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3-23-2022

The Parthenon, March 23, 2022

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Recommended Citation

Spence, Tyler; Woodruff, Connor; Kennett, Tyler; Green, Evan; Thompson, Shauntelle; Alfonso, Rafael; Hanlon, Abby; Ayes, Abby; Laster, Alaina; and Robinson, Isabella, "The Parthenon, March 23, 2022" (2022). *The Parthenon*. 4697.

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SGA Elections Underway - Voting to Run from March 30-31



Cameron Donohue, presidential candidate, is running with Nico Raffinengo.



Bella Griffiths, presidential candidate, is running with Walker Tatum.

By **BREA SMITH**

REPORTER | SMITH3034@MARSHALL.EDU

Soon Marshall University's student body will vote on who will be the new president/vice president duo of the Student Government Association (SGA). Voting will take place on Mar. 30 and 31 on Herd Link.

The two campaigns are headed by Isabella Griffiths and Cameron Donohue who are running for president, and their respective running mates Walker Tatum and Nico Raffinengo for vice president.

Donohue and Raffinengo, meanwhile say they plan to improve campus life and increase student involvement on campus through their campaign. According to Donohue and Raffinengo, they have a four-part plan.

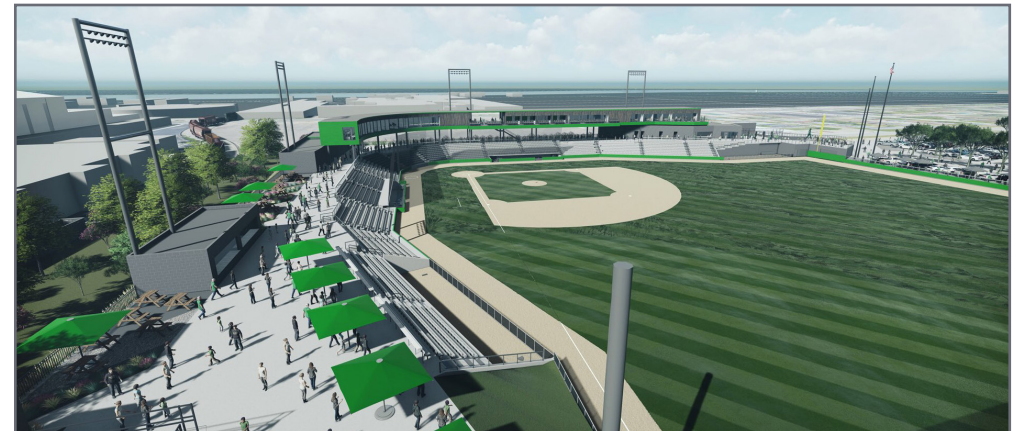
"It's kind of one large step with three little steps underneath it... Community, innovation, justice, and Marshall," Raffinengo said. "Community is the big one and the first step."

SGA continued on page 2.

EDITORIAL: Build the Baseball Stadium

Marshall baseball is relegated to play in sub high school conditions, while producing major league level talent. It's time to break ground on construction.

Read more on page 8.



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Meet the Presidential Candidates

continued from front page

According to Donohue “less than 25% of students are involved in an organization or anything on campus. I can’t blame them for feeling like they’re not part of something.”

“By doing things like getting more students on campus,” Donohue said, “they are more likely to be in an organization, lowering the barrier to a lot of these organizations so that students feel less isolated.”

Another goal for the two is to increase involvement in SGA from non-SGA members.

“We are taking a different perspective to leadership,” Donohue said. “Instead of leading from the front, we want to lead from the middle. We want it to be a collaborative effort to

make a lot of these changes.”

Raffinengo is from West Palm Beach, Florida. He is currently a freshman majoring in political science and a minor in international business. His interests include debate, cycling and he also serves as a presidential ambassador on campus.

Donohue is from Ironton, Ohio. He is currently a junior studying political science and minoring in physics. Donohue enjoys photography and graphic design.

Their competitors’, Isabella Griffiths and Walker Tatum, campaign message revolves around continuing efforts to improve mental health initiatives on campus, serve the community, and improve student involvement

on campus.

Griffiths said, “We hope to continue the efforts started under the Parks/Griffiths administration while adapting to the new changes on campus and in the community.”

The two want to increase student involvement not just on campus but also within SGA.

“I think that when it comes to student involvement with SGA sometimes, most students don’t understand necessarily how SGA works,” Tatum said. “It would be nice to kind of close the gap. There’s a lot of change on campus that we can make. And we can truly do that. By being a voice for our peers and our constituents.”

Their goal hopes to create a welcoming atmosphere for

students in a time after Covid-19.

Tatum is currently a sophomore biology major with minors in chemistry, pre-professional health care studies, general business, and psychology. He is from Wayne, West Virginia. He is involved in Baptist Campus Ministries, Student Government Association, and Dance Thunder.

