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The Parthenon, March 4, 2020

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Mothers on campus: Professor shares her experience

By AMANDA LARCH
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When Kateryna Schray had her first child in September 2000 on a Thursday, she was back on campus the following Tuesday—though looking back she calls that a “huge mistake.”

“I would not recommend that for anybody,” Schray said. “And actually, since then, we’ve figured out better ways to support people who are becoming parents on campus.”

An English professor at Marshall University as well as interim director of the Office of Student Success, Schray now has four children, all born during her time at Marshall. The experience for professors with children has changed significantly in the past two decades, Schray said.

“When I had my first child, as far as I know, no one in our department had a baby in 20 years,” she said. “It wasn’t just new for me, it was new for my department. So, yes, things have changed. Part of it is, I think, that having a baby is no longer seen as some huge threat to your career.”

Without the support of her colleagues, Schray said, she wouldn’t have been able to thrive as well at work after having children. After the birth of her first child, one coworker gifted Schray a “nursing chair,” which she still has in her office. It made the process of nursing easier and more comfortable for her, she said.

“There’s also pumping too, and right around the time that I had a baby, one of my students, I discovered, had a baby and she needed a place to pump,” Schray said. “She was going to the bathroom. So I gave her a key to my office, because this is actually a perfect chair for that. Now we have rooms for that, which is great. We’ve come such a long way.”

As her family grew, she and her husband figured out unconventional ways to balance their workload and childcare duties. While in her Corbly Hall fourth floor office, Schray said if she heard the honking of their Euro Van, she would know that meant her husband was there with the kids.

Without the support of her colleagues, Schray said, she wouldn’t have been able to thrive as well at work after having children. After the birth of her first child, one coworker gifted Schray a “nursing chair,” which she still has in her office. It made the process of nursing easier and more comfortable for her, she said.

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see more on pg. 2
Professor ensures opportunities for parenting students

Cont. from 1

“I would get up, make sure it’s him in the van and I would go down there,” Schray said. “By then it was either one, two and then eventually three kids kicking the soccer ball behind the building back and forth, which is great because now my daughter’s a soccer player here at Marshall...it’s cute that she grew up there.”

Ever since she began teaching at Marshall in 1996, Schray has made an effort to accommodate parenting students. She has a parenting clause in all of her syllabi that states if students are caring for children or incapacitated loved ones, to let her know. If they do, she then has a separate policy for them, Schray said.

“It basically assures them that it’s okay to turn things in late,” she said. “I don’t want them to have to call me at three in the morning asking for an extension because they have a sick kid, and you never want to put somebody in a position of taking care of their sick child or writing a homework assignment. So I always had that, even before I was a parent.”

Schray said looking back on her teaching career, including the parenting clause is one of the things she’s most happy and proud about.

“I’m always surprised with how grateful students are for it because it’s kind of a basic human right. And I understand there are times you still have to get your work done. It’s not about lowering standards, it’s about being creative in solving problems and enabling people to succeed. And that includes mothers, but also fathers,” Schray said.

The option of online instruction also benefits professors and students who are parents, Schray said.

“Today things are so much better in terms of how we’ve figured out ways to make it possible, and part of it too is like the technology has evolved,” she said. “We have online instruction now, and you could plan ahead. There’s different mechanisms in place for it not to be so crazy. With online courses, it’s possible to teach four weeks of your semester online, and then we meet up with the class again.”

As she works in the Office of Student Success, Schray said she wants to support students any way she can, including by creating parent friendly designations for classes. The idea, she said, is that some classes are skill driven as opposed to content driven.

“Your parenthood wouldn’t compete with your academic requirements,” Schray said. “They would, in fact, inform one another. And I think the situation for people who are parents who may feel like they have less in common with their classmates here, they’d be in a cohort of other people who are in equal situations.”

Examples Schray gave of potential parent friendly class designations are a communications class and a lower level English class.

“How to communicate with your doctor, that’s a skill set in itself, how to be able to advocate for your child without looking like you’re overly paranoid about your child’s health,” she said. “For an English example, research papers on the best daycares in town, (assignments) that can actually reinforce and celebrate and acknowledge your parenting.”

Schray made the front page of The Parthenon with her newborn daughter and husband in the September 26, 2000 issue.

“It meant so much to me that everyone was celebrating and cheering me on; it was very sweet,” Schray said.

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Women’s studies lecture to focus on feminist activist

By AMANDA LARCH
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The 2020 Charlotte Schmidlapp Distinguished Lecture in Women’s Studies, presented by author and journalist Joan Quigley, will focus on activist and feminist Mary Church Terrell, Friday, March 6.

During the lecture, titled “Until Fool and Final Victory, Mary Church Terrell and the Battle for Equality,” Quigley will present her book, "Just Another Southern Town: Mary Church Terrell and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Nation’s Capital.”

Laura Michele Diener, director of the women’s studies program, said Church Terrell was active in the women’s suffrage movement as well as the Civil Rights movement.

“She was an activist her entire life,” Diener said. “So her work falls at the intersection of two narratives, which are kind of parallel but also intersecting in terms of American activism and greater rights.”

Church Terrell also had connections to the Marshall University community, Diener said, as she corresponded with Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History, who is honored with the Carter G. Woodson Lyceum on campus. She was also a founding member of the African American sorority Delta Sigma Theta, which has a chapter at Marshall.

