Fall 11-18-2020

The Parthenon, November 18, 2020

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Recommended Citation
Harding, Douglas; Hively, Brittany; Huddleston, Taylor; Goodrich, Grant; Keller, Meg; Robinson, Isabella; Jackson, Denise; and Hiser, Zachary, "The Parthenon, November 18, 2020" (2020). The Parthenon. 1448. https://mds.marshall.edu/parthenon/1448

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Bill Noe Flight School brings new opportunities

Students, staff take social media survey

MU iCenter’s first entrepreneur’s in residence named

WV Can’t Wait discuss future plans

Three editors say farewell

Bus Passes On Your Phone
Get the Token Transit app
Students, staff take social media survey about semester

By XENA BUNTON
REPORTER

In a social media survey conducted about the spring 2021 registration process, students and faculty expressed their feelings about remote learning and the ability to be successful during a pandemic.

"While sitting at home, I find myself wanting to do anything to get myself away from the screen." Corinne Boyer, senior social work major, said.

Out of 75 random Marshall students, 77% indicated being worried about being "successful" during a socially distanced semester, and 38% indicated they had avoided a class because of the online status. This majority also affects teachers.

Photography professor Sarah Farrell said she "tries to think outside of the box."

"Part of being in college is what prepares you for the real world. I am teaching photography to students that have never held a camera before and I can't just walk up and point things out to them," Farrell said. "The biggest thing missing is that one-on-one connection, and I don't know how well we can replicate that, but I don't want these technological problems to de-rail us."

Calise Henry, junior pre-nursing major, said she does not see her decision of avoiding a class as a "bad thing."

"It is completely okay to take a second and think about the outcomes of what these choices will be," Henry said. "We all move at different paces, so I always remind myself that my opportunity will come as long as I keep pushing and make small goals that I can reach."

Although students talked about their remote classrooms, 66% of the 75 students had at least one in-person class.

Some students shared their remote experience and compared it to their past in-person classrooms.

"I was afraid, at first, about not having any in-person classes," Pyogwang Kim, junior sport management major, said. "Once I started with my online assignments, I realized they were all more organized than I had expected."

The biggest thing missing is that one-on-one connection, and I don’t know how well we can replicate that...

—Sarah Farrell

CAB to host DIY Neon Signs event

By CARSON MCKINNEY
REPORTER

During Stress Relief Week this semester on Marshall University's campus, the Campus Activities Board has prepared for a DIY neon sign event. Ronald de Castro, vice president of the Campus Activities Board, said on the day of the event, students will be able to pick up their own materials and follow along through a livestream.

"On the day of the event, you can pick up a grab bag with all the necessary materials for the event and later that evening tune into the live streaming to follow along with one of our members as they show you how to put it all together" Castro said.

Jack McFee, CAB member, said their events planned for Stress Relief Week are helpful for students in managing stress by offering a break from finals.

"The events we plan for stress relief week are helpful in managing students stress by offering, even if only for a few minutes, a break from the whirlwind that finals can feel like," said McFee. "This year is especially important for us to provide some sort of outlet for students to take a quick break from their studies to have a moment to themselves."

Olivia Gilligan, secretary of CAB, said that due to the ongoing pandemic, the DIY series is now virtual.

"The biggest change for the DIY series this year is that it is virtual. We wanted to ensure that as many people as possible could participate, but we had to do it in a way that followed university guidelines," said Gilligan. "Doing these events virtually was our solution, this made it possible for us to allow many students to participate while still being socially distanced. We are also hosting fewer DIY events this semester so that we can figure out how to improve the virtual method. It’s been a bit of an odd switch, but we really want students to enjoy the event just as much as they would in-person."

Gilligan said the DIY neon signs will be their second event this year. 
Dennison and Meadows named Marshall University iCenter’s first entrepreneurs in residence

Brandon Dennison is the founder and CEO of Coalfield Development. Coalfield Development has helped generate over 50 new social enterprises and trained over 1,200 people facing barriers to employment.

Collin Meadows is a Marshall University graduate with degrees in computer science and applied mathematics. He is a founding member of Tech304, a West Virginia-based technology development firm with a hyper focus on stimulating the local economies and communities.