Griffiths is from Ironton, Ohio. She is junior health sciences major with minors in biology, chemistry, Spanish, mathematics, and dance. Griffiths is currently the vice president of the SGA. She is involved with the Society of Yeager Scholars, Alpha Xi Delta, and the Rotaract Club.

Much of the student body worries that they don’t know who will be representing them.

Sophomore Madison Sowards said, “I’ve seen the signs around campus and a YouTube ad about the election, but I don’t really know who they are.”

She added onto that by saying, “I looked them up, but I don’t really know what they want to do to improve campus life for the rest of us.”

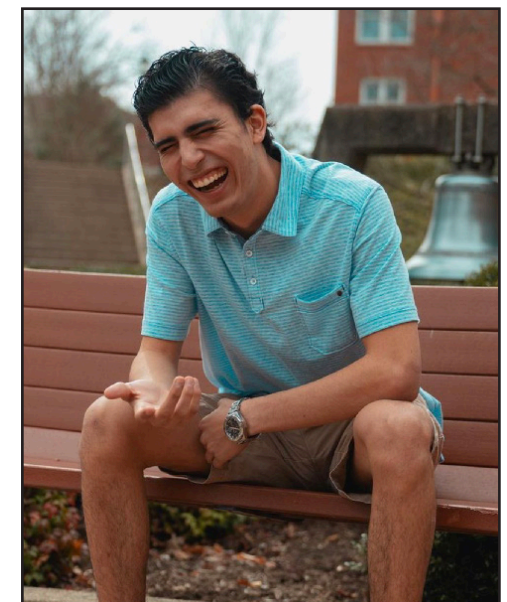
Freshman Madison Flora had similar feelings about the upcoming election. “I ended up looking up Isabella and Walker on Instagram after I saw the signs near the Student Center. They look nice, but they don’t give any information about themselves. Even with looking them up, I still don’t understand what the campaign message is?”



Walker Tatum and Bella Griffiths



Cameron Donohue and Nico Raffinengo



Community Health Outreach Program Calls for Student Volunteers

By **ANDREW CORLISS**
REPORTER | CORLISS2@MARSHALL.EDU

A mobile health clinic that provides care for Huntington's homeless and underserved population is staffed monthly by volunteers from Marshall's medical school.

One Saturday every month, the Marshall Medical Outreach Program (MMO) sets up a mobile clinic van and a series of tents in the Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot on 11th Street. The staff provides care for both medical and physical health problems, ranging from eye exams and vaccinations to psychological evaluations according to Garrett Muckleroy, former MMO co-president.

"...to work closely with this population really reinforces that regardless of a person's station in life, they deserve to have access to healthcare," Muckleroy said.

MMO has collaborated with the schools of pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology and physical therapy to provide the services patients need. It also provides winter clothing, food and personal health items such as toothbrushes. Over 2700 patients have been treated since the program's beginning in 2011.

"I think being able to work closely

with this population really reinforces that regardless of a person's station in life, they deserve to have access to healthcare," Muckleroy said. "We, as members of the healthcare community, have a duty to make sure that we provide quality care to every patient."

Last month, the program saw 54 patients – the most they had seen in several months, according to Holly Farkosh, former co-president. Though cold days are generally less busy even with heaters in the waiting area, the program has seen several exceptions.

"The numbers can be very seasonal, and we tend to have less patients on months with extreme weather," she said. "You can never predict the slow versus busy months. Regardless, the process and stations are the same each month, and we will be out there until the last patient of the day is seen... whether it takes one hour or five."

According to Arrin Brooks, a school of medicine Ph. D. student, medical students receive monthly emails about the events; however, most discover it through word of mouth and participate later.

Often, the program inspires them to further pursue their medical careers.

"After attending my first MMO event years ago," Brooks said, "I wanted to keep coming back every month that I could. My work there was one of my favorite parts of med school at Marshall, and it solidified my interest in community outreach and working with underserved populations in my future career as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon."

According to Farkosh, the MMO always welcomes more volunteers, including undergraduate students.

Students Share Spare Meal Swipes



By **SEMONI WEAVER**
REPORTER | WEAVER161@MARSHALL.EDU

Shauntelle Thompson

The Marco's Meal Shares initiative, established by Marshall University's Student Affairs Office, has run low on meal swipes needed to provide food for college students experiencing food insecurity.

The Marco's Meal Share started back in 2019 as a resolution passed in the Student Government Association—led at the time by President Stephanie Rogner and Vice President Anna Williams—in collaboration with Sodexo and the Information Technology Office.

This initiative was made in an effort to provide free meals for those students without access to a sufficient amount

of affordable, quality and nutritious food. Students with an operative meal plan on campus can share meal swipes online with other students in need.

The shared meal swipes give students entry to the Harless Dining Hall. When filing for a meal, students are contacted by the Student Affairs Office to discuss support and eligibility for the program. Requests for meals then get distributed based off availability.

Although the Marco's Meal Shares do not currently accept monetary donations, they do accept non-perishable items for the Marshall foodbank and Facing Hunger foodbank as well.