“There are a number of letters at the Library of Congress between the two of them; they knew each other, they admired each other,” Diener said. “And some students from the Society for Black Scholars are doing a service-learning project exploring that relationship.”

The lecture, as part of Women’s History Month, is focused on 100 years of the 19th Amendment’s ratification, Diener said, though Church Terrell faced additional challenges.

“That’s one of the reasons we asked Joan Quigley to come because we wanted her to talk about Mary Church Terrell, who was extremely active in the suffrage movement,” Diener said. “But as a black woman, she also faced more challenges, including discrimination within that movement and a lack of acknowledgement for particular obstacles for black women.”

Copies of Quigley’s book, written with Oxford University Press, will be available for purchase and signing by the author at the reception preceding the lecture.

“People should definitely come because Mary Church Terrell and this talk will speak to a number of very significant moments right now,” Diener said. “It’s not just a talk about the past, because we are of course celebrating the centennial of the right to vote, but we’re also coming up to an election where not necessarily peoples right to vote, but people’s access to voting is a very contentious issue.

“So I would say that this is an extremely relevant topic right now. And also an opportunity to learn about, you know, a really incredible activist who can maybe inspire contemporary students to activism,” Diener said.

see LECTURE on pg. 10
The CDC website indicates they believe the virus is likely to be circulating in about 50 other cases suspected of being the coronavirus. They are also investigating 10 different states. The website said health professionals are working on response measures to prepare communities for the virus in the United States.

The CDC website also said health professionals are working on response measures to prepare communities for the virus in the United States. The website said the coronavirus is spread through small droplets from the nose or mouth when an infected person coughs or exhales. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth, the website reads.

“The main advice that I give to everybody who is worried about the outbreak is that we always have to take precautions no matter what,” she said. “No matter what is circulating in the community, we are always saying wash your hands no matter where you go, to the grocery store, whatever. You don’t know who’s touched what before.”

The CDC website also recommends those who notice symptoms of the coronavirus should immediately contact their healthcare provider.

Marshall University released a statement stating that the university and greater Huntington community is at a low risk of experience an outbreak. “Several university offices, including INTO, Admissions, Student Wellness, among others, are monitoring the situation and determining how to move forward with programs like Study Abroad and institutional travel,” the statement reads.

Marshall’s Wellness Center’s website said the coronavirus is spread through small droplets from the nose or mouth when an infected person coughs or exhales. “Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth,” the website reads.

“The West Virginia Higher Education Police Commission and the West Virginia Community and Technical College System released a statement about coronavirus preparedness and awareness on March 2; the report states these organizations are working with local and state health officials to monitor the latest information.

“Information regarding preparedness, response efforts, and outreach to public health partners is being discussed, but, as of yet, we do not have specific state-level guidance.”

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Job-A-Palooza

By TAEVION KINSEY

The annual Job-A-Palooza will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 10-11 in the Student Center. The event will give students past and present a chance to observe a number of job opportunities and career paths.

This year, the Job-A-Palooza is adding internship opportunities to the event, where students can apply or find out more information.

Jennifer Brown, the director of the Job-A-Palooza, said everyone is welcome to explore the job opportunities.

“The Job-A-Palooza is now allowing students to get an internship for those who need a job but are still in school or for those who don’t have a plan on what career they want to pursue,” Brown said. “We are inviting all students and faculties members of Marshall University to attend this event.”

Jessica Wright, a Marshall student, said she has previously attended the Job-A-Palooza and it has been beneficial to her and can be for other students, too.

“Last year I attended the event and I now work at a job that I had seen there so I think this is a very good opportunity for students to jump at because it could be their future,” Jessica Wright said. “They usually have some pretty good jobs to offer at the event and now that they offer internships, I think that’s even better.”

Marshall student Joan Spencer reflected on leaving college and having to find a job and said the Job-A-Palooza is a great idea.

“I love the fact that Marshall University is holding the (Job-A-Palooza) event,” Spencer said. “I remember when I was a kid graduating from college, I thought I was going to go right into my job that I went to school for, but I didn’t. I had to go find a job.”

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Huntington welcomes NSA chapter

By HUNTER DEEM

Marshall University is now home to a local chapter of the National Stuttering Association. Jamie Maxwell, one of the chapter leaders for the Huntington area, said the club is focused on connecting people who stutter.

“The idea is that the club is an opportunity to connect people who stutter,” Maxwell said. “A lot of the times when we work with individuals, they don’t know anyone that stutters, they’ve never met anyone else that stutters. That can be very isolating and they can feel very alone, so a support group like this can be a great way to connect people to show them they’re not alone.”

NSA is a nonprofit organization with the purpose to help people with stuttering, to educate about stuttering and to connect people with or without stuttering.

Before Huntington got its own chapter in NSA, the closest available chapter for those in the Huntington area was located at West Virginia University. The club has an adult and family group available to people that stutter, want to help or want to learn more about stuttering.

“The idea is that the club is an opportunity to connect people who stutter.”

–Jamie Maxwell

Maxwell is an assistant professor at Marshall for communication disorders. It is Maxwell’s first year at Marshall University coming from Florida last August. She also oversees her departments fluency clients that attend the Speech and Hearing center at Marshall. Maxwell also stated that the club is a good opportunity to learn what is helpful and practice strategies in a safe environment.