The EIR program is made possible through the Simulated Workplace Entrepreneurship Education Pathway (SWEEP) grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). This grant is operated by the EdVenture Group Inc. in partnership with the iCenter and the West Virginia Department of Education.

Dennison and Meadows will provide expertise in social entrepreneurship and technology, respectively, to support the development of student-founded entrepreneurial ventures and an entrepreneurship career pathway for high school Career and Technical Education students.

Amber Ravenscroft is the manager of innovation at the EdVenture Group, Inc.

"The goal of the SWEEP program is to infuse entrepreneurship into existing career and technical education programs to encourage the emerging workforce to explore and create new opportunities within their local community," Ravenscroft said.

Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee, dean of the Lewis College of Business and Brad D. Smith Schools of Business is encouraged by the inaugural entrepreneurs in residence. "We are excited to have Brandon and Collin as our inaugural entrepreneurs in residence. Their expertise in social entrepreneurship and technology will elevate and impact the level of start-ups generated by the iCenter and their grant partners," said Mukherjee.

Both Dennison and Meadows look forward to providing their expertise and skill sets to Marshall University and the iCenter team.

"I am excited to work with students and faculty to explore social entrepreneurship, which I view as a key strategy to rebuilding the Appalachian economy and advancing a more just community," said Dennison.

Joining the iCenter as an EIR will provide Meadows with new opportunities.

"It’s an opportunity to harness my experiences and help others to grow the greater Appalachian region, so our area can become one of the areas that those across the country look to for inspiration," said Meadows.

Dr. Ben Eng, executive director of the iCenter, said the addition of Meadows and Dennison is key.

"The addition of Meadows and Dennison perfectly aligns with the iCenter’s strategic focus on creating start-ups that are high growth and high impact. We feel both fortunate and excited to have EIRs of their caliber and character at the iCenter," Eng said.

Dennison and Meadows will hold their residency until September 2021.

The mission of the iCenter is to inspire the inner entrepreneur in everyone by empowering them with the innovation and entrepreneurial knowledge they need to reframe the future of our state and region.

For more information about the iCenter, please visit www.marshall.edu/icenter or e-mail icenter@marshall.edu.
Fire chief honors 75 with memorial fountain tattoo

By XENA BUNTON
REPORTER

To show respect to the loss of 75 players, coaches and fans 50 years ago, Huntington Fire Department chief Chris Wilson, decided to get a memorial fountain tattoo three days before the ceremony.

"I was trying to think of something I could do for the anniversary and I figured since I already have tattoos - how about one more?" Wilson said.

Son of two Marshall alumni, Wilson said he learned about the plane crash early on to "recognize and remember," since he was born five years after the crash. Wilson's parents both lost several friends that died in the plane crash.

After two hours at New Hope Tattoo Gallery in Barboursville, W.Va., Brent Benson, full-time tattoo artist, recreated a visual representation of the memorial fountain on the side of Wilson's calf. The tattoo shows a detailed black and white version of the fountain with a scenic view of trees, birds and the sky.

The memorial fountain, created by Harry Bertoia, is a 6500 lb. sculpture of bronze, copper tubing and welding rods presented outside of the Memorial Student Center.

Benson said that Wilson's tattoo was the first memorial tattoo he has created of Marshall University and that he has no personal connection with the university or the plane crash. He said to create a realistic tattoo, like the memorial fountain, he tries to take a "softer approach," but the style is not different from his other work.

"Even though it has been 50 years; it is still very real and constant," Wilson said. "It still seems like yesterday to a lot of the people in Huntington and it is still a lot of raw emotion."

As an active member in the community, Wilson said he runs into at least one person who has been directly affected by the place crash.

"The town and university are connected and will be connected forever," Wilson said.

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Residence hall counselor offers support to students

By JONATHAN STILL
REPORTER

The pandemic has been a rough patch during the fall semester and has taken a toll on some students' mental health. While there is the Counseling Center to help on campus, there is also a counselor available to students in the residence halls.

"Darrioun Webb is a PsyD student here on campus and lives in the residence halls as a part of his job," Candace Layne, director of the Counseling Center, said.

Webb said he is available as a resource after hours for brief intervention.

"My focus is on what you would describe as acute distress. I'm not typically seen as a therapist in the traditional sense in this role. I'm acting as someone who's doing what we would refer to more accurately as mental health consultation," Webb said.