"We have the Marshall Cares Act Emergency Grant that any student can donate money towards for Covid-19 relief funding," said Michelle Biggs, assistant dean of student affairs.

Biggs has tried to advertise the progression of Marco's Meal Shares through emailing individual advisors and Marshall Housing and Residence Life, creating a social media presence and word of mouth.

Any student with any form of Marshall meal plan can donate up to two meal swipes per semester.

MU Signs Cyber Security Agreement to Boost Defense



Shauntelle Thompson

By **TREVOR SMITH**

REPORTER | SMITH2784@MARSHALL.EDU

Marshall's cybersecurity students will receive a new lab program after Marshall signed an agreement on Mar. 16 to create a partnership between the school and two other organizations.

The agreement joined Marshall University, Forge Security, and West Virginia's National Guard to strengthen the university's cybersecurity school and create a virtual firing range.

The flow of this partnership will have Marshall supplying the faculty, facility and research methods for the school, with the National Guard providing personnel to help run training missions and Forge Security providing the virtual firing range.

The cyber range will give students realistic hands-on learning that will sharpen their skills and allow students to see in an immersive way the situations they may face

in the field of cybersecurity. The virtual range will include individual lab exercises for learning specific skills and also offer simulations of a realistic cyber security attack.

Marshall University's President Brad Smith said that the partnership has constructed a strong foundation the university couldn't have done alone, and that hands-on learning for students is priceless.

"We all know that learning happens best when you can learn the theory and see if it really works," Smith said. "This applied experience, or experiential learning as we call it, is the perfect way for students to really understand that they're developing the skills and expertise they need to have an impact."

The lab will not only benefit students but also refine members of the National Guards' ability to handle possible situations in the

face of cyber-attacks, said Maj. Gen. Bill Crane, the adjutant general of the West Virginia National Guard. He also said that many things are virtually breachable now, including local water systems.

"Cybersecurity is an issue to our local, state and county governments and all of our industry—and it's just not us in uniform that have to respond to it. We have to prepare all of our young generation that are coming up to be prepared to help ensure the safety of our networks," Crane said.

Justin Jarrell, CEO of Forge Security, said, "We're thrilled to partner with Marshall University and the West Virginia National Guard to support cybersecurity research with this one-of-a-kind program." He also said that he hopes to strengthen his community's security through his company.

WVU Professor Discusses Quantum Physics

By **VICTORIA WARE**

REPORTER | WARE57@MARSHALL.EDU

Quantum physics will be the topic of discussion at a virtual talk being given by Dr. Cheng Cen as a part of the "Faces of Physics Speaker Series" on Friday, Mar. 25.

Cen is an associate professor of physics at West Virginia University. She joined the university in 2012. During her talk, she will discuss different properties within quantum physics and what the current state of the field is.

"Now, we're at the verge of a Quantum Age," Cen said, "We're looking at a plaster of different materials that have completely different functionality... We want to do more."

Cen is a condensed matter physicist, meaning that she studies the macroscopic (visible to the naked eye) and microscopic (only visible with a microscope) properties of matter.

"I want people and students to realize that this is a really fascinating and interesting field," Cen said, "So, WVU has a department that has multiple branches of physics. There's condensed matter, astrophysics [and] plasma. I always get the impression that some branches of physics get more attention or hype just because of their nature."

"For example, astrophysics—I think of when we were kids, we used to see those astonishing pictures of the galaxy," Cen said. "It left a natural impression that this is something cool. For example, bioscience—in this pandemic everybody knows that this is something important and something worth the effort to learn."

"Condensed matter sometimes doesn't really have that intrinsic advantage," Cen said. "It's not something you have a direct connection with at first glance. However, it's something you use the most in your everyday normal life. Everything you touch is not a result of astrophysics. Most of the time they're a direct result of condensed matter physics."

"This is something that new, younger students can consider diving in to try it as a career," Cen said. "I want people to know all the future possibility associated with this field. We have done a lot, but there [are] a whole lot of new things out there that can be achieved. Either students thinking about their career or the government making their bigger decisions—I think these new perspectives are important. So, to educate people to...know what is possible is also very important for we as human beings to make our collective decisions on important events."

This will not be the first virtual talk that Cen has given since the pandemic began.

"Ever since the pandemic every talk I've given is all virtual," Cen said. "Probably not every one is recorded and posted on YouTube as what you guys are planning to do... I like them a lot, actually. All the teachings were done online as well. I did enjoy that—one of the reasons is everything can be recorded."

Top Colleges Accused of Violating Black Athletes' Rights



Photo courtesy of Michael Conroy / AP

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group that advocates for college athletes has filed a federal complaint that claims NCAA Division I schools are violating the civil rights of Black basketball players and major college football players by prohibiting compensation.

The National College Players Association announced Tuesday it had submitted a complaint to the Office for Civil Rights in the Education Department. The NCPA says NCAA rules prohibiting schools from compensating athletes disproportionately impacts Black students.

