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The Parthenon, November 30, 2022

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USA Today Article Reveals MU Title IX Failings



Marshall students gathered outside the Memorial Student Center to protest after the USA Today article detailing sexual assault on campus was published.

Photo by Taylor Isaac

By ALIA E. DASTAGIR
USA TODAY

The remembering is sharp – every detail, each decision, the cleaving of her life.

Alicia Gonzales remembers sitting on the bed in her dorm room at Marshall University. She remembers what she wore – sweatpants and a long-sleeved shirt, no make-up, hair fastened in a French braid. It was approaching afternoon. She didn't want to be alone with him, but the friend who was with her left, so she was alone with him.

She remembers the way she tensed when he began to talk about his body count. He'd had sex with 16 people, he told her. She remembers all the excuses she made, initially plausible, increasingly

desperate – the door's unlocked, my roommate will be home soon, in my religion we don't have sex on Mondays.

When she pointed out someone could walk in, he got up and deadbolted the door. That's when she knew, when the voice inside her said, "You're going to get raped."

Her perpetrator, fellow Marshall student Joseph Chase Hardin, was more than 6 feet tall and 250 pounds, and he was aggressive and undeterred – by her "nos," by her nails across his flesh, by every effort she made to get away.

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Editor's Note: This story was originally published by USA Today and provides context for the Title IX changes that have been made since its publishing.

Parthenon Seniors Prepare for Graduation



Executive Editor Tyler Spence



Staff Reporter Bella Robinson

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Continued from front

Lawyers would later tell her she should have screamed louder, but it was difficult with his hands around her neck. Afterward, blood dripped down her leg, stained the comforter, trailed to the bathroom, colored the toilet.

“He just stood up like everything was fine,” she said. “He literally walked to my sink. He cleaned himself off. He had blood and everything all over him. He had scratches all over him. He cleans himself off, puts his clothes on, and he comes up to me.

“And the very last thing he ever said to me was, ‘17.’”

When he left, Gonzales did what women are taught to do, the things that can feel impossible to do. She preserved the moment and preserved her body. She sent a group text to her two closest friends, told them something bad had happened and they needed to come right away.

Her friends arrived like detectives, bagging evidence, taking pictures. They told Gonzales it was time to go to the hospital. They helped her back into her original clothes and packed extra ones. They grabbed a male friend as an escort.

The nurses administered a rape kit, swabbing every inch of her, which felt like a re-violation. The police came, but Gonzales said she couldn’t speak. The next morning, on Feb. 2, 2016, Gonzales walked with her friends to the Marshall University Police Department and filed an official report. The police informed Lisa Martin, the school’s director of student conduct.

What came next, according to Gonzales and the lawyers who would represent her in her civil suit against the university, was a litany of decisions that demonstrated Marshall’s carelessness toward Gonzales – her rape, her trauma, her education. It is a case study into how, five decades after the

passage of the landmark Title IX law banning sex discrimination in education, schools continue to fail women.

“The one person I had on my side literally gave up on me,” Gonzales said.

USA TODAY’s “Title IX: Falling short at 50” exposes how top U.S. colleges and universities still fail to live up to the landmark law that bans sexual discrimination in education. Title IX, which turned 50 this summer, requires equity across a broad range of areas in academics and athletics. Despite tremendous gains during the past five decades, many colleges and universities fall short, leaving women struggling for equal footing.

In the U.S., 1 in 5 college women report being sexually assaulted during their time at school, and the trauma of these violations ripples across their education. Some have trouble attending classes and see their grades drop, others take long leaves of absence to heal or avoid their perpetrators. Some transfer or quit school altogether.

Title IX was supposed to address that. In addition to mandating equity in academics and athletics, the federal government also requires schools crack down on sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education in 2011 crystallized that mandate: Schools must designate Title IX coordinators. They must immediately investigate allegations

of rape, stalking and dating violence. They must offer accommodations to victims and levy sanctions on perpetrators. They must ensure that students feel safe on campus and can obtain an education free from gender-based harassment or violence.

With Hardin, Marshall followed the letter of the law but missed the spirit. By the time the school finally expelled Hardin for sexual misconduct, Gonzales had transferred to another university, and two additional students accused him of rape.

Accountability came too late.

Things didn’t go south for Gonzales right away. Initially, school officials seemed to want to help her.

Court documents show Martin met with Gonzales in her office on February 8, 2016, and Gonzales said that’s when she told her in detail what had happened. Gonzales remembers the blinds were drawn, which felt fitting. Martin, who at the time was head of student conduct and also conducted Title IX investigations, was empathetic. Gonzales felt reassured and validated.

But, Gonzales said, as the Title IX process wore on, she felt as though the no-contact order wasn’t being enforced. Gonzales said Hardin had stood outside the learning research center where she worked, which she felt was taunting. A graduate assistant in the office of student conduct told Martin he had witnessed Hardin exiting a residence hall, where he was forbidden, according to court documents.

Gonzales said Hardin posted a picture of himself and some of their mutual friends on social media, wearing her headband at a basketball game, which she realized he had stolen from her room the day of the rape. Gonzales said she would report each incident to Martin, who would tell her

“we’ll investigate,” but nothing would happen.