Webb said he is available as a resource after hours for brief intervention.

Webb said when he is working with students and student staff, he's typically following the Seirt model.

"That's screening, brief intervention and a referral to treatment. I meet with people really briefly and find out what their present concerns are through my screening methods," Webb said.

Webb said the major benefit of having a counselor in the residence halls is accessibility.

"The reason the office is located in the residence halls is that students who live on campus and are very familiar with the residents halls can easily locate the office," Webb said.

Webb said even though he is working through COVID-19 right now, Telehealth has made it to where it's still an incredibly accessible option.

"That's the point. To have someone who lives and works in the same space as the students who are living on campus. So that I'm more visible and raising awareness of students on top of being highly accessible," Webb said.

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W. Va. Can’t Wait movement leaders discuss next step

By SEQUOIA WARE
REPORTER

WV Can’t Wait leaders and members of the Huntington community met on Saturday to discuss the movement’s post election plans.

Stephen Smith and Katey Lauer, the leaders of WV Can’t Wait, have been hosting multiple strategy meetings throughout the state since the election, and Cabell County Can’t Wait captains added smores and some fun to their strategy meeting that took place last Saturday.

The meeting consisted of creating a SWOT plan, choosing the best strategy plans and setting personal goals.

WV Can’t Wait had 11 candidates who signed their pledge to win their election. Smith and Lauer stressed the importance of not only building a new plan on how to help the candidates during their time in office, but to also help decide where to focus the movement’s resources and money.

“If we need to raise money, we have to go back to our people. We don’t have a big pot of money to pull from,” Smith said.

The meeting was focused on ideas given directly from the people of West Virginia.

“Part of what we’re interested in is winning a people’s government in West Virginia,” Lauer said. This means the struggle we’re in is beyond one election cycle, but we’re looking at running people in multiple election cycles and building a movement over the long run, and so the foundation of that movement is those who have been involved over the last two years. And part of what’s exciting is seeing all the new people that have come too.”

Smith and Lauer also presented a strategy survey that is available virtually for those who cannot make it to the strategy meetings.

According to Smith, the movement has already completed over 400 one-on-one conversations with voters to discuss a plan for a new deal to come out Dec. 5.

Smith said, “The idea, as we’ve said before, is that on Dec. 5, a group of representatives inside the movement, including people who represent candidates who won, candidates who didn’t win, county captains, movement captains and members of the action committee are going to come together on the 5 to ratify a two-year strategy plans for our movement.”

Huntington residents, WV Can’t Wait captains and leaders and current or previous candidates attended the meeting hoping to find some stress relief and resolutions within the movement.

Hilary Turner, previous democratic candidate for District 3, mentioned some concerns that she noticed during her run for office.

“We found that a lot of people we talked to were not registered to vote. To me, it was frustrating and a weakness. Turner said she would like to help people get registered to vote and would like to see people receive training on how to canvas. She said she is focused on improving what the movement has already accomplished. She plans to continue to help those candidates who won at the federal level. Joe Solumn, a candidate for Charleston City Council, stressed the importance of people being heard on the local level.

Solumn said, “I live in Charleston, and we have 26 city council seats up for grabs in two years. I think a lot of our cities can be laboratories for democracy and grow the bench to our already fantastic plan. I think WV Can’t Wait should take over city council seats so things can get done, and I think nothing has gotten done, and this idea can be easily shot down because nobody has tried this idea yet.”

Next to that, Sumer Hughes, Cabell County Can’t Wait captain said her personal post-election...

see CAN’T WAIT on pg. 10

Rec Center schedule adjusted for winter months

By ALEX JACKSON
REPORTER

The Marshall University Rec Center, (Rec) announced its schedule for the winter break.

Corey Buck, the coordinator of fitness and well-being at the rec, talked about the schedule.

“Overall, it is very similar to what we offered before the fall semester,” Buck said. “We are still staying true with our class capacities, mask use and social distancing. Each studio may have a different capacity depending on the location.”

Buck said the reason that the rec offers a schedule during the winter break is to have the facilities open for non-student rec members.

“We do have a lot of non-student members, so we want to maintain activity and fitness classes,” Buck said. “We have classes for elderly populations, students and non-students of all ages and ability types.”