“I believe it’s important to first

acknowledge the reality of the business that is college football,” Stanford football player Elijah Higgins said in a statement through the NCPA.

Citing a 2018 study by the University of Southern California’s Race and Equity Center, the complaint said “Black men were 2.4% of undergraduate students enrolled at the 65 (Power Five conference) universities, but comprised 55% of football teams and 56% of men’s basketball teams on those campuses.”

“This multibillion college sports enterprise imposes discriminatory practices that disproportionately harms Black athletes, while predominantly white coaches and administrators make millions of

dollars,” said NCPA Executive Director Ramogi Huma, a former UCLA football player. “College athletes throughout predominantly white sports receive fair market compensation, but athletes in the only predominantly Black sports do not.”

The NCAA men’s Division I men’s basketball tournament generates more than \$800 million in revenue for the association, most of which is distributed to 358 schools that compete at that level.

The College Football Playoff, which operates outside the NCAA, is worth more than \$470 million annually to the 10 conferences that run it, with the majority of that money going to the Power Five — the Atlantic Coast, Big Ten, Big 12,

Pac-12 and Southeastern conferences.

The NCPA claims that relative to the revenue generated by their sports, Division I football players and men’s and women’s basketball players have been denied tens of thousands of dollars in compensation annually. The group has also pushed for college athletes to receive employee status, a step university officials largely oppose.

The complaint also cites Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s concurring opinion in last year’s *Alston* case, in which the high court ruled unanimously to uphold a lower court’s decision that found the NCAA in violation of antitrust law.

The court said the NCAA and college conferences could not cap benefits related to education that schools can offer to athletes.

“Nowhere else in America can businesses get away with agreeing not to pay their workers a fair market rate on the theory that their product is defined by not paying their workers a fair market rate,” Kavanaugh wrote.



Wheeler finishes her Marshall career as the ninth-ranked scorer in Herd history

Courtesy of Herdzone

Wheeler Enters Transfer Portal, Concludes Historic Marshall Career

By **TYLER KENNETT**

SPORTS EDITOR | KENNETT@MARSHALL.EDU

When Marshall women's basketball fell in the Conference USA tournament a couple of weeks ago, a few questions likely began to loom over the head of head coach Tony Kemper.

Aaliyah Dunham had just scored 20 points. Brianah Ferby had scored 8. Kennedy Colclough led all starters in rebounds. With each of them graduating, Kemper was left with a normal offseason workload: fill in the holes, some bigger than others.

However, with an announcement that Savannah Wheeler, Conference USA's leading scorer, will be transferring,

Kemper is left with a crater.

Wheeler's career can best be summarized by her ability to keep the record keepers' pens busy. In three seasons with Marshall, including a season cut short by the pandemic and another shortened to less than 20 games, Wheeler was ninth in total points scored in a Marshall uniform.

If given the ability to play those 15 games lost to COVID, there is a chance that Wheeler would have ranked in the top five if she scored 200 points in those games, an average of 13 points per game. Of course, we'll never know if Wheeler could have crossed the 2000 point mark, a number reached by only three players in program history, but she was on track.

Wheeler was named to the All-Conference first-team this season after being a potent offensive force that regularly carried the Herd to victory. With multiple 30-point games and one of the six 40-point games in Marshall history (all occurring this season), Wheeler will make an immediate scoring impact for any team that takes a chance on her in the transfer portal.

In what will likely be Marshall's last season in Conference USA, Wheeler will go down alongside names such as Shayna Gore, Taylor Porter, CJ Burks and Jon Elmore as the greatest scoring talents to play in the C-USA era. She was honored as an All-Conference USA player in all three seasons, including a

second-team nod as a freshman.

It is not unreasonable to expect Marshall to potentially rebuild through the transfer portal despite losing such a strong talent to it. This season, Aaliyah Dunham became a routine 20-point scorer as a transfer from Xavier. In the season prior, Kennedy Colclough quickly became an impact player as a transfer from Stetson. While Wheeler was a "home-grown" player from Boyd County, Kentucky, the transfer portal has quickly become one of the best ways to expand and grow a team in the modern era of collegiate basketball.

It is a lofty task to presume that Marshall can replace a scorer like Wheeler, but the framework within the team can be seen in

CC Mays. As Marshall's highest returning scorer, Mays has showcased her ability to shoot the three at a high clip, including a perfect showing from deep against FIU this season.

For the Herd's future, the impending arrival to the Sun Belt will allow the opportunity for the Herd to find its footing. Coach Kemper will presumably enter his sixth season as head coach, entering a conference led by Troy and UT Arlington - the teams that won the regular season and conference tournaments respectively. For a March-themed reference, the SBC winner in UT Arlington entered the NCAA tournament as a 14 seed, equal to Conference USA's winner, Charlotte.

Marshall Basketball Ends Disappointing Season

By JUSTIN ZIMMER

REPORTER | ZIMMER3@MARSHALL.EDU

After starting the season with lofty expectations, Marshall was expected to finish fourth in Conference USA at the start of the year. Despite the predictions, Marshall finished in last place in the East division at year's end.