“If you have any interest in learning more about stuttering, if you or someone who know stutters, than this is a great opportunity to meet people and learn more about stuttering,” Maxwell said. “A lot of what people know about stuttering are stereotypical or it’s not accurate, so it’s a great way to learn more. The club is open to anyone who would like to learn about stuttering, students who are learning about stuttering and students with stutters,” Maxwell said.

The first meeting for NSA will be at 6:30 p.m. March 5 at the Speech and Hearing Center in Smith Hall. Students can find more information by contacting Maxwell. Hunter Deem can be contacted at deem36@marshall.edu.

Third annual Brag on Drag hopes to raise donations

By TALOR BENNETT

Marshall University will be hosting its third annual Brag on Drag benefit March 7 at the V Club. The doors open at 8 p.m. and the show begins at 9 p.m. Everyone will have the chance to come out and support, as well as help donate to nonprofit Dress for Success.

“We invite local drag queens and all of their profits for an example, their tips and everything they make goes to Dress for Success,” said Emilie Christenberry, president of Campus Activities Board (CAB). “We hope to make it bigger and better every year.”

There will also be a special guest Nina West, who was on the 11th season on “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” where she placed sixth and won Miss Congeniality. This will be her second year attending the event.

“We were very fortunate to invite her back. She is very excited and was so kind as to say yes,” Christenberry said. “She is a wonderful person and she is going to do a meet and greet and also has a special surprise for us. She also donates all of her profits to Dress for Success.”

Dress for Success is a global nonprofit organization that helps provide professional attire for women who have low income.

Dress for Success helps support client’s job search as well as the interview process.

CAB member Libby Jarvis said she loves the work that the drag members do for others and is excited to be working with them again this year.

“I always thought what they (Drag queens) do is amazing,” Jarvis said. “Even for students who have money to go to school, they provide for. Dressing professionally is very expensive and I don’t think people often think about that. So, I think bringing light to that and bringing awareness at this event will be great because this is a great organization.”

Talor Bennett can be contacted at wilkerson32@marshall.edu.

More than 20 vendors seeking employees participated in last fall’s Job-A-Palooza.
Former student discusses symbol of Pan-Africanism

By TALOR BENNETT
THE PARTHENON

People who are new to black awareness may not understand why African Americans use red, black, and green as their defining colors. The Red, Black, and Green flag is a symbol of Pan-Africanism designed by Marcus Garvey in 1920. It may also be known as the Afro-American flag, the Black Liberation flag or other names. Pan-Africanism is the principle or advocacy of the political union of all the indigenous inhabitants of Africa.

This part of history and meaning is not always taught in the United States. Allison Shaw, a Marshall University student and member of Black United Students said she did not learn about the flag when she was in grade school, but much later.

“I know what the flag represents,” she said. “Unfortunately, it’s something I didn’t learn about in-depth until I was nearly an adult.”

Marcus Garvey was a Jamaican political activist, journalist and entrepreneur. Garvey was the founder and first president-general of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League, which is how he declared himself the short-term president of Africa.

Shaw said the colors in the flag each have their own meaning.

“Red stands for blood, for what the African slaves and our ancestors who fought for our freedom, black is for our people and green is for the wealthy land of Africa.”

—Allison Shaw

“The flag was birthed following the horror that was slavery,” Shaw said. “Red stands for blood, for what the African slaves and our ancestors who fought for our freedom, black is for our people and green is for the wealthy land of Africa.”

Shaw said the flag also represents unity, and she is enjoys seeing it in the Center for African American Students.

“I see it nearly daily now whenever I go to fellowship in the center,” Shaw said. “I feel a sense of pride come over me.”

B.U.S executive BreAnna Vest said black history is significant to her, and she had learned more about black history after taking a class.

“I had taken African American studies in school, and I learned so much about black history, although I was never taught about the Pan-African flag,” Vest said. “I had to do my research outside of class to educate myself about things that I didn’t learn in class.”

Some younger generations do not know the basic meaning of the Pan-African flag, and Vest said she would like to pass her knowledge down to the next generation.

“While still wanting to gather more information and the little knowledge that I already have known about the Pan-African flag,” she said, “I will later on in the future teach my children and grandchildren about this flag.”

SGA passes new equity resolution

By KYRA BISCARNER
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University Student Government Association voted to pass a resolution to ensure equity among the organization on Tuesday.

“We wanted to give another path, another opportunity for people to be able to join this organization because it gives you a lot of networking, governmental skills and leadership skills.” Senate Parliamentarian Jo Tremmel said.

The resolution would change the qualifications to join SGA from a 2.75 GPA to either maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or completion of two of the following qualifications:

1) A total of three letters of recommendation from active senators, the Executive Office of the President, professors or faculty of the university
2) Proof of at least 25 community service hours over the course of the previous year
3) Prior experience occupying leadership roles

Senate members discussed and then voted to pass the resolution but it failed and discussion was opened up again. Tremmel said the resolutions that address this issue have been discussed in the past but have never made it this far.

“There’s been a lot of talk for several years from the advisors and the senators about wanting to enable more people to join senate and it’s not always a possibility for low GPAs,” she said.

All other student organizations on Marshall’s campus require a 2.2 GPA, including Interfraternal Council. Malik Smith, a first semester senior, passed around his own resume and spoke to senators about his qualifications but the fact that his 2.73 GPA keeps him out of the organization. Smith said other students feel the same way.

“I know for certain requirements that SGA has at the moment, some people can be discouraged and may not feel that their student-led organizations is doing enough and that they have to stay at that level of student-led organization and not run for SGA,” Smith said.