Buck said members are required to pre-register for classes in order to ensure they reserve a spot. There is a pre-registration for each class, and members can either call, communicate with the front desk or use the Rec app to reserve a spot. Registration opens two days before each class is scheduled to take place.

“I think it’s been absolutely wonderful, and we are very lucky to have the team that we have here who is in charge of every single area,” Buck said.

Buck also said he believes the precautions the rec has taken has made the rec very safe.

“I think it has been extremely safe,” Buck said. “I think our guidelines are very safe. The fitness guidelines are the ones I can specifically speak to, and they exceed social distancing guidelines. Social distancing is technically six feet, but each station that our class members come into are 10 to 12 feet apart from each other.”

Buck said he is incredibly proud of the job the rec has done in making a safe environment for everyone. “We have learned a lot, all worked together and overall I think it has been a very safe and effective environment,” Buck said.

Clay Shriver, a Marshall student, said he is glad the rec is open during the winter break.

“I think it’s great to have it open during break,” Shriver said. “Lots of folks get into lifting or other recreation while at college, so I think it’s great to have it open for anyone who will still be around and needs a gym.”

For more information on the rec’s winter schedule, students can visit the rec’s website.

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Herd football racks up awards, game postponed by Charlotte

By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off a 42-14 victory over the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders, the undefeated and nationally ranked Marshall University Thundering Herd football team will not be preparing to take on the University of North Carolina-Charlotte 49ers this weekend.

The Herd (7-0, 4-0 Conference USA) moved up one spot in the AP Poll to No. 15 and remained at No. 15 in the Coaches Poll.

Redshirt sophomore quarterback Grant Wells was named C-USA Offensive Player of the Week while redshirt senior punter Robert LeFevre was named C-USA Special Teams Player of the Week, the league announced Monday. Wells also earned Davey O’Brien Great 8 List honors and is now on the Midseason Watchlist. This award is given to the best NCAA quarterback.

It was also announced that the Herd was named the National Team of the Week selected by The Football Writers Association of America (FWAA).

The 49ers (2-3, 2-1 C-USA) decided to postpone the matchup due to COVID-19 testing within the program, the 49ers released Monday.

The Herd will now prepare to host the Rice University Owls (1-1, 1-1 C-USA) Saturday, Dec. 5. That game will be carried on one of the ESPN platforms and a start time has not been determined yet. Further information will be provided at a later date.

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

Men’s basketball prepares for season opener

By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON
SPORTS EDITOR

The Marshall University men’s basketball team is one week away from its 2020-21 season opener against Coppin State Wednesday, Nov. 25. Two days later, the team will play another home game Friday, Nov. 27 against Tennessee State.

Marshall head coach Dan D’Antoni said the Herd is focused on continuing to get better to prepare for its first two home games and for the entire season while focusing on COVID-19 safety precautions and protocols.

“Just start,” D’Antoni said. “We’re going to crowd everything together to go for the 25th opener. The biggest part is conditioning. Then it’s the synchronization between the players and to make the decisions between the players. Our team always gets better. It’s a process that we go over to get better and better.”

Junior guard Taevion Kinsey said the team has to hop back into the groove of basketball, prepare, practice and focus on the upcoming season and each game.

“It’s a process. It’s a lot of trials and tribulations,” Kinsey said. “We’re not the only team that’s going through this. I think it’s safe and necessary. I love basketball so much, so I just try to relax. I’ve been working on basketball all summer and studying basketball. We can’t get too high or too low, because we are going to be facing a lot of things. It’s not going to be an easy season, year or life in general.”
Athlete of the Week
Willie Johnson, football

ABOUT WILLIE JOHNSON
Position: Wide Receiver
Class: Redshirt Senior
Height: 6'0
Weight: 176
Hometown: Fort Myers, Florida

PERFORMANCE vs. MTSU
8 receptions
137 receiving yards
2 touchdowns

After a career best performance against Middle Tennessee Saturday, redshirt senior wide receiver Willie Johnson has earned athlete of the week honors.

His eight catches, 137 receiving yards and two touchdowns were all career high marks, according to HerdZone.com.