Five weeks after filing her initial report with campus police, Martin found Hardin had violated the school’s sexual misconduct policy and recommended he be expelled.

Hardin appealed and, per school policy, was allowed to remain on campus.

Hardin hired two private attorneys, and Gonzales said she was in a meeting with Martin and her mother in late April when she asked Martin if she needed a lawyer, too. She said Martin replied, “No, I’m going to represent her.” According to court documents, Martin says she informed Gonzales of her right to an attorney.

“He had blood and everything all over him. He had scratches all over him,” Gonzales said.

Gonzales said Hardin’s lawyers seemed to shift the process in his favor. Gonzales said as she was leaving class one day, walking past the Memorial Fountain in the heart of Marshall’s campus, Martin called her, panicked, and asked her to delete all their correspondence. When Gonzales asked why, she said Martin told her Hardin’s attorneys were coming after her, and she feared losing her job.

“I would never forget that,” Gonzales said. “The one person I had on my side literally gave up on me.”

USA TODAY requested an interview with Martin, but she directed USA TODAY to Marshall’s communications department, which

would not answer specific questions about Gonzales’ case.

Sociologist Jacqueline Cruz, who studies how university administrators experience creating and implementing Title IX policies, approaches her work with the belief that people in Title IX roles are well-meaning. All administrators she has interviewed said they cared deeply about their students and about equity, and many said they resented media characterizations that suggested they are apathetic to both.

What Cruz found was that administrators are fearful of being seen as biased and terrified of media attention or bad press. Some expressed pressure to maintain “institutional reputation,” and many told her there is intense pressure to be neutral. This means when an administrator hears an account of sexual violence, they feel as though they can’t fully empathize with a complainant. They feel a need to be empathetic toward the accused, too, even when the evidence against them was overwhelming.

Administrators Cruz interviewed told her “I’m a neutral party.” A more productive statement, she said, would be to state, “I’m here to stop sexual violence.”

“I don’t think you can be neutral about sexual violence. If we have laws that are there to end discrimination, then by definition, they’re not neutral,” she said.

In the spring of 2016, Gonzales was scared, traumatized and struggling in her classes. Hardin rescheduled his appeal hearing at least four times, which prolonged the process.

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Ultimately, it was scheduled for a Wednesday in May, the only day of the week Gonzales said she could not do. At 8:00 a.m. the next morning, she had an anatomy final.

During the hearing, the school permitted Hardin's two attorneys to aggressively cross-examine her. Gonzales did not have a lawyer present. Gonzales remembers Hardin's lawyers claiming her blood was not from sexual trauma, but from her period. They asked her how old she was when she first started menstruating. They asked her how many sexual partners she had had.

At one point, when his lawyers were discussing her assault, she could hear Hardin mutter under his breath, "You wish that happened."

According to court documents, Hardin's counsel claimed there was no physical evidence, which was untrue. Physical evidence, according to Gonzales' lawyer Amy Crossan, included Gonzales' rape kit, bedding, clothes, and a picture of her bloodied toilet. But this evidence was not used during the hearing, according to Marshall, due to the ongoing criminal case against Hardin, who had been charged with second-degree sexual assault.

The majority of sexual assaults are never reported to police, but Title IX legal experts say in cases where a police report is filed and physical evidence exists, it's typical for police to withhold that evidence until the criminal process is complete. It's also common for schools to delay their Title IX investigations until the police give them the green light.

Tensions between the Title IX process and the criminal process reflect both a desire for universities to offload sexual assault issues to law enforcement, as well as a misconception among universities

that they must defer to the police, said Emily Martin, vice president for education and workplace justice at the National Women's Law Center.

"(There) is a deep cultural confusion right now, which I think is feeding this idea that the police go first, that's the police's job, really, and the school can't do anything until the police have done their work," she said. "The Title IX process can and should proceed concurrently with the criminal process."

After her testimony, Gonzales, who was distraught, waited in another room. Eventually, she heard people filing out. Then, in a scene she likened to Bender's iconic fist pump at the end of "The Breakfast Club," she says she saw Hardin bounce down the hall and raise his fist triumphantly as his friends laughed and clapped.

Hardin had won his appeal. His finding of responsibility, as well as his expulsion, were overturned.

Gonzales said Lisa Martin was crying when she found her.

"I'm so sorry," Gonzales recalled her saying.

Gonzales got a D on her final.

'He's just going to do it again'

The hearing wasn't the end. The university and Hardin would continue to go back and forth on his fate, while Gonzales struggled to stay afloat.

Despite the decision reached at the hearing, court documents show that afterward Carla Lapelle, the interim dean of student affairs, recommended to then-Marshall President Jerome Gilbert that Hardin be suspended from campus until the outcome of his criminal case. Gilbert accepted that recommendation and Hardin was told he could attend classes online instead. But this was unsatisfactory to Gonzales. Since Hardin's future at Marshall remained unclear, Gonzales and her family decided she could

not safely continue her education at Marshall. Gonzales transferred, and that fall began her freshman year again, at a university in Pennsylvania.

