keychain with me all these years. If she was here today I know she'd be excited about this. We used to always send each other nick nacks, but her favorite was waiting for my messages. I sure do miss that women." He said with a reminiscent smile on his face.

"Wow grandpa, that's crazy that we found it, after all this time." Ty said in amazement. "Love is like that, it always comes back to you."

Jena Cordle can be contacted at cordle27@marshall.edu.

DEADLINE cont. from 5

freshman UNI 100 content, said Robin Taylor, an academic advisor and member of the committee over the peer mentorship experience. She said peer mentors have been a part of UNI 100 for a majority of the class' history at Marshall.

"They make a big difference in the incoming students' impression of Marshall, and sometimes they're the biggest link that student has to the university," Taylor said. "That's why we added peer mentors to the UNI classes, to give the students someone that's closer to their age, someone they can connect with who has probably gone through all the things they might be stressing about being a new college student."

The responsibilities of peer mentors, according to the Week of Welcome and Peer Mentoring portion of Marshall's website, include "convening class during Week of Welcome (WOW, August 20-23) for four non-consecutive hours," "escorting their students to convocation" and "co-facilitating designated weekly class meetings once per week for 50 minutes during

the first seven weeks of the semester"

Peer mentors may also choose to volunteer and help with any events they would like during WOW, but these events are not required, and peer mentors can stick completely to the classroom if that is what they prefer, Taylor said. Peer mentors are only officially required to attend class sessions and a training that will be Aug. 19, the Monday of WOW, she said.

Korne said he thinks the peer mentoring experience can help if people want to develop their interpersonal skills and was beneficial to him because having to teach the material, he learned some stuff he had not previously know about Marshall, learned how to teach people and continued to learn how to develop relationships.

The deadline for individuals wishing to be a peer mentor during the 2019 WOW and the fall 2019 semester is Friday, April 5 at midnight.

Jesten Richardson can be contacted at richardso164@marshall.edu.

BOLIVIA cont. from 4

do not need to be in the most beautiful church building to worship, but can stand underneath a tarp by myself or three other people and do the exact same thing."

A love that stretches miles and finding joy in the simplest ways is what Ferris said she hopes was achieved during the trip for fellow students and Quechua community members.

"As for the students who went with us, I hope they were able to understand that happiness comes from a very simplistic form, all the time, and you do not have to have a lot to be joyful and to smile about things," Ferris said. "I hope for the people of the church to understand that people who are even 4,000 miles away love them and care for them and

that they all understand that we are one big family."

With her first international mission trip under her belt, Clay said she hopes to do more.

"In high school, my church youth group would go on a mission trip around America every summer," Clay said. "I fell in love with serving and always wanted to serve internationally. When the opportunity came up, I knew I wanted to go. I would love to go on more international mission trips. God has blessed me with the gift of knowing different languages. If I can use that to further his kingdom, I will gladly go and serve."

Meredith O'Bara can be reached at obara@marshall.edu.

UNITY cont. from 8

us this Unity Month.

However, once April ends and May begins, bringing all its glorious yet so-far-away promises of summer with it, the spirit of Unity Month remains on this campus. We probably do not even need a Unity Month because its goals and ideals are found within every student, staff and faculty member on campus year round. Marshall has a friendly and welcoming environment. Though we may not be the largest or most populated university in the state or the country, we have created a home here. A home that is accepting of everyone and loves unconditionally. And after students walk across

the stage at graduation, even though many of them will never walk in the shadow of the Memorial Fountain again, that spirit of unity will always remain. The love and support stays with them throughout their lifelong journeys out of Marshall's home and into the wide world beyond waiting for them.

So, this Unity Month, let us attend all the events that we are able to. Let us understand one another and our backgrounds a little more and be patient when encountering differences. And let us regard our fellow sons and daughters of Marshall as part of one unique, beautiful family.

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Today's Top Story
Marshall's meeting of the minds

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Paws in the Park Easter Egg Hunt coming to Ritter Park for families, furry friends

By PIPER WHITE
THE PARTHENON

Dogs and their owners will have a chance to participate in Easter festivities during the third annual Paws in the Park Easter Egg Hunt April 12 at Ritter Park in Huntington.

The Paws in the Park Easter Egg Hunt is a free event hosted by the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District.

"I am a big dog lover, everyone at the Park District is," said Lauren Carte, development and recreation manager for the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District. "I just thought with Huntington being the dog-friendly city that it is that this would be a perfect event."

Each year, Carte said she starts by placing an order for treat-filled eggs, but this year, due to increasing

popularity, she said she ordered an extra thousand eggs, increasing the total from 2,000 to 3,000 eggs.

The Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District also goes out and purchases doggie-themed prizes that the pups can win if they find a special egg. The treat eggs come pre-filled, and the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District stuffs over 50 eggs with "special prize" tickets for the dogs to find, Carte said.

"We also put together three prize baskets for the winners of the Easter Best Costume Contest," Carte said. "There is a prize for the funniest, most original and best overall."

Over 300 dogs and their owners attended last year's Paws in the Park Easter Egg Hunt, Carte said.

"We are hoping for great weather and a big crowd," Carte said. "I would love to see hundreds of dogs

and their owners again this year."

Animal Care Clinic helps donate prizes for this event each year, and the Target of Barboursville also helps donate some treat-filled eggs and prizes. The Huntington Stormwater Utility attends the event and distributes free dog waste bags to the guests.

"We would love to see lots of Marshall students and their four-legged companions there," Carte said.

Piper White can be contacted at white741@marshall.edu.

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