Long-yardage receptions and big plays have been the defining trait of Johnson’s career as a receiver. On Saturday, that held true; he caught three passes over 20 yards, including two that were over 40 yards.

He exhibited the ability to catch short to medium range passes for first downs. On a third-and-9 and a second-and-5, he converted two first downs with a 10-yard reception and a five-yard reception, respectively.

When including his two 40-yard receptions, he had four receptions that went for first downs. He also drew a defensive holding penalty that procured another Marshall first down.

With the receiver group missing both Broc Thompson and Talik Keaton, it was an important performance for the Herd offense.

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Farewell from Douglas...

By DOUGLAS HARDING
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

American novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote: “I’m not sure what I’ll do, but— well, I want to go places and see people. I want my mind to grow. I want to live where things happen on a big scale.”

I don’t know what I expected when I joined The Parthenon in August 2018 as a beat reporter covering local politics and the City of Huntington, but, mostly, I know I wanted to experience things and to learn—about people, places, ideas—and I wanted to write about what I had learned.

Looking back now on my time spent working in the newsroom over the past couple years, graduation just a few weeks away, I have no doubts that my time here has been well spent.

I struggle to find the words to most accurately describe such a significant and lengthy stage of my life, but I know my time here at The Parthenon and at Marshall has been, if anything, formative. I am not the same person I was when I first came to campus as a freshman. I know I have grown, and grown much, even as I fail to analyze and to articulate the exact ways I have done so.

I know also that I have been very lucky and privileged throughout my time here to meet and to work with some of the most brilliant, wise and caring people I know, and for that I am forever thankful. I never could have predicted just how truly special are so many of the students, professors and other individuals I have come to know and to learn from in recent years.

But one thing I have learned since coming to campus and through my work with The Parthenon and with these special people, in this special place, is a simple fact about journalism and about life in general: Special people are everywhere, and special things are happening everywhere; You just have to be curious enough to know it.

I could say simply that the City of Huntington, that Marshall University, is a uniquely special place filled with uniquely special people, but, the truth is, where isn’t? I say this not to discredit Huntington and Marshall and this wonderful community, but to empower others, to empower myself.

I’m not exactly sure what comes next, but, in reality, I know it is unlikely I will spend the rest of my life living in Huntington, working at Marshall and in close contact with this community I now consider myself a part of—I don’t even know where I will be living or working in just a month or two. However, I can say for certain I will always carry with myself in future endeavors the memories made, the relationships formed and the countless, invaluable things I have learned throughout my time here.

While I know I cannot be a student at Marshall forever, I know also that after graduation I will continue to study—to learn, to experience, to attempt to understand—and that is precisely what I have learned here to do, both as a journalist and as a human. In the meantime, I can only hope to have made—and to continue to make—half as permanent a mark on this community as it has made on me over the past several years.

Forever thankful,

Douglas
By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON
SPORTS EDITOR
All good things must come to an end eventually, right? Tears flow down my face as my time with The Parthenon is coming to an end. What a journey this has been for me during my time not only with the university student newspaper, but Marshall University in general. I’m not sure that I’m ready to accept this reality.

The Parthenon has been one of the biggest reasons I have had so many opportunities to pursue my career in sports journalism. I’ve spent two wonderful and unforgettable years, serving as a news and sports reporter, Assistant Sports Editor and Sports Editor.

I was a terrified, yet eager sophomore journalism student when I began working for The Parthenon as a news reporter August 2018 and transitioned into being a sports reporter in January 2019 until May 2019. I was finally going to learn how to cover sporting events for all of Marshall University Athletic sports teams. And I did. The sports editor at the time, Rick Farlow, asked me to write a recap of the Marshall University Men’s Basketball team’s win over Glenville State in October 2018. That’s when I knew this was the right profession for me. I worked alongside Kieran Intemann, former sports editor after Farlow, and I was fortunate enough to travel to Frisco, Texas to cover the 2019 Conference USA Basketball Tournament and do social media interviews, write sports stories and fully indulge myself into the sport media world. I will never forget it.