On January 11, 2017 – nearly one year after the incident – Hardin took a plea deal that reduced his felony sexual assault charge to a misdemeanor battery charge. Hardin asked Marshall to be reinstated, and Title IX Coordinator Debra Hart granted Hardin's request. She reasoned that because he was convicted of battery – instead of sexual misconduct – and needed to be on campus to finish his degree, he should return. She also determined that his presence would not upset Gonzales since she had transferred and was no longer on campus. Hart granted his request to return, with restrictions.

Gonzales was enraged. She saw the school putting the educational needs of Hardin above the safety of its own student body.

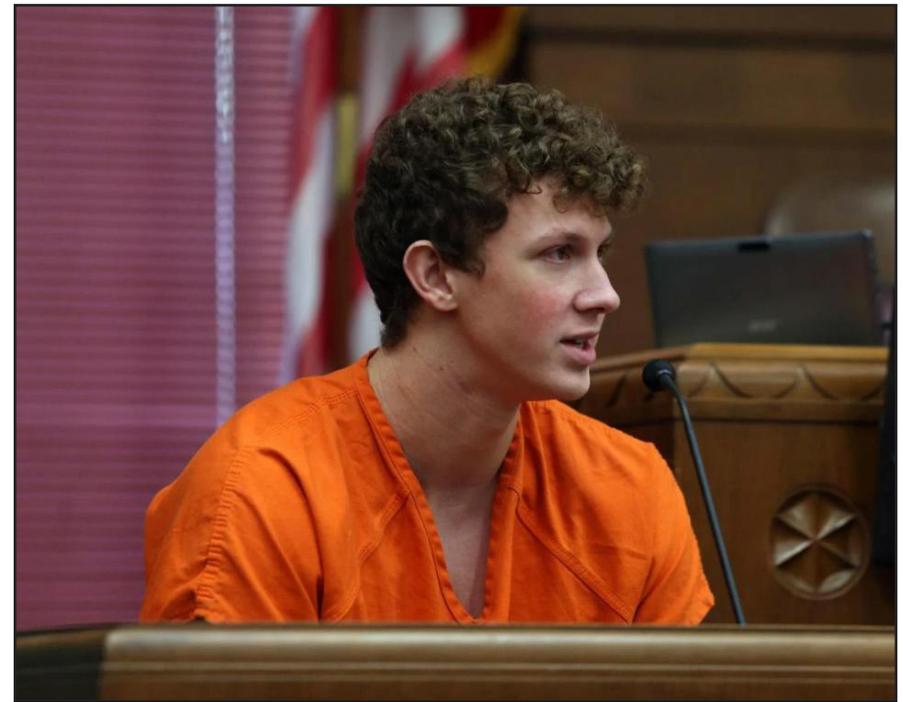
"I remember saying out loud, 'he's just going to do it again,'" she said.

Gonzales filed a civil lawsuit against the school one year later, alleging officials demonstrated "deliberate indifference" in deviating significantly from the standard of care outlined by Title IX.

She lost the case, which her lawyer Amy Crossan said reflects the high burden students face in holding universities accountable for Title IX violations.

U.S. District Court of West Virginia Judge Robert Chambers ruled that Gonzales did not establish that Marshall was deliberately indifferent to her harassment.

Among Marshall students,



Chase Hardin at the Cabell County Courthouse.

Photo courtesy of the Herald Dispatch

Gonzales' story is notorious, held up as an example of the school's mistreatment of survivors of sexual assault, not only because it refused to expel Hardin, but because in the absence of any meaningful discipline, less than two years later he raped again.

'When it was over, he was like, "OK, well I got to get home." Just like it was completely normal'

Ripley Haney met Hardin at the Baptist Campus Ministry the first semester of her freshman year in 2018.

Haney said Hardin had a girlfriend he was dating on and off. Hardin and Haney would text and flirt, but little else. One time, when he was "off" with his girlfriend, they went to a park with their Bibles and kissed.

Hardin told Haney he wanted to explain everything, told her Gonzales was crazy, that she had accused him of rape because he wouldn't take her to the winter formal. Haney thought she was doing the right thing, giving him

the benefit of the doubt.

Haney told Hardin she was a virgin and that it was important she remained one until marriage. On October 7, 2018, Haney and Hardin planned to meet in a park, but Hardin suggested they head to the Huntington Museum of Art, which is located on a secluded hill. Haney agreed, parking underneath a light post in the main lot, but Hardin suggested she park around back, so she moved her car.

They kissed, and she was comfortable with that. They had oral sex, and she was comfortable with that, too. But then he tried to have vaginal intercourse. She was not OK with that, and she told him. He ignored her, so she kept telling him, and physically stopped him. Then he raped her anally.

She estimates she told him no 50 times.

"When it was over, he was like, 'OK, well I got to get home.' Just like it was completely normal," she said.

To read the full story, visit marshallparthenon.com

Protestors Spark Change in Marshall's Title IX Program

By **TAYLOR ISAAC**
STUDENT REPORTER

After a student-led protest on Friday morning, Nov. 18, Marshall University plans to work with the student body on restructuring the Title IX system to address student concerns.

The protest came three days after USA Today published an article describing the experience of two Marshall students going through the Title IX process at the university.

This article was a part of USA Today's series highlighting the failings of collegiate Title IX programs.