In his first press conference at the start of the year, head coach Dan D'Antoni talked about how the nonconference schedule was constructed for the team to be tested in the early portion of the season.

"I thought all of our mid-major games were top of the line mid-majors," D'Antoni said. "They're the ones that will compete for conference championships: Toledo, Northern Iowa, Ohio."

Marshall's last win of nonconference play came on Dec. 11 against the Eastern Kentucky Colonials. It was a reunion game for Marshall as the Colonials had a transfer in Jannson Williams, Marshall's program leader in blocks.

After this win against Eastern Kentucky, the Thundering Herd fell into a massive losing streak. It ultimately ended with a

win against the UAB Blazers on Jan. 29, a night in which Marshall was without its star guard Taevion Kinsey. For the remainder of the season, Marshall continued struggling, winning only three more games in the regular season.

Marshall won its first matchup in the Conference USA tournament against Florida International University before losing in round two to Louisiana Tech. After the game, D'Antoni said that the team's biggest need was getting players in the transfer portal.

"We've already spotted a couple of perimeter players," D'Antoni said. "So, you know, we'll be in the mix, there'll be a lot of people going after them. We have to present our program and sell our program. We have to have a program that's sellable."

The next step for Marshall Basketball will be the move to the Sun Belt Conference. It is scheduled, as of now, for July 2022.

"We'll see when we move into the Sunbelt where we try and see where we stack up all that," D'Antoni said. "My whole goal coming back was to push Marshall into the NCAA (tournament) and to raise the level of recognition and play at the university."

Upcoming Schedule

Herd Baseball



Mar. 25 (Fri) - 3p.m.
Mar. 26 (Sat) - 1p.m.
Mar. 27 (Sun) - 11a.m.

Record: 6-15

Players to Watch:

Guy Garibay Jr. - 16 R, 26 H, 6 2B, 4 HR
Aaron Smigelski - .373 AVG, 19 H, 6 HR



Mar. 29 (Tue) - 3p.m.

Record: 10-8

Players to Watch:

Grant Hussey - 13 R, 19 H, 4 HR, 13 RBI
McGwire Holbrook - .385 AVG, 10 RBI, 20 H

Herd Softball



Mar. 25 (Fri) - 1p.m.
Mar. 26 (Sat) - 1p.m.
Mar. 27 (Sun) - 12p.m.

Record: 14-15

Players to Watch:

Laura Mealer - .341 AVG, 3 HR, 30 H, 21 R
Anyce Harvey - .350 AVG, 8 R, 21 H, 10 2B



Mar. 29 (Tue) - 2p.m.
Mar. 29 (Tue) - 4p.m.

Record: 4-18

Players to Watch:

Molly McChesney - .340 AVG, 18 H, 10 R, 3 RBI
Laurel DeVoe - 6 H, 4R, 3 HR, 9 RBI

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EDITORIAL

Build The Baseball Stadium

Marshall is producing Major League Talent in a stadium with no lights.

This editorial was written by Tyler Kennett, The Parthenon's sports editor.

Growing up, there was nothing quite like going to a Bluefield Orioles game at Bowen Field. For just a few dollars, my grandfather and I would go watch a group of guys fight for their chance to make it out of Single A rookie league baseball. Some friends and I would chase baseballs into the parking lots, risking our lives as if we were playing frogger for the chance to get the batter to sign the ball after the game.

I remember sitting in the grass just

past the centerfield wall, waiting for a ball to, quite literally, fall into my lap. It was a master plan. I remember looking up quickly from the blades of grass I was dissecting as I heard a loud crack followed by a roar from the opposite side of the wall. Jumping to my feet, I looked up as a baseball plopped down in the grass over by right field. I ran over and put it into my glove.

That's how I got my first baseball.

When I first got to Marshall, I

signed up to do sports broadcasting with WMUL-FM. I didn't see my first time behind a microphone until baseball season, a time with ample amounts of opportunity due to the sheer number of games in a week. I got my first game in March of 2019, a 25-3 Marshall win against Eastern Michigan.

The Marshall baseball team plays at Kennedy Center Field, a field that is roughly 20 minutes away from campus. Because I had no car, I was driven to the field by Nick Verzolini, a now Marshall journalism alum, and dropped off in a way that I can best describe as your first day of school.

I remember kicking rocks and tossing pebbles into mud holes after games while sitting on top of a case aptly named "Big Bertha." Eventually, Nick would pick me up. Those are the memories I have of Kennedy Center Field. 47 people came to Marshall's home baseball opener this season.

Forty-seven.

Marshall has had games in which its dugout has outnumbered the fans in attendance.

Marshall University's higher ups do not care about the growth of their baseball program. They have done nothing to prove me otherwise. I want to be proven wrong.