When my time was up being a sports reporter, I knew I wasn’t ready to leave The Parthenon. I was encouraged to apply for the Assistant Sports Editor position. I was named the Assistant Sports Editor in May 2019 and served that position until December 2019. I was fortunate to work alongside former sports editor Sydney Shelton after Kieran and learn how to design the weekly sports pages. I was able to travel to Norfolk, Virginia and watch the Marshall University men’s soccer team clinch the Conference USA Championship title and even cover their NCAA match against WVU, in which the nationally ranked Herd won. I am thankful for all the sporty tips and tricks Sydney shared with me in order to fill her role once she graduated. I couldn’t have done a lot of this without her guidance.

See TAYLOR on pg. 10

By MEG KELLER
FEATURES EDITOR
When I was in kindergarten, my teacher, Mrs. Glover, towered over me as I wrote out my alphabet and sounded out all the letters for her. I remember at five years old the letter “E” being my favorite letter, for no specific reason, of course; but I did know I loved words. I knew I could spell the word “cookie” and “turtle” before any of the other kids in my class, but I never would have guessed that my passion for words would blossom into a career in writing. Really, I didn’t even know I would be a writer until I met Charlie Bowen, the professor who taught my first ever news-writing class. I secretly took a journalism course in 2017 while still being a Health Science major because I was tired of forcing myself to learn things I didn’t care about and was bad at (science). Charlie taught me how to interview, and how a hard news isn’t MY type of news lead. He taught me to tailor my questions toward the angle. Charlie showed me how to hone in on my own empathy in order to elicit an emotional story. He showed me compassion when being constructive. He was a stiff grader because he knew if he made me feel doubted, I would prove him wrong. Because of Charlie Bowen I am a writer.

When I didn’t know why I should be writing or where to go with a story Dan Hollis showed me the way.

See MEG on pg. 11
BASKETBALL cont. from 6

Senior guard Jarrod West said as a leader his goal is to remain positive and staying confident in the team. “Everything is up in the air right now,” West said. “We know that, and we’re trying to stay as positive as possible. We have a real game next week. We understand what is at stake. We have to adjust and adapt. We have to work with it. Conference is very important. I think non-conference, we play some good teams, and it will be good for us. It’s more important to us now than ever. Chemistry wise, we got to lock in and buckle down and get acclimated together before next week.”

Both home games next week on Nov. 25 and Nov. 27 are set to tipoff at 6 p.m. at the Cam Henderson Center with limited fans in attendance.

Tip times for future games will be announced at a later date.

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

CAB cont. from 2

“Our second event is DIY Neon Signs,” Gilligan said. “Students can pick up their materials from the MSC Lobby on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. Then, at 6 p.m. the same day students can attend a Teams meeting to watch a tutorial. The Teams link can be found on Herd Link by clicking on the event advertisement.”

Castro said that the Campus Activities Board hopes students enjoy the event and that they cannot wait to welcome students back in the spring. “We hope you enjoy the event and can’t wait to welcome everyone back in the spring and put on more events for everyone next semester!” said Castro.

Carson Mckinney can be contacted at mckinney129@marshall.edu.

SURVEY cont. from 2

As an international student, Kim said this fear came from not having physical reactions that are in-person classes such as tone and facial expression.

Jacob Meadows, freshman health science major, said the online status of his college education could make his degree look “watered down.”

Although the university is forcing students to wear face masks in all buildings – including in face-to-face classes – asking for a minimum of six feet distance, complete daily health checks, participate in random COVID testing and asking students to practice proper hygiene, 65% of the students think we will not have a normal 2021 fall.

Xena Bunton can be contacted at bunton2@marshall.edu.

CAN’T WAIT cont. from 5

... strategy consists of taking a break from politics for a while and watching Netflix with her dog.

While strategizing, Cabell County Can’t Wait captains offered smores and sandwich sliders for everyone at the meeting. Everything was individually wrapped, and sanitizer was set out by all areas where there were food and drinks, and everyone wore their masks and followed CDC guidelines.

David Yosuico, a senior at Stanford, and Huntington resident, is new to the WV Can’t Wait team and decided to spend a couple hours of his Saturday focusing on the plans for 2021.

“I was super inspired and hopeful when I discovered WV Can’t Wait because pretty much everything the movement supports, I support, and it surprises me that it reaches and is liked by such a large group of West Virginians.”

Yosuico is originally from Charleston but his family is from the Philippines. His mother, who was also present, said she worries about the state of our government, and it reminds her of the country she left, which at the time was run under President Ferdinand Marcos.