The article highlighted Joseph "Chase" Hardin, who was convicted of raping fellow Marshall student Alicia Gonzales in 2016. He was allowed to remain on campus through appeals despite Marshall officials recommending his expulsion. Hardin went on to rape a second student, Ripley Haney, in 2018. He was convicted of two counts of

second-degree sexual assault in 2020.

Marshall "followed the letter of the law but missed the spirit" of Title IX, USA Today's article wrote. President Brad D. Smith addressed this critique in an email to the university on Thursday, Nov 17.

"Since the time of the 2018 case, Marshall took multiple steps to strengthen its policies and procedures," Smith wrote. "A task force was convened, the Board of Governors policy on Discrimination,

Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual & Domestic Misconduct, Stalking, and Retaliation was updated, and new Administrative Procedures were developed to better address and adjudicate these issues."

"I love Marshall University," Bex Law, a second-year journalism student who organized the protest, said, "but part of loving something is accountability."

Law said her intention in organizing the protest was to

advocate for reforming Marshall's Title IX Office by bringing attention to the experiences of victims of rape, sexual assault and stalking on Marshall's campus. Students, staff and community members arrived at 11 a.m. outside of Old Main to show their support.

**Story continued
on Next Page**



Students gathered on Marshall's campus on Friday, Nov. 18, to protest against the university's Title IX office.



Photos by Taylor Isaac



Story continued from Page 4

Smith invited the protestors into a group meeting with him and other university officials to discuss their concerns, questions and the next steps that Marshall will take to improve its Title IX program.

“We need to have trust that you are in a safe environment and, should you ever feel anything less than safe, that you should understand the process,” Smith said during the meeting. “You should know that people are here to advocate on your behalf and that you are protected until you feel comfortable. And so, if that does not exist—if that has not existed—you hear from me directly that I apologize on behalf of our university.”

Law alongside the other protestors advocated for clearer Title IX processes and changes including transparent communication across all university platforms, priority scheduled counseling for victims and stricter no-contact sanctions against alleged abusers.

“I have friends who are in classes

with people who assaulted them or who assaulted their close friends or who are known to stalk people,” Law said in response to Smith. “The energy around the situation is, ‘Well, we’re a small school. It’s unavoidable.’ That simply isn’t true. It is avoidable. Regardless of the size of our campus, no one should be forced into these situations.”

After more discussion, Law informed Smith that the protest was the first of many plans the group had to spark conversation about safety on campus. Smith commended her efforts by thanking Law and the protestors for their actions.

“I think it’s important for us to all make sure our voices are heard and to address issues that are important to everyone on this campus, and that is what you are doing,” Smith said.

After the meeting, the protestors prepared their signs and marched through the snow from Old Main to the Memorial Student Center. Rallying around the fountain, survivors and supporters began sharing their stories of how Marshall’s Title IX Office left

them feeling scared, angered and upset.

“It takes time to build up trust,” Sam Green, a student protestor, said. “I think there is a lot that needs to be changed and I know we are going to continue our conversations with President Smith until that trust is rebuilt.”

In the hours after the protest, Smith addressed the university in a second email with his reflections. Top priorities for the university are restructuring Title IX’s website and gathering input via a student-led task force, according to Smith.

“I have also come to believe we need a task force of students to review the most recent changes to our Title IX policies and to explore additional ways of informing, educating, and protecting students on campus,” Smith wrote. “This will require input from many of you. I will ask the leaders of the group I met with today to identify 4-5 students who could serve on the task force. We will also engage students from other groups across our campuses to ensure all voices are heard.”

University President Responds to Title IX Protest in Official Statement

By **BRAD D. SMITH**
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Earlier today (Nov. 18, 2022), a group of more than two dozen students met with me to discuss concerns about Marshall’s Title IX Office and other parallel campus issues. The meeting was cordial, and the dialogue was frank and enlightening. I want to thank those students for their engagement and desire to improve our university.

Marshall has taken multiple steps to strengthen its Title IX policies and procedures since 2018, and we continue to make changes. Unfortunately, we have not adequately involved you in the process. During our talk, many students said they felt unheard by the administration. Some of them felt disconnected, ignored and disenfranchised. Let me say unequivocally that I hear you. I see you. I am committed to improving our campus culture and to working closely with the Marshall community to strengthen our practices directly associated with Title IX.

During today’s discussion, I became keenly aware of several concerns I feel the need to address immediately. The first is an apology. On behalf of Marshall University, I am sorry that some of our students have felt unsafe on our campus. Please know that our primary goal is the safety of our

students. We must and will address this concern immediately.

Additional feedback I received is that Marshall’s Title IX website needs work. I have directed my administrative staff to explore best practices for Title IX college websites and make immediate updates to Marshall’s site. We want the process of reporting an allegation to be simple, and for students to understand the process.

I have also come to believe we need a task force of students to review the most recent changes to our Title IX policies and to explore additional ways of informing, educating and protecting students on campus. This will require input from many of you. I will ask the leaders of the group I met with today to identify four to five students who could serve on the task force. We will also engage students from other groups across our campuses to ensure all voices are heard. This type of dialogue is not always easy, but it is necessary to understand each other and grow together. I look forward to these discussions.