After discussion ended, senators voted once more and the resolution passed unanimously.

Senator Cameron Donohue said this is a big step for the organization but there is still more to do.

See SGA on pg. 10

MU celebrates Women of Color Day

By RALPH MAY
THE PARTHENON

The Huntington population was brought together to celebrate and learn about women of color throughout history and our own community in a luncheon on Tuesday said program manager of Multicultural Affairs.

“This year celebrates 100 years of women’s suffrage and 31 years of a women’s month program at Marshall,” said program manager Lisa Allen.

The Women of Color luncheon provides an annual opportunity to honor women of color within the community and recognize them with awards, Allen said.

Three awards are given out to students and faculty for their outstanding commitment to the community and the commitment to the values of a woman of color, said Leah Talliver, director of Wellness Center.

Student Michelle Carter, Dr. Darshana Shah and community member MaRia Hill were all honored for their achievements.

Carter was nominated by her professor Laura Diener, who said she nominated Carter because of her exceptional contribution to the class and her fellow peers.

Shah nominated by her medical student Mercy Babatope, who said she honored Shah because of her mentorship of medical students and excellence as a teacher and guide.

MaRia Hill, director of the A.D. Lewis Center, said that is was through the love of her community members that allowed her to love and give back to the children of the community.

A second part of the luncheon was a panel discussion with four Marshall faculty and community members about voting, its history and the leaders of the movement.

Montserrat Miller, director of Drinko Academy, said that hurdles to voting may no longer take the form of literacy tests, but the community needs to look towards the leaders of the past and their values to impact the issues facing voters today.

“Knowledgeable, innovative and persistent,” said League of Women Voters vice president Wendy Thomas, “those were the values of leaders within the suffrage movement and are the same values that need to be emulated.”

Though not all of the women’s movement should be emulated because of its tendency to whitewash and not represent the contributions of women of color in the movement, said Jennifer Hill, director of Our Future West Virginia.

“We learn from the mistake from that movement in that we will not suppress, suppression now there’s a lot to do with gender equity, there still so much to do with...
Swimming and Diving finish fourth at C-USA Championships

By STORMY RANDAZZO
THE PARthenON

Capping off the season, Marshall University’s swim and dive finished fourth place at the Conference USA Championship in Atlanta, Georgia this past week with three school records, 21 top ten finishes and 39 life best performances.

“I thought we did great,” Head Coach Ian Walsh said. “Coming into this year, we had a smaller roster and one of our team goals was trying to get third. We are walking away basically in the same position as last year. Being able to do that with a small group was a lot of fun as a coach, and I think we walked away with a lot of positive things.”

Marshall had a total of 365.50 points to wrap up the four-day Conference Championship Feb. 22-26.

Senior Catherine Bendziewicz finished in second place out of eight swimmers in the Women’s 200 IM with the time of 2.00.47 seconds.

In the Women 50 Yard Free junior Darby Coles finished in fourth place out of 24 swimmers with a final time of 22.83 seconds.

“Individually I went all my best times and placed higher than I ever have,” Coles said. “It is always fun to swim fast for my team and overall it was a really good meet.”

In the Women 3 Meter Diving, senior Madison Young came in twelfth place with the score of 238.95, followed by freshman Lauren Henderson who finished in thirteenth place with the score of 233.70.

“Individually I went all my best times and placed higher than I ever have,” Young said. “I learned to be more confident in myself in this meet and I believe that to further meets will definitely help me perform better.”

In the Women 200 Yard Free Relay Coles, Bendziewicz, senior Hannah Robins and senior Jordyn O’Dell all finished in third place out of ten teams with a time of 1:34.94.

In the Women 100 Yard Fly, Robins placed fifth with a time of 54.27 and freshman Nicole Rueff finished in 12th place out of 24 swimmers with a time of 55.94.

For the Women 200 Yard Free, two swimmers finished in the top ten, including Coles, Bendziewicz and sophomore Regan Raines. Coles placed sixth with the time of 1:49.67, Bendziewicz finished in seventh place with 1:49.50 and Raines finished in 15th place out of 23 swimmers with the time of 1:52.64.

In the Women 1 Meter Diving event, Henderson came back with a top ten finish, placing seventh with the score of 264.70. Henderson was followed by Young who came in 12th place with the score of 244.40 out of 16 divers.

For the relay event in the 400 Women Medley, O’Dell, Bendziewicz, Robins and Coles finished in second place with the time of 1:02.35 seconds out of seven teams.

“The relays were so much fun,” Coles said. “I love getting up there with my teammates and really racing for each other. I feel like we always surprise people with our relays, and we know how to show up for them.”

Two swimmers placed top ten finishes in the Women 100 Yard Back. O’Dell finished in third place with the time of 52.30 out of 24 swimmers and junior Heather Siegel came in 10th place with the time of 55.59. Freshman Or Tamir finished in 16th place with the time of 56.55 seconds.

Senior Angelica Di Marzio came in a top ten finish in the Women 1650 Yard Free placing seventh out of 18 swimmers with the time of 17:13.52.

In the Women Platform Diving, Young was the only diver to compete in the event. Young finished in 11th place with the score 195.45.

Three swimmers finished in the top ten in the Women 200 Yard Back. In second place was O’Dell with the time of 1:58.65. Following O’Dell was Sigmon coming in ninth place with the time of 2:00.22. Finishing in tenth place was Tamir with a time of 2:03.21 seconds out of 24 swimmers.