I doubt the guy who hit my first ball made it to the big leagues. If he did, I don't know his name and he probably does not remember the Bluefield Orioles. I don't have that ball, either. My brother and I lost it in the creek near my childhood home in attempts to replicate the way that it found us.

The immaculate run of Marshall men's

soccer on its way to a championship was fueled primarily by talent and coaching. While fans certainly play a part, only 400 people attended a men's soccer game that was themed around alumni appreciation in 2018. For comparison, 3033 people came to Marshall's game against WVU last season following a national championship, packed like sardines in Hoops Family Field.

The Herd men's soccer team rarely had prominent levels of support before it struck gold, and even when it was not successful, it had 10 times the number of fans than baseball does currently.

What does the baseball team have to do to deserve Marshall's attention?

Marshall baseball players regularly get drafted in the MLB draft. As recently as the 2021 season, Marshall alumni have made MLB debuts. The program is not "failing" or "unsuccessful." Marshall is producing occasional MLB talent on a field that does not have lights.

A few Google searches will help you find that less than 40 off-campus baseball fields exist in division 1 baseball. There are 299 division 1 programs across the country. Marshall's YMCA field is possibly the smallest of those off-campus fields used in the entirety of Division 1.

The smallest facilities used in the Sun Belt have a capacity of 1,000 fans but have recorded attendance numbers as high as 5,000. That's roughly one hundred times larger than any crowd Marshall has had this season.

Marshall is a school that is making strides in athletics. With a new football coach, a new conference and a new athletic director, the Herd is displaying

that it wants to show progress and improvement. However, with one of the lowest level baseball facilities in the nation, it is impossible for me to buy in to that line of thinking.

When the Bluefield Orioles became the Bluefield Blue Jays, attendance fell down a little bit. I was a little grown up at this point, watching those games at Bowen Field from the foul-ball line instead of from behind that wall in the outfield.

All the seats were painted Toronto blue. Paint chipped from the edges of some seats to give that sense of Orioles pride that the city used to have, but the Blue Jays became a staple until the Appalachian league quit being a rookie league. My strategy was a little different for getting baseballs. I just asked guys for one when they returned from warming up the outfield.

In a place like Bowen Field stood one rookie talent at the plate in 2016, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. He once hit a foul ball toward where I was sitting. I asked the ball boy if I could have it and he tossed it to me. I lost that ball in the creek too.

Without a little field in my hometown, the former free agent rookie turned MLB home run leader could have been left in the dust. College baseball provides those same types of sparks to catch fire. I want a kid in Huntington to have the memories I had in Bluefield.

Build the baseball stadium. Let some sparks fly in Huntington.

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

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Letters to the Editor are accepted. See guidelines online.

THE PARTHENON'S CORRECTIONS POLICY

"Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error."

Former WV Lawmaker Pleads Guilty in Capitol Riot

By **MICHAEL KUNZLEMAN
& JOHN RABY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former Virginia police officer pleaded guilty on Friday to storming the U.S. Capitol with another former officer who is scheduled to be tried next month on charges related to the riot.

Former Rocky Mount, Virginia, police officer Jacob Fracker, who was fired by the town after his arrest, has agreed to cooperate with federal prosecutors, his attorney said. A date for his sentencing wasn't immediately set.

Meanwhile, a former West Virginia state lawmaker pleaded guilty Friday to his role in the riot. Derrick Evans was a Republican member of the House of Delegates but never served a day. Evans resigned after his arrest in January 2021, a month before the start of the legislative session.

Fracker, the former police officer, pleaded guilty to conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, the joint session of Congress that convened on Jan. 6, 2021, to certify President Joe Biden's electoral victory. The felony charge is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of five years.

Fracker's co-defendant, Thomas Robertson, has a trial scheduled to start on April 4. The town of Rocky Mount also fired Robertson after the Capitol siege.

Fracker and Robertson were off duty when they drove with a neighbor to Washington, D.C., on the morning of Jan. 6. Fracker's indictment says Robertson brought three gas masks for them to use.

After listening to speeches near the Washington Monument, Fracker, Robertson and the neighbor identified

only as "Person A" walked toward the Capitol, donned the gas masks and joined the growing mob, according to the indictment. Robertson was carrying a large wooden stick and used it to impede Metropolitan Police Department officers who arrived to help Capitol police officers hold off the mob, the indictment says.

Fracker and Robertson posed for a photograph inside the Capitol during the attack and later posted about the riot on social media. Robertson was photographed making an obscene gesture in front of a statue of John Stark in the Capitol's crypt, prosecutors said.

Fracker and Robertson had sworn to uphold the law, even in "the face of volatile and challenging circumstances," prosecutors wrote in a court filing.

"They broke this public trust when they participated in the riot at the U.S. Capitol," they added.

Before the riot, Robertson posted on Facebook about his belief that the 2020 presidential election was illegitimate and referenced an "open armed rebellion" and "insurgency," according to Fracker's indictment.

"A legitimate republic stands on 4 boxes. The soapbox, the ballot box, the jury box, and then the cartridge box.