As you leave for Thanksgiving break, let me wish you safe travels and a restful holiday with family and friends. I am honored to serve alongside you.

Marshall Wins Its Final Regular Season Game Against Georgia State



Marshall defender tackling Georgia State player.

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**
SPORTS EDITOR

The Herd defeated Georgia State 28-23 in their final regular season game.

Georgia State would strike first with a Tucker Gregg three-yard run, putting the Panthers up 7-0 with 11:57 remaining in the first quarter.

It wouldn't be until the 7:47 mark of the second quarter that more points got on the board. Georgia State's Michael Hayes nailed a 39-yarder to make the score 10-0 Panthers.

Marshall responded with an 83-yard touchdown run from Khalan Laborn, making the score 10-7.

Then with 1:25 remaining until halftime, Cam Fancher found Rasheen Ali for a five-yard touchdown pass, giving Marshall the lead 14-10. It would be Ali's first touchdown of the season.

After halftime, Georgia State responded with a 12-

yard touchdown pass. Darren Grainger found Jamari Thrash for the score, and the Panthers would retake the lead, making it 17-14.

Later in the fourth quarter, with 10:09 remaining, Marshall responded when Fancher found Charles Montgomery for a 32-yard touchdown pass, as the Herd retook the lead, making it 21-17.

Marshall added to the lead with a one-yard touchdown run by Laborn, making it 28-17.

Georgia State would answer with 3:45 remaining in the contest with a two-yard touchdown run by Marcus Carroll. They would fail the two-point conversion, though, making it 28-23, which would be the final score.

Next, Marshall awaits the announcement of its bowl and opponent.

Women's Basketball Falls at Home to Duquesne

By **JOHNATHAN EDWARDS**
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall women's basketball fell to a 3-3 record on Sunday after suffering a loss to Duquesne at home.

The Cam Henderson Center played host to Sunday's matchup, with the visiting Dukes of Duquesne taking charge early and clinging onto the lead throughout the game. Jumping out to a 19-10 lead over the hometown Herd, the Dukes put the pressure on early.

Marshall performed better in the second quarter but trailed by 13 at the half.

Coming into the third quarter, Marshall needed a spark. Luckily, the team matched the Dukes blow-for-blow for most of the quarter, keeping a chance of a comeback in reach as the Herd head into the final quarter. The rally was on, with Marshall's offense lighting up the net in the fourth quarter.

Despite their final effort, outscoring Duquesne 27-17 in the last leg of the game wasn't enough to complete the crawl back to victory. The fourth quarter made the score much closer

than the competition would have shown. A dominant performance by the visitors put out a fiery rally by the Herd.

Statistically, Marshall's efforts were spearheaded by the two-woman duo Roshala Scott and Abby Beeman. The two stars scored 23 points each, making up 46 of Marshall's 72 points. The 77-72 loss drops Marshall to a record of 3-3, with the team back in action this Sunday, Dec. 4, against Davis and Elkins.

Men's Soccer Loses in Sweet Sixteen to Indiana

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall lost to Indiana by a final score of 1-0 in the third round of the NCAA tournament Sunday evening.

Chris Grassie, Herd men's soccer head coach, said his squad needed to pressure the Hoosiers more than they did.

"We gave up a little too much at the beginning of the game," he said. "We

needed to get a little more pressure to their backline because they were playing behind us and looking for flick-ons. I thought we gave up too much territory. Then, as a result, corners from that."

Senior Joao Souza had three shot attempts, but all were off target.

Brett Bebej of Indiana scored the game's only goal in the 46th minute.

Graduate goalkeeper Oliver Semmler had five saves in the game.

Indiana had six shots on goal compared to Marshall's two.

Marshall finishes the season 11-4-4.

Grant Traylor Announced as Marshall's Associate Athletic Director of Communications

By CHAYCE MATHENY
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall has announced that Grant Traylor, a 2005 Marshall alum, will leave his role as the current sports director of the Herald-Dispatch and will serve as the associate athletic director of communications starting in December 2022.

He will oversee media relations and strategic communications for the athletic department to build

the university's brand locally and nationally.

Athletic Director Christian Spears said he will be vital in building Marshall's brand.

"Grant will absolutely help us tell the story of Marshall Athletics," he said. "He will embrace the role and connect our brand meaningfully, both regionally and nationally, as

our university and athletic programs continue to compete at the highest level."

Traylor will also work with the sports information office and the marketing department to augment HerdZone.com, the Marshall athletics website.

He has spent the last 15 years with the Herald-Dispatch in many roles, including sports director, sports editor

and Marshall athletics beat writer.

Traylor said he is honored by the opportunity.

"President Brad D. Smith and Director of Athletics Christian Spears have injected new energy into Marshall University, and its athletics programs as the university begins its journey in the Sun Belt Conference," he said. "Marshall's connection with

the community has always been unparalleled due to its storied history, and I'm excited and honored for the opportunity to help preserve the message of that history while also helping to build Marshall's brand as it writes its next chapter in the Sun Belt Conference."

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Farewell, Parthenon: Lessons I've Learned

By **TYLER SPENCE**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I have not known a life without The Parthenon for the past two years.