“I think the Philippines legacy of corruption is fairly complicated because it also intermixes with colonization by both Spain and the United States. And like it crippled the political structure and form opinions like my mothers and others in the county and that power consolidated people. It’s like hard to say what can be prevented, but I’ll continue to try to keep my voice heard and represented the best I can for me and my family.”

Lauer and Smith tell people to keep an eye out for the new deal which will be released in December.

Sequoia Ware can be contacted at ware53@marshall.edu.

TAYLOR cont. from 9

My time as Assistant Sports Editor came to a close, but I knew I wanted to take on the challenging role of Sports Editor. I took over January 2020 and will officially pass it on December 2020. COVID-19 greatly affected my time as sports editor, but I made the best of it! I was fortunate to travel back to Frisco, Texas, with one of my best friends that I met in the journalism program at Marshall, Savannah Matney. It was just us two women roaming the airports and the great state of Texas, meeting tons of Herd fans, interviewing strangers who would once become friends, writing sports stories and taking sports photos and videos. I’ll never forget that.

To cap off the end of my time as Sports Editor, I was able to lay a rose for former Parthenon sports editor, Jeff Nathan, at the 50th Memorial Fountain Ceremony. Jeff was one of the 75 lives that perished in the Marshall Plane Crash and left this earth far too soon. I hope I’ve made the impression that he once did as sports editor.

My biggest project that I worked hard and focused on was the 50th Memorial edition of The Parthenon, in which every page included a headshot of each of the 75 members that were on the plane and only included stories and memorabilia related to the November 14, 1970 sports tragedy. It was an honor to be in charge of designing and creating the layout. I couldn’t have done it without my entire staff. Thank you to The Parthenon adviser, Sandy York, for allowing me to achieve and accomplish my dreams.

I’ve written stories for and watched football, basketball, baseball, softball, swimming and diving, cross country, track and field, soccer, golf, volleyball and tennis. I’ve seen it all. I’ve developed a love for storytelling, especially in the sports world. I’m grateful, thankful and blessed to have served as your sports editor. This isn’t a goodbye, it’s definitely a see you later. The Parthenon will always have a special place in my heart now and forever. But I’m not done yet.

This has been your Thundering Herd sports report, I’m Taylor Huddleston.
MEG cont. from 9

His law class was the hardest course I have ever taken in the school of journalism, and it is that way for a reason. Those key facts were not going to study themselves and I knew I was not about to win a libel suit if I got myself into one. Dan pushed me to realize I do belong in journalism, even when it is intimidating. There have been many times when I felt like my writing has been mediocre at best, but he never fails to find something positive in it and share that reinforcement with me. He ensured me to take risks when I write a story. Because of Dan I know how to make a story real, exciting, relatable, honest and lawful. Because of Dan Holli I am a writer.

My first story ever for The Parthenon was about a coffee shop opening up in the west end. Sandy York was my professor for our beat writing course, and I knew when we both got excited over a miniscule coffee shop story, we were going to get along well. Sandy saw more potential in me than any professor, no, any person who has ever known me. She sent me in to a White House Press Pool in 2018 and a year later at bootcamp, when I took a semester off of school to join the U.S. Army, she sent me weekly issues of The Parthenon in the mail so that I could feel closer to home. Sandy has watched me create and destroy myself throughout college many times but has never allowed me to feel alone. One of the most frustrating feelings as a writer is to feel your words mean nothing to those reading them. Sandy has never let me feel that way. Because of Sandy I have a mentor, friend and leader to look up to. Because of Sandy I grew confident enough in my writing to know I can move to the big city after I graduate to do it for a living. Because of Sandy I know there is power in handwriting my stories first and that it is okay that I have to write my lead before I can move on. Because of Sandy I know writing a feature is my go-to and being creative in that is imperative. Because of Sandy I am a writer.

I may not have known in kindergarten that my fondness for the letter E would take me this far, but because of The Parthenon I know how far I can go. The opportunities afforded to me at the hand of this university, and more specifically, this news organization, have cultivated the person I am today. Because of The Parthenon I am a writer, but because of Marshall I have a home.
Bill Noe Flight School brings new opportunities to area

BY BRITTANY HIVELY
MANAGING EDITOR

Marshall University is introducing new opportunities to the area with the addition of the Bill Noe Flight School.