Two more swimmers finished top ten in the Women 100 Yard Free. In third place was Coles with 49.44 seconds and in eighth place was Bendziewicz with the time of 50.50.

In the Women 200 Yard Fly, Rueff finished in 10th place with a time of 2:00.55 seconds.

Lastly, Marshall finished third place in the Women 400 Yard Free Relay with the time of 3:22.96 seconds. Coles, Bendziewicz, Raines and O’Dell all competed in the relay out of nine teams.

“My team and I have had to work through a lot of adversity during my four years here,” O’Dell said. “I learned how it’s alright to lean on my teammates and know that they will always be there no matter what.”

Florida International University won Conference USA Championship. This is their sixth straight conference win in a row. FIU set a new record winning the most conferences in a row. The team finished with a total of 1044.50 points.

After the Conference USA Championship, three seniors and two juniors qualified for the CSCA National Invitational Championship March 12-14. The five swimmers competing in the event are Sigmon, O’Dell, Robins, Coles and Bendziewicz.

“This is a really small window,” Walsh said. “The swimmers have 13 days to compete in the NIC’s after competing in conference. For the training aspects, we will be sharpening some things up.”

For the divers, Young and Henderson qualified to compete at NCAA Zone A at West Virginia University on March 10.

“It is more details now,” Walsh said. “They are in the best shape they have ever been in. So for the next week, we will try to fix some details and errors that there may have been at conference.”

Stormy Randazzo can be contacted at randazzo2@marshall.edu.
Thundering Herd women’s hoops

By SPENCER DUPUIS
THE PARTHENON

Trying to get out of a three-way tie for eighth place in the conference, the Marshall University Thundering Herd women’s basketball team will travel to the Sunshine State for a two-game road swing that begins Thursday night at Florida International University and concludes Saturday afternoon at Florida Atlantic.

The Herd is entering the week with an 11-16 record (6-10 Conference USA) after a 77-69 loss on senior day to North Texas Saturday afternoon. The Panthers are entering the contest with a 5-22 record (2-14 C-USA) after a loss at Charlotte, 49-31, Saturday. The Owls come into the game Saturday with a 12-15 record (6-10 C-USA).

The FIU Panthers come in tied for last place in conference play, and Thundering Herd Head Coach Tony Kemper said the team is using its home loss to the Panthers as fuel for Thursday.

“We definitely understand that they are going to feel pretty good going into this game because they played awfully well in here,” Kemper said. “We need to counter that and get back to playing well. We need to get going the right way on Thursday.”

The Florida Atlantic Owls are coming in following two straight losses to Western Kentucky University and Old Dominion, and in both games the Owls competed well. Kemper said his squad is going to have to use its 85-75 win over FAU back on Feb. 1, where junior guard Kristen Mayo and freshman guard Savannah Wheeler combined for 45 points, eight assists, six rebounds and four steals. Kemper said that should boost the confidence of the both of them Saturday.

“I think Kristen is one those (players) that hasn’t forced a lot of shots,” he said. “I think she is playing extremely well offensively and that needs to continue. (Savannah) probably had her least effective game as a college player the other day. We need her to bounce back quickly, it’s a long year for freshman with the grind of 30 games.”

On Thursday evening, tipoff is 7 p.m. at Ocean Bank Convocation Center and on Saturday afternoon, tipoff is scheduled for 2 p.m. at FAU Arena.

Spencer DuPuis can be contacted at dupuis@marshall.edu.

Athlete of the Week:
Mya Stevenson
Softball

Final games of regular season:
March 5 at FIU, 7 p.m.
March 7 at FAU, 2 p.m.
CUSA.tv/WMUL FM 88.1

#20 Taylor Pearson

ABOUT MYA STEVENSON:
Class: Sophomore
Hometown: Mesquite, TX

RESULTS OVER THE LAST WEEK:
(At the Pirate Classic)
2 home runs, 2 RBI, 2 hits & 2 runs vs. Delaware State (8-0, W)
2 hits, 1 RBI & 1 run vs. Hampton (12-3, W)
3 RBI, 1 home run, 2 hits & 1 run vs. Norfolk State (10-6, W)
5 RBI, 1 home run, 2 hits & 2 runs vs. Norfolk State (14-4, W)

After exploding offensively at the Pirate Classic, Marshall softball sophomore Mya Stevenson has earned athlete of the week honors. Helping lead her team to five wins in five games, Stevenson had a batting average of .571 to go along with a slugging percentage of 1.500. She had four homeruns on eight total hits, batting in 11 runs and scoring six runs herself. She also added a double on one of her eight hits.

Beginning her stellar weekend against Delaware State, Stevenson hit two solo homeruns as the lead-off in the third and fifth innings.

In the first of two matchups with Norfolk State, she rocketed a three-run homer toward center field to give Marshall a 7-6 lead and the eventual victory.

With the Herd trailing once again in the second matchup against Norfolk State on the following day, she stepped to the plate with the bases loaded and drilled the ball over the fence for a grand slam, thrusting Marshall into a 7-4 lead. Subsequently, the Herd would not look back, earning its fifth win on the weekend.

Stevenson was named Conference USA Player of the Week for her performance.
Gov. Jim Justice was accused of racism last month when he called members and coaches of a high school girls basketball team “a bunch of thugs” who “don’t know how to behave” after a tense game between Greenbrier East and Woodrow Wilson was ended early because of a scuffle.

