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Marshall Launches Debt-Free Grad Program

By **CONNER WOODRUFF**
MANAGING EDITOR

An initiative to enable Marshall students to graduate without college debt will begin development next semester, as revealed by University President Brad Smith.

The trial run for Smith's plan, called "Marshall for All, Marshall Forever," will begin in the fall semester with 100 students. The pilot group's experience will focus on financial literacy, career development and

personal growth with the primary goal of getting them to graduation without student loan debt.

"A unique combination of scholarships, grants, work opportunities and family contributions make this an innovative approach to the college experience," Smith said.

The concept for graduating Marshall students without student debt has been a goal of Smith's since he took the position of university president in 2022. Following his 100-day listening tour to field concerns

from all parts of the university, he drafted a 10-year-plan for Marshall titled "Roadmap to Future Prosperity."

According to the Roadmap to Future Prosperity, the long-term goal is to have zero Marshall students with student loan debt by 2032.

This goal comes in part from the finding that one in four Marshall students come from families that earn below the poverty line.

"Marshall serves families who sometimes come from less means,"

Smith said. "In fact, 27% of our students come from households whose family household income is below the poverty line."

Since revealing his plan, Smith has spoken about the University's financial shortcomings, such as the University already being at a \$14 million deficit.