Violent insurrectionists loyal to President Donald Trump, storm the Capitol, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington

We just moved to step 3. Step 4 will not be pretty," he wrote on Nov. 7, 2021.

Robertson's attorneys didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment on Friday.

Robertson has been jailed since U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper ruled in July that he violated terms of his pretrial release by possessing firearms. The judge rejected Robertson's suggestion that 34 guns he ordered before June 29, when FBI agents searched his home, are simply World War II collectables.

Evans, the former West Virginia lawmaker, pleaded guilty to a civil disorder charge, punishable by up to five years in prison. Sentencing was set for June 22.

Evans livestreamed himself at the Capitol while wearing a helmet. In a since-deleted cell phone video that was widely shared online, Evans was shown clamoring in a jampacked doorway with other supporters of Donald

Trump before joyfully strolling inside.

"We're in! We're in!" Evans yelled. "Derrick Evans is in the Capitol!"

In the days prior, Evans told his 30,000 Facebook followers to "Fight For Trump" in the nation's capital, according to a criminal complaint.

On Thursday, a Texas man who was "forgotten" by the court system after his arrest on riot-related charges pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer with a pole.

Lucas Denney has been jailed since his initial court appearance in Texas a day after his Dec. 13 arrest. He was indicted on an assault charge on March 7. Denney's lawyers accused the government of unlawfully detaining him for weeks without charging him, depriving him of his constitutional right to due process.

During a March 7 hearing, U.S. Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqui apologized to Denney and said he hopes "no one else has fallen through

the cracks."

"When I look at you, I see a presumed innocent person. And there is no circumstance under which an innocent person should be forgotten, and that is what happened here," Faruqui told Denney, according to a transcript of the hearing.

Prosecutors conceded that they failed to comply with the Speedy Trial Act and should have presented an indictment to the grand jury or charged Denney before Jan. 22.

"But there is no evidence of bad faith, a pattern of neglect, or something more than an isolated incident that resulted from a number of unfortunate factors," they wrote in a court filing.

Denney is scheduled to be sentenced on June 9.

More than 760 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the Capitol riot. Over 230 riot defendants have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanors, and at least 127 of them have been sentenced. Approximately 100 others have trial dates.

During Denney's March hearing, Faruqui questioned whether the Justice Department "has bitten off more than they can chew" with its Capitol riot prosecutions.

"The government here has chosen to charge the largest case ever. If they do not have the resources to manage doing something of that magnitude, they ought not do that, because you cannot charge cases if you can't follow through with them," he said.

Former Marshall Student Athlete Creates Distinct Clothing Brand



Kyron Taylor founded the Foreigner brand after serving as a student athlete. Photo Courtesy of Sholten



By **SEMONI WEAVER**

REPORTER | WEAVER161@MARSHALL.EDU

From student athlete to student entrepreneur, Kyron Taylor had a vision for his clothing brand and decided to bring it to life.

Taylor never felt like he fit into the boundaries of society and wanted to create a platform that would speak for people who felt the same. Taylor attended Marshall University from 2017 to 2020 as an athlete on the Marshall football team. While serving Marshall as an athlete on the field, Taylor acquired a bachelor's degree in Business Marketing.

Taylor founded Foreigner Clothing LLC in February of 2020; however, he did not officially announce his

role as CEO of the company until early last July. This was a decision that was made following the change in NCAA rules, allowing college athletes to be paid for their prominence and artistry.

Although there was no face attached to the work, Taylor had countless teammates and close friends that modeled for Foreigner Clothing and helped with the promotion of the brand. Some of these models include current Marshall students Kyrah Williams and Jamal Walker, as well as Brendon Knox, Kansas City Chiefs running back and Marshall football alum.

"I was cordially invited by Foreigner to model their upcoming fall/winter collection for 2021 with

my close friend Kyrah," Walker said.

Foreigner is a luxury brand that brings a new meaning to each and every unique individual, their mission is to encourage every person to stand out. This past October, Foreigner Clothing launched a fall fashion collection titled: "Outsiders." The collection was inspired to be for people who are not afraid of living outside of social norms.

"The idea of being a foreigner is to accept that you are different in your own way," Taylor said.

Foreigner Clothing recently celebrated its two-year anniversary of business on Feb. 23.



Fact-Check: Congress Did NOT Vote to Raise Its Salaries

CLAIM: Members of Congress gave themselves a 21% pay raise in early March.