After the incident, residents and legislators across the state called upon the governor to apologize for his obviously insensitive remarks. Justice’s remarks were “thinly veiled racial slurs,” said Per the Metro News, Republican Del. Pat McGeehan.

In a tweet, Democrat Del. Mike Pushkin stated that Justice’s remarks were “utterly unacceptable and deplorable.”

As reported by West Virginia Metro News, Del. Shawn Fluharty also said during a later House session, “It’s clear that Jim Justice is an embarrassment on and off the court. Did he apologize? Of course not, he didn’t apologize. He doubled down on his statement that these children are thugs.”

Gov. Jim Justice was accused of racism last month when he called members and coaches of a high school girls basketball team “a bunch of thugs” who “don’t know how to behave” after a tense game between Greenbrier East and Woodrow Wilson was ended early because of a scuffle.

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Per the Metro News, Republican Del. Pat McGeehan said that while he does not think Justice is racist, he does believe the governor spends “too much time coaching basketball.”

Justice’s comments made national news in outlets such as the Washington Post, the New York Post and Sports Illustrated. During interviews in days following the incident, the governor doubled down on his remarks and defended his usage of the word “thug.”

Per the Metro News, “Gov. Justice said he didn’t make a racial slur when he called members of the Beckley Woodrow Wilson girls basketball team ‘a bunch of thugs.’”

In a statement released shortly following the incident, Justice stated, “My definition of a thug is clear – it means violence, bullying and disorderly conduct. And we, as West Virginians, should have zero tolerance for this kind of behavior. Anyone that would accuse me of making a racial slur is totally absurd.”

Earlier this week, the West Virginia NAACP released a statement condemning the governor’s actions and calling upon him to apologize.

Part of the statement reads, “We are profoundly disappointed in Governor Justice. His choice of words (...) are a direct affront to the African American Citizens of this state. We are all acutely aware that racism continues to be woven into the fabric of West Virginia. We are still in many ways combating the discriminatory practices and divisive attitudes of the majority population and the powers who continue to promote them.”

The statement says that Justice’s comments caused harm to the members of the Woodrow Wilson girls basketball team and his “lack of a true apology has inflicted further pain on the community” and “added insult to injury.”

It says that sports have traditionally been and should continue to be a forum for young people to develop positive life skills. “While you may wear many hats, including that of coach, the one hat you do not take off is that of being governor of all people in the state,” the statement reads.

“You have an opportunity to learn from this incident. We are asking that you meet publicly with and apologize to the students, faculty and families of the Woodrow Wilson High School community. Doing so will restore trust in your leadership, as a coach and as a governor.”

The idea that the governor of West Virginia may not realize the racial undertones, context and history of the word “thug” is almost unthinkable, but given the current sociopolitical climate across the country and the state, perhaps one would like to give Justice the benefit of the doubt.

see JUSTICE on pg. 10
**PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVE: Health care is a right, not a privilege**

By DOUGLAS HARDING
MANAGING EDITOR

Every year, in the United States of America—the wealthiest country in the history of the world—close to 50,000 people die and over half-a-million file bankruptcy because they cannot afford to pay for health care. That number is zero in every other modern developed nation, because they all have universal health care, and only one Democratic presidential candidate is doing everything in his power to ensure the same security for all American citizens.

While other candidates have mostly backed away from the fight for the most prominent single-payer legislation in the country, Medicare for All, Democratic presidential contender Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has been pushing the bill, which he himself wrote, for several years, and the senator’s exceptional consistency seems now to be paying substantial dividends.

A February article published in Vox with the headline “Why Medicare-for-All works for Sanders—nobody else” states, “Sanders was the most trusted Democratic candidate on health care even when he was polling behind former Vice President Joe Biden in the national surveys. Medicare-for-all is most popular among young voters, who are critical to Sanders’ base.”

That trust from voters is also translating into support at the polls.

Per a Feb. 25 Salon article, “For the third straight Democratic presidential contest — the first three of the 2020 election — Sen. Bernie Sanders won the most votes of any candidate in a still crowded field. And for the third straight election, a strong majority of voters indicated a preference for Sanders’ premier policy proposal, Medicare for All.”

In Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada alike, most Democratic voters confirmed, via entrance polls, that health care is the number one issue they will be voting on in 2020. Furthermore, 6-in-10 Democratic voters in each of the first three states said in entrance and exit polls that they “support eliminating private insurance and creating a single-payer system.”

Per the Salon article, “[Five years ago], nearly 80% of Democratic voters and a majority of Americans overall supported Medicare for All. Now, entrance polls reveal that Democratic voters in all three of the first presidential contests of the 2020 race show strong support for the single-payer insurance option.”

Corporate Democrats and Republicans funded by the health insurance industry dismiss Medicare for All as an unrealistic “fringe” idea, but the single-payer system has been thoroughly tested throughout the world and has been proven to work far more effectively—by guaranteeing universal coverage at lower costs—than our current system.

Those in opposition to ensuring all people the opportunity to live healthily fear-mongering about the potential costs of Medicare for All, but in reality, even conservative estimates show it will save millions of tax payer dollars.

Additionally, over half of all Republican voters support Medicare for All, and nearly three-fourths of the national Democratic constituency does as well. Regardless, most politicians in both the country’s major parties repeatedly dismiss the notion entirely while raking in unlimited contributions from industry corporations and smearing anyone who dares to fight for The Little Guy.