The school will be housed at Yeager Airport in Charleston, West Virginia and offer a Part 141 flight training program.

“Typically, your Part 141 flight training, which is what we’ll have, those are typically associated with degree programs, where the part 61 usually is not,” said Bryan Branham, flight school director and chief instructor.

Branham said that while Part 141 is not a degree in itself, the school has expanded the program to include one.

“We’ll have a four-year degree and commercial pilot: fixed wing is the title of the degree,” said Branham. “So, what it means is inside this four-year degree, there’s going to be pilot certifications and pilot ratings. For example, all of my students that graduate our program, they will leave with their commercial pilot certificate, they will also graduate with their multi-engine rating and also their flight instructor and instrument instructor ratings.”

The four-year program and various certificates will allow students to become paid pilots and reduces certain hour criteria for training.

“The key to it is that the commercial pilot certification, that’s the certification that’s required for you to be able to get paid to fly. The 141 part of it that’s tied it to ultimately the students becoming airline pilots,” Branham said. “By going through our four-year program, it helps them to reduce the requirements by about 33% for the hour requirements to get their airline transport pilot certificate.”

Branham said the program will include a combination of online and in-person classes, with flight training done at the new facility.

“Initially we’ll be working between the South Charleston campus and Yeager Airport. All of the flight training is going to be done out of our facility, the construction is underway now at Yeager Airport,” Branham said.

Branham said, as of now, everything is on schedule to start flight training in fall 2021.

“It brings opportunities, not only to the local community, but to the state,” Branham said. “Airline pilots when they turn 65 it’s not if you’re going to retire, you’re mandated, you can no longer fly an airline. So, what’s happening, everybody that started flying when the real boom of the airlines kicked off about 30 some odd years ago, 40 years ago, there’s a high percentage of pilots retiring of mandate of age.”

While the opportunity is now available for the local community and state of West Virginia as a whole, Branham said opportunities will also be there to bring people to West Virginia.

“The employability rate was almost 100%,” Branham said. “We’ll be providing the degree opportunity and the flight training opportunity to our local community and the state. We’ll also be bringing folks in from out of state, just because of the sheer demand of the airlines.”

Despite the impact coronavirus has had on traveling this year, Branham said the industry is expected to bounce back to where it was previously.

“Although the COVID has had an impact on travel, I’ve been following the airline industry closely for the last few years, the projections from everyone that I read right now is that a couple years down the road we’re going to be back to basically where we were before,” Branham said. “The economy was good, the airline industry was booming, they were hiring almost 100% of the graduates of the 141 programs. So, we’ll be back online for that by the time we roll out our first graduating class.”

While there is a similar program in Clarksburg, Branham said Marshall’s will be different.

“There’s nothing serving our region, plus the equipment is going to be different, different types of aircraft,” Branham said. “I’ve been flying for a long time and I’ve flown a lot of different aircraft to include in the military, this aircraft that we’ll be using is the most advanced aircraft that I’ve been in in a single engine type training aircraft.”

Branham said the importance of the advanced system is the adaptability students will have in transitioning aircraft.

“The advantage of that is that the students that go through our program, after they operate the systems in the aircraft that we’ll be training them in to get their pilot certifications,” Branham said. “When they leave this aircraft to go sit down in an airline, a large corporate jet, the, what we call the flight management system, the system inside is going to be very familiar to them. That’s a key part when you talk about transitioning from one type of an aircraft to another or one type of system to another.”

Branham said with a new program like this, it is hard to get all of the information out and he invites people to not only visit, but ask questions.

“It’s just something that I will openly invite folks to please come out and visit us,” Branham said. “I will be happy to show them around once the facility is completed and only then I think the folks that are not in the world of aviation will really appreciate the things that are being provided.”

The program will run at available capacity of the flying labs, which is the maximum number of students able to enroll, with one or two on standby for an open lab position.

“The neat thing about it is the students at Marshall University will have the opportunity that they didn’t have before without traveling quite a distance away,” Branham said. “The cool thing about this is the support for this is just phenomenal.”

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The first plane was delivered to Yeager Airport, home of the Bill Noe Flight School Training Facility, on October 29, 2020.