Many editors upon their departure from this institution often reflect on the days spent in the newsroom and the long hours spent working on producing a newspaper worth reading.

Although that work is valuable,

and I believe I have done my fair share of it, I would much rather focus on the people and lessons I have learned from my time at Marshall's School of Journalism and The Parthenon.

I am honored to say that I was the editor of this paper. I believe the editors long before my time here would agree it is a responsibility and a privilege to have served in this role.

Although many around campus

simply know me as "Mr. Parthenon," this institution cannot be so simply intertwined with one individual. Many editors and reporters long before my time at Marshall have laid the groundwork so that I could step in to help carry that essential work and tradition forward.

This legacy, combined with those who are currently working in this capacity, is the real collective effort that should be celebrated.

Simply put, I have a great team.

Without this team, nothing happens. Stories wouldn't be written, pictures wouldn't be taken and my spelling mistakes wouldn't be caught. This process has significantly less to do with me and much more to do with this team.

To my copy editors: Emma, Madison, Rafael and Scott - thank you for helping me write better than I do.

To Charlie and Sandy, thank you for your encouragement and belief in me and this paper and your advice.

To Dan, thank you for having high standards and expectations for my work and the paper, and for pushing me to get there.

To the many reporters and editors whom I leave behind: I am absolutely confident that I am leaving The Parthenon in strong hands. I hope The Parthenon gives you as much as it has to me over the years. The Parthenon has given me great friends and a

platform to learn and grow which I will be forever grateful for, and I hope you receive the same.

To those who are still here and to those who will be at The Parthenon in the future: enjoy your time here and learn as much as you can.

One of my favorite past times is flipping through editions of The Parthenon from different decades. Not only are these papers a time capsule of what our university was like years ago, but they can inspire you for your next great story. Learning from those before you is

the easiest way to get a leg up. We are only here for a short time, but the information you have access to with those who have been here before is far greater than what you could learn on your own.

I wish you all the best success in everything you do. I'm sure one day we will meet again, and I can't wait to hear how you outdid me.

Tyler Spence served as executive editor, managing editor, opinions editor and student reporter throughout his time at The Parthenon.

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.

Tyler Spence - Executive Editor
Evan Green - Managing Editor
Conner Woodruff - News Editor
Chayce Matheny - Sports Editor
Victoria Ware - Features Editor
Shauntelle Thompson - Photo and Graphics Editor
Rafael Alfonso - Chief Copy Editor
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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.



The Friends I've Made in The Parthenon Are Forever



By **ISABELLA ROBINSON**
STAFF REPORTER

I wanted to become a YouTuber when I came to the journalism school in 2019 as a freshman. I tried to find myself deep in the glitz and glamor I romanticized this career to be. Red carpet events, press conferences, the

Academy Awards - I was going to be there in full makeup and a microphone in my hand addressing millions. A small fraction of them would be young girls like I once was, watching a television news reporter dreaming of also making it on screen one day. All this, despite a performing arts career on hiatus in

pursuit of becoming a distinguished academic, when I decided to make the most of my time in college. On my second tour of Marshall with my mother, we focused on the journalism program, as I had decided I felt destined for greatness, and this seemed to be the program most likely to gain me the stardom I sought. I met those who would become my future professors, dean and advisor and saw all the “stages” I would one day embrace as my classrooms, such as the television news station and the newsroom.

The meaning of the classroom extends far beyond a physical setting. I learned about life, friendship, perseverance, resourcefulness, compassion, empathy and dedication in an environment so nurturing yet challenging in ways I could not prepare myself for before. Many quotes are said about various professions, like nursing and teaching, such as “it takes someone special” and “you must have a patient and caring heart to do that.” One thing I wish people outside of this profession knew about journalists is that it takes someone extraordinary to study journalism and choose to do this job in which, to succeed, you must be soft yet strong and as adaptable as a chameleon.

I came into this major wanting to be a star, but a lesson I learned working for The Parthenon and learning to be a journalist is that the most important stage is the one you build yourself. It is the stage you create to showcase a story beyond yourself, a story that tells the tale of human history: of love, of conflict, of loss, of life, of elections and the newest film rising in cinema. It leaves a record of our time on this planet and what we did while we were here. Journalists are artists, and the world is our canvas. The pen, the laptop, the

camera, whatever the “brush” may be, yields so much power. Doing good work can change the world forever; the opposite is also true.

I have been blessed to be alongside actual stars when I started journalism school. Some of the most talented designers, writers and public speakers have sat next to me in class. As semesters passed and I watched my peers and I become increasingly comfortable reporting on more complex issues, experimenting with investigative reporting and writing about “difficult” or buzzing issues on campus, I watched the culture at the paper change. I discovered that good work comes when you’re passionate about what you are doing, and I watched more people want to be part of this tremendously interesting thing everyone was talking about.

There are so many characters I have met in the field, from being in the lot of the Joan C. Edwards Stadium every game day to covering a hostage situation downtown a few semesters ago, it gets weird, and every day is an adventure. The friends I’ve made at The Parthenon are forever. We are like a fraternity with alums who stay in touch, have social events and lots of group chats. These are the people I spent late nights studying and printing the paper with, talked to every day in class together and found support through the past four years of college.