No modern nation, especially one constantly claiming such exceptionalism as the U.S. has for decades, can morally allow tens of thousands of its most vulnerable citizens to go bankrupt or to die struggling to pay for necessities like emergency ambulance rides and visits to the hospital or the doctor’s office.

Citzens of every other developed nation in the world are not forced to worry they will be forced to decide which medicine to skip today, whether to skip a doctor’s appointment or trip to the grocery store, whether that ambulance ride is really worth it or whether suicide is a better option when cancer treatment bankrupts the whole family, as happens every day in the U.S. And the list goes on and on. This is not a debatable position anywhere else in the modern civilized world except for in our country, where the political spectrum is so shifted to the right that even most Democrats claiming to be liberal or progressive are hesitant to fight for populist policies that would save millions of American lives.

**W.Va. Democrats: Vulnerable state seniors need our attention and support**

By SEN. DOUG FACEMIRE, DEL. CHAD LOVEJOY AND SEN. RON STOLLINGS

Kackie Sherman Eller is 78 years young. She has her husband, her health, and finds happiness in her family and community. She retired from Kanawha County Schools two years ago, but often substitute teaches because she loves teaching.

Kackie knows a fellow retiree who has significant health issues but must continue to serve as a substitute teacher for the money. Her friend delayed a necessary operation to work, so she could pay bills while she was recuperating. Kackie has another friend who is fighting cancer, but only misses the opportunity to substitute teach when he has treatments. She is concerned for her friend and angry with her state government.

Mary Dooley retired as a school counselor in 2004, but she substitutes often to make ends meet. She thinks she and her fellow retirees deserve a raise. They should be able to enjoy their retirement, not constantly worry about paying bills.

Ernest “Spud” Terry is a legend at the State Capitol. In the twenty years since he retired from state government, he has been a volunteer lobbyist and spokesman for the Coalition for Retired Public Employees. He has been fighting for a tax exemption for retirees of PERS and TERS, a cost of living adjustment for state retirees, and a stable funding source for PEIA.

Kackie, Mary and Spud, plus their fellow state retirees, are why West Virginia Legislative Democrats have introduced Senate Bill 757, which would provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all state retirees. Tied to the inflation rate, it would provide a modest, but greatly needed pension increase each year. Retirees would spend that money locally, providing stimulus to our economy.

Of our 482,374 seniors, 25% live alone, 40% live with a disability, scores are raising grandchildren because of substance abuse, and 86,000 are threatened by hunger. They do not know with certainty each day that they will have enough, or even get a chance to eat. Yet senior centers, which operate senior feeding programs, are facing cuts while there is a waiting list of thousands who need help.

West Virginia’s senior meal reimbursement rate per meal is $6.80, far below the $8.84 it costs the centers to produce them. The lack of funding has forced a reduction in meals provided, fewer hot meals, less home deliveries to shut-ins, and menus that lack fresh foods, according to the West Virginia Directors of Senior and Community Services.

In a recent AARP survey, 75% of voters 40 and older in West Virginia believe services that enable seniors to live independently are extremely or very important. This critical, lower-cost care includes visiting home nurses, personal care aides, light housekeeping, transportation and relief for caregivers. Yet, the Bureau of Senior Services has repeatedly told the Legislature that even if their budget were doubled, West Virginia would still have seniors waiting for services.

**see HEALTH on pg. 10**

**see SENIORS on pg. 10**
REGARDLESS of whether Justice knew of the impropriety of his comments beforehand, it remains clear that the governor’s word choice was deeply inappropriate, offensive and embarrassing for the state of West Virginia and its people.

All West Virginians understand what is too often meant when folks use the word “thug” and what constitutes actual “violence, bullying and disorderly conduct,” and it is difficult to imagine a more fitting scenario than a billionaire and the most powerful man in the state calling high school basketball players, some of them minorities, “a bunch of thugs.” West Virginians also understand that half-hearted apologies do not suffice for such grievous and damning errors as causing serious harm toward undeserving prominent minority communities in our state. In West Virginia, we stand up for each other, especially those with the least power and the most silenced voices amongst us. Gov. Justice should respect the demands of the WVNAACP, apologize sincerely for the damage he has caused and commit to doing—and being—better moving forward.

MARCUM cont. from 3

... visiting all but just seven or eight of the 50 states. He said he came to Huntington after going through a divorce and losing his job because he had nowhere else to go.

“I had nowhere to live,” he said. “I went to the nearest city where I thought I could survive.”

He said he would someday like to leave Huntington and purchase a home and a piece of land isolated in the wilderness. He said he would like to be able to spend more time hunting and fishing like he did when he was younger.

“I love the outdoors and the wildlife,” he said.

Marcum said he thinks too many people are eager to judge rather than attempt to understand homeless people in Huntington.

“There are misunderstandings,” he said.

“I just wish people wouldn’t be so quick to assume and to judge. Their assumptions are wrong I’d say eight-out-of-10 times.”

Marcum said the most common misconception people have about homeless residents is that all of them are addicted to drugs.

“The first thing too many people think is that you’re on drugs; it’s the very first thing they think,” he said. “Some people want to automatically think that drugs are the cause of everything, but actually, in my situation, love was the cause of all this—not drugs. The one thing that’s supposed to make you and save you turned out to be the worst thing ever for me.”