THE FACTS: Social media users are misrepresenting a government spending bill that increased funding for legislative office budgets — which members of Congress use to hire and pay staff and cover other official expenses — not lawmakers' salaries. Congress on March 10 approved the bipartisan \$1.5 trillion government spending bill, financing federal agencies through the rest of the fiscal year and providing \$13.6 billion to help Ukraine amid Russia's invasion. After President Joe Biden signed the bill into law, many social media users began falsely claiming it included a 21% pay bump for federal lawmakers. "Congress gave themselves a 21% raise," read a widely shared tweet. "They need an extra 30+ grand a year

but they won't raise minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour?" But the bill doesn't at all change Congress members' salaries, which have stayed the same at \$174,000 a year since 2009, according to a report from the Congressional Research Service. A summary of the bill from Republicans on the Senate Appropriations Committee says the bill prevents "any pay increases in FY22" for members of Congress. Instead, the bill includes \$774.4 million for the Members Representational Allowance, a budget that allows every House member to hire and pay legislative staff and manage other official expenses. That \$774.4 million number is \$134.4 million higher, or 21% more, than the fiscal year 2021 budget provided for the same purpose, according to a report from the House Appropriations Committee. The House Ethics Committee explains on its website that members of Congress may only use the

Members Representational Allowance budget for "ordinary and necessary expenses" incurred as part of a member's official duties. "The MRA may not be used to pay for any expenses related to activities or events that are primarily social in nature, personal expenses, campaign or political expenses, or House committee expenses," the committee's website says. Top Democrats in the House said the higher MRA funding will help lawmakers recruit and retain staff who have been leaving for more competitive opportunities. About 1 in 8 Washington-based congressional staffers made less than a living wage in 2020, according to an analysis of salary data by Issue One, a bipartisan advocacy group.

— Associated Press writer Ali Swenson in New York contributed this report.

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12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

Confessions
Saturday 8:25 am
Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm
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Campus Ministries Soothe, Rally Students Shaken Over Ukraine



Michael Lowe Piano, left, helps Oksana Hryvinska with a pin symbolizing support for the Ukrainian people during a benefit concert at Yale's St. Thomas More chapel

Photos by Jessie Wardarski

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO, GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO AND MARIAM FAM**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entering Yale University's St. Thomas More Catholic chapel, Oksana Goroshchuk spotted sunflowers adorning a candlelit altar and thought of the fields full of her country's national blossom near her grandmother's home in Ukraine.

A mezzo-soprano launched into a traditional folk tune that Goroshchuk used to sing growing up, and the postdoctoral medical researcher broke down in tears of grief — and gratitude for the university community's solidarity with her homeland.

"It's people who support us and people who love us," said Goroshchuk, 32, who was born in Kyiv and whose parents recently escaped the war-torn country.

Across the United States, campus ministries of different denominations are working to bring comfort to college students who, after two years of pandemic disruption and isolation, have been plunged deeper into feelings

of crisis and helplessness by the war in Ukraine.

From Ivy League schools to public institutions to Catholic universities, they're holding prayer vigils, organizing medical supply drives and staging emotional performances of sacred music. Chaplains say religious and nonreligious students alike, especially those with loved ones in war zones, urgently need a sense of community to help them cope.

"One of the best things we do in campus ministry is we foster community," said Lisa Reiter, director of campus ministry at Loyola University Chicago.

At the Wednesday night peace concert and benefit at Yale, dozens of attendees gazed quietly at an image of a crucified Jesus Christ holding a dove, backlit by the blue and yellow of Ukraine's flag. Cello suites, organ pieces, classical violin and piano melodies and a Ukrainian Orthodox chant echoed through the chapel.

"There's this mass movement by Russia to take away lives of Ukrainians. But they can't take away the culture, and they can't take away the language or the song," said Sofiya Bidochko, a 19-year-old Yale student from Lviv, Ukraine. "I feel the importance of preserving my Ukrainian-ness when I hear these songs."

To the north at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, the campus' Hillel organization recently welcomed several Ukrainian students to a Shabbat dinner, where they supped on matzo ball soup and deli sandwiches. The Jewish group's members listened to their guests talk about their homes and families and promised to support them.

"It was just nice to have this bit of community," said Yevheniia, a 20-year-old student who came to the dinner even though she was baptized Orthodox Christian and considers herself agnostic.

She asked that her last name be

withheld to protect her parents — they live in an area in eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists and recently messaged her to say they were going to a bomb shelter.

Also this month, at the University of Rhode Island, an interfaith peace vigil drew people from Christian, Muslim, Jewish and other faiths together in prayer. A Buddhist chaplain struck a Tibetan singing bowl to mark a moment of silence for those suffering and killed in Ukraine.

Organizers stressed the importance of not only making divine appeals but carrying out concrete, earthly action, and provided resources for students to do so.

"Prayer alone is not enough," said Amy Olson, chair of the university's Chaplains Association and executive director of its Hillel group. "We really put an emphasis on ways that people could either make charitable donations or contribute funds to help

the cause, how they could write to their politicians or offer support to the Ukrainian community locally."

A similar solidarity vigil was held at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. And at Loyola University Chicago, the campus ministry partnered with the newly re-created Ukrainian student club to stage a drive that collected 60 tons of medical supplies for war relief.

Campus ministers at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota, have been collecting money for humanitarian aid at religious services and say some \$700 was put in collection baskets at Ash Wednesday Masses alone. A kiosk has also been set up with a scannable QR code for online donations.