I watched the paper change so much since I began as a freshman news editor. I joined the staff desperate for students to fill roles and watched it become an unrecognizable booming newsroom with frequent guest contributors, breaking news stories and a dynamic team behind it all. One of my dearest friends, Tyler Spence, deserves praise for The Parthenon becoming, well,

really cool. I thank The Parthenon for bringing me one of my best pals and allowing me to work alongside him because his work continues to inspire me.

If you are fortunate enough to find yourself in journalism classes, I encourage you to step off campus in your coverage and out of your comfort zone. Talk to your classmates. Sit in the front row in every class and ask questions. There are stories to be told and friends to be made around every corner. Join the school paper! So many opportunities are in the basement of Smith Hall, and applying to and becoming an editor of The Parthenon throughout college was one of the best decisions I’ve made during my time here. This newspaper has empowered me to design the newsletters distributed throughout Huntington, interview West Virginia Governor Jim Justice multiple times, travel to the New Orleans Bowl, accept student news awards and even report for CBS Sports Network.

Although my journalism career has been amazing, I am continuing my education this August in law school. Wish me luck! I am so sad it’s over, but being a journalist is a part of my identity. I will always take too many photos, ask too many questions, spend too much time looking at screens and subscribe to The New Yorker for my tote bag. The lessons I have learned reporting for The Parthenon—the lives I’ve touched and those who have touched mine—will forever be with me.

Stay curious.

Bella Robinson served as a staff reporter, news editor and features editor throughout her time at The Parthenon.

Jazz Ensemble Concert Comes to Smith

By **DESTINEY DINGESS**
STUDENT REPORTER

Jazz lovers can expect to hear swing, funk, Latin and many other shades of styles during the MU Jazz Ensemble I concert. The premier large jazz ensemble will perform in the MU Jazz Studies Program tonight, Nov. 30, at the Smith Music Hall in the recital room at 7:30 p.m.

The MU Jazz Studies Program students are performing their second of two on-campus concerts the band performs each semester.

The performance will bring music from important compositions and arrangements from such luminaries like Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Thad Jones and Horace Silver.

“We will present many iconic pieces from these jazz masters,” Jeff Wolfe, director of jazz studies, said. “There are also many contemporary composers/arrangers of large jazz ensemble literature that, in order to offer a comprehensive musical education to students, must also be explored. Since we recently presented the School of Music’s

Holiday Celebration, we wanted to play some tunes of the season that we performed at that event in case folks were unable to attend that show; they can experience them at this concert.”

The performance will feature special guest Dr. Alexander Lee, assistant professor of voice on one tune, which is a collaborative effort between the voice and jazz studies areas in the school of music.

“This music - jazz - is America’s only native art form. If you’ve never experienced it, you owe yourself that opportunity. The music is quite accessible and

has a feeling, energy spirit and connection that can only truly be felt in a live setting,” Wolfe said.

Admission is free and open to all students and locals. The next event where the MU Jazz Ensemble I will be in action is the 54th Marshall University Winter Jazz Festival on Thursday, Feb. 16 through 18, featuring guest artist Dr. Joseph Jefferson, a Joan C. Edwards Distinguished Professor in the Arts.

MU Preps for Commencement

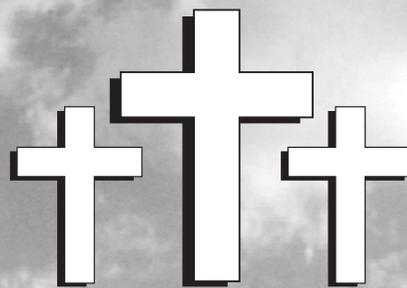
By **MATT SCHAFFER**
STUDENT REPORTER

The 2022 Winter Commencement is set to take place on Dec. 10 to honor graduates as they walk the Mountain Health Arena stage to receive their diplomas.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. with graduating students expected to arrive at 9 a.m. The commencement will recognize all students graduating with bachelor’s, associate’s, education specialist and master’s degrees.

Guest speakers will be announced within the coming week.

Worship Directory



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Corner of Fifth Avenue & 12th Street in downtown Huntington
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:45 am

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OUR LADY OF FATIMA Catholic Parish & Parish School

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Mass Schedule:
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Sunday 8 am, 11:00 am & 6:30 pm

Confession: Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 pm
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www.ourfatimafamily.com
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2015 Adams Ave. Huntington, WV
304-429-4318

Mass Times: Sat. 5:00pm, Sun. 9am,
Confession: Tuesdays 4-5pm
Saturdays 4:15-4:45pm
or anytime by appointment
Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-2pm

Rev. Fr. Thomas

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

HUNTINGTON, WV
526 13th Street
(304) 525-5202

Pastor: Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

Confessions

Saturday 8:25 am
Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm
or by appointment

Supreme Court Turns Away School's Appeal of Virginia Sex-Assault Case

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court won't hear an appeal from a Virginia school board that says it shouldn't be held liable for the alleged sexual assault of a student by a classmate on a band trip.

The court without comment on Monday rejected the appeal from the Fairfax County School Board. The case will now go to trial in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia.

The case turned on whether a school system can be held liable under Title IX for a single alleged assault when there had been no prior notice of a problem. Title IX is the federal law that prevents discrimination on the basis of sex.