Marcum said that even if someone is in a bad position because of drug addiction, that does not make it okay to demonize them, and they still deserve to live with dignity.

Marcum said a piece of advice he would give to his younger self is to always remember that “life is short.”

Douglas Harding can be contacted at harding26@marshall.edu.

LECTURE cont. from 2

The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall.

This year’s Charlotte Schmidlapp endowed lecture is sponsored by the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, Intercultural Affairs and the John Deaver Drinko Academy.

The lecture was created by the Schmidlapp Foundation, stemming from Jacob Schmidlapp’s desire to honor his daughters who died young and promote women’s education, Diener said.

“It was something that his daughters weren’t able to enjoy, but he thought that they would have had had they lived,” Diener said.

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

SGA cont. from 5

“I believe everyone is capable of academic success and we show it and there’s a lot of great progress going,” Donohue said. “The fight is not over; we still have two more resolutions to hopefully pass: one for the cabinet and one for the president and vice president.”

Kyra Biscarner can be contacted at biscarner@marshall.edu.

WOMEN cont. from 5

... equity and now we are excluding based on gender identity and sexuality,” Hill said.

With that same vein of constructing a movement, Sandra Clements, co-director of the Fairfield Community Development Coalition said it is time for a change.

“We’re either givers or takers, and for so long in this community we have been takers and it’s now time for us to step forward,” Clements said.

Ralph May can be contacted at may178@marshall.edu.
Delta Zeta intends to give back through basketball event

By ABBY HANLON
FOR THE PARTHENON

Delta Zeta is introducing their new philanthropy event Hoops for Hearing. The basketball tournament will be taking place 12-4 p.m. March 7 at the Marshall University Recreation Center.

Hoops for Hearing is a basketball tournament in support of the Starkey Hearing Foundation, a nonprofit organization that gives hearing aids to people in need in countries and cities around the world that would otherwise not have access to them.

Sydnie Bumpus, Delta Zeta’s vice president of philanthropy, said she is looking forward to seeing the success of this new event. Delta Zeta has pledged to donate $5 million to Starkey by the end of 2020.

Bumpus said the Delta Upsilon chapter is organizing this event to aid in raising that pledged amount, but she thinks it could become a new tradition.

“So far we have raised $1,325 and have seven teams signed up,” Bumpus said. “I’m hoping to get at least three or four more teams by that Friday.”

“I really like playing basketball and am excited to play for a good cause. And winning a free t-shirt would be cool too,” Blake Ashworth, a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity said.

Bumpus emphasized the importance to her of reaching out to all organizations on campus to participate.

“I wanted to make sure that I reached out to other people in the Huntington community and students on campus and to not just focus on other students in Greek Life,” she said.

Team registration ends on Friday, March 6. Students can sign up on Delta Zeta’s CrowdChange page or by messaging a DZ member. Donations can be given through the website as well.

Abby Hanlon can be contacted at hanlon10@marshall.edu.

“I could see Hoops for Hearing becoming an annual event whether it be continued in the spring or be moved to the fall. I would love to see this event continue on and be something that people on and off campus look forward to participating in.”

- Sydnie Bumpus
Students beat out national competition, showcase work in local exhibit

By EMILY HAYSLETT
THE PARTHENON

Over 100 art pieces from all over the country were submitted to be featured in the 29th annual National Juried Exhibition, but only 21 artists were chosen to have their work displayed, five of which were Marshall University students.

First place went to William Davis for his piece, “Safe Space,” second place went to Ting Wang for “Letters Underground” and fourth place went to Sarah Sharp for “Kinship Quilt.” Other winners included Ethan Nestor’s “Elysium” receiving the Juror’s Choice Award, and Honorable Mentions went to Zane Pinson, Sa-Rai Robinette and one anonymous submission from Marshall. All the pieces were chosen blindly by the juror, Chloe Courtney, who works at the Dallas Museum of Art.

“They (Courtney) don’t know who made what and they don’t know how many entries each of the artists submitted,” said Jamie Platt, the gallery director and facilities coordinator for the College of Arts and Media.

Nestor, received the Juror’s Choice Award for a video installment despite not being in the School of Art and Design.

Pinson, had multiple works chosen for the exhibit.

“We had 100 submissions, the juror chose 33 works of art and there were 21 different artists represented,” Platt said. “Some of the artist have more than one piece. In fact, Zane Pinson has five pieces in the show, and that’s incredible.”

Platt said that in the call for the show, Courtney did not put a theme or required subject for the artists to follow, but instead had them send in whatever they wanted and then chose from those 100 submissions.

“There are many examples of protest art scattered throughout, that was one of the things that made me think that maybe this is about protest,” Platt said. “But then I thought that there were some pieces that just don’t fit with that, so it doesn’t apply to all.”

One example of the “protest art” that Platt referred to is a circular sign the reads “This land is my land this land is your land” but the word “your” is written over with red lettering that spells out “MY.” A piece that Platt said she did not feel fit with the protest theme is a bronze cat dish with a bust of a cat looming over the food.

The following statement that can be found in the gallery from the juror on why she chose the specific pieces.

“They (the pieces) are connected with broader cultural dialogues. In the exhibition as a whole, the influence of graffiti and street art, internet culture advertising, graphic design, ‘DIY aesthetics’ all provide multi-layer points of departure.”

The show will be running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday until March 13 at the Charles W. and Norma C. Carroll Art Gallery. The gallery is located in the Visual Arts Center in Pullman Square.

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