The female student who says she was assaulted, identified only as Jane Doe, filed the lawsuit in 2018. She said a male classmate at Oakton High School sexually assaulted her on a school bus during an out-of-state band trip in 2017.

In 2019, after a two-week trial, a civil jury acquitted the school system of wrongdoing. It found that the girl had indeed been assaulted, but it said the school system had not received "actual notice" of the assault.

In 2021, though, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the lawsuit in a 2-1 ruling. The majority opinion said it was clear that the school system had notice of the assault because the girl herself told administrators she'd been touched without her consent. A dissenting opinion, though, concluded that the trial verdict should stand because after-the-fact notice about an isolated, one-time incident afforded no real opportunity for the school district to take preventive action.

The full 4th Circuit then issued a 9-6 en banc opinion affirming that the suit should be reinstated. Judges in the majority said that if school systems can't be held liable for their response to a single incident, it would amount to giving them "one free rape."

Dissenting judges said the majority opinion vastly expands the liability school systems face under Title IX. The school board then sought review from the Supreme Court, which was rejected on Monday. Some progressive groups had criticized the board for pursuing a legal theory that they said would restrict the legal rights of sexual assault victims.

In a statement, one of Jane Doe's lawyers with the Public Justice, a nonprofit public-interest legal group, said the high court was correct to turn the appeal aside.

"What a shame the School Board wasted taxpayer dollars asking the Supreme Court to adopt positions the Fourth Circuit and the Department of Justice have called 'absurd,'" Alexandra Brodsky said. Fairfax County Public Schools said in a statement that the decision "leaves these important legal questions unsettled. Fairfax County Public Schools asked the high court to resolve these uncertainties because Congress never intended for schools to be privately sued for money damages when everyone agrees the harassment could not have been foreseen."

The Supreme Court on Monday also declined to hear an appeal filed by the University of Toledo in a similar case.

When the Virginia retrial goes forward, it will start from scratch, meaning Jane Doe will have to prove again that she was assaulted, and also that the school system had been



The U.S. Supreme Court won't hear an appeal from a Virginia school board that says it shouldn't be held liable for the alleged sexual assault of a student by a classmate on a band trip.

Photo courtesy of AP Photos/
Matthew Barakat

given notice.

Whether Doe was assaulted was disputed at the original trial. The school system argued she was ambivalent about her participation in the conduct and truly became upset only after learning the male student had a girlfriend.

Doe testified that she tried to block the male student's hands from groping her while they huddled under a blanket and that she at one point pulled her hand away from his genitals only to have him grab it and put it back.

She acknowledged that she never

told him "no" and didn't try to get up and walk away. But she was adamant she didn't consent.

"It's pretty simple. I never said 'yes' to him doing any of that to me," she testified.

Marshall's First Women Professionals Symposium



The symposium featured a panel of female professionals from the city of Huntington.

Photo by Lucy Bell

By **LUCY BELL**
STUDENT REPORTER

Many college students are unaware of the career opportunities around them, prompting one university professor to organize a panel of city professionals to share their experiences climbing the ladder.

Dr. Hilary Brewster hosted a panel of female CEOs, business owners and entrepreneurs from the city of Huntington at the first biannual Women Professionals Symposium on

Nov. 15. Alys Smith, the new first lady of Marshall University, moderated the event.

“When I teach Women’s Studies 101, I bring in representatives from different non-profit groups who do work with women,” Brewster said. “And my students will say, ‘I’ve lived here for four years, and I did not know that this was a thing,’ and this is my mini version of providing a solution.”

Brewster, the director of the women’s, gender and sexualities studies department, wanted to find a way for Smith to be involved in the event especially given Smith’s previous work with non-profits.

“I knew that Alys was the kind of person who wanted to be active on campus,” Brewster said. “I know that she cares about women’s issues, especially women’s professional issues,

so I figured this kind of event was a great way to get her involved.”

As this symposium focused more on students with business majors, the panel discussed topics ranging from their experiences working in male-dominated fields to the paths they took to overcome the challenges presented in starting their own companies.

Brewster plans to cycle through the various majors on campus and make

the panels at future events even more inclusive.

“Even though the language that we used to title this event says it’s the Women Professionals Symposium—as an advocate for intersectionality—in the future, I will be seeking out folks who are nonbinary or transgender to serve on these panels,” Brewster said.

Marshall University Final Exam Schedule for 2022 Fall Semester

EXAM HOUR	MONDAY DECEMBER 5	TUESDAY DECEMBER 6	THURSDAY DECEMBER 8	FRIDAY DECEMBER 9
8:00 AM until 10:00 AM	Classes meeting at 8:00 MWF	Classes meeting at 9:30 TR	Classes meeting at 8:00 TR	Classes meeting at 9:00 MWF
10:15 AM until 12:15 PM	Classes meeting at 10:00 MWF	Classes meeting at 11:00 MWF	Classes meeting at 11:00 TR	Classes meeting at 12:00 MWF
12:45 PM until 2:45 PM	Classes meeting at 2:00 or 2:30 MWF	Classes meeting at 12:30 TR	Classes meeting at 2:00 TR	Classes meeting at 1:00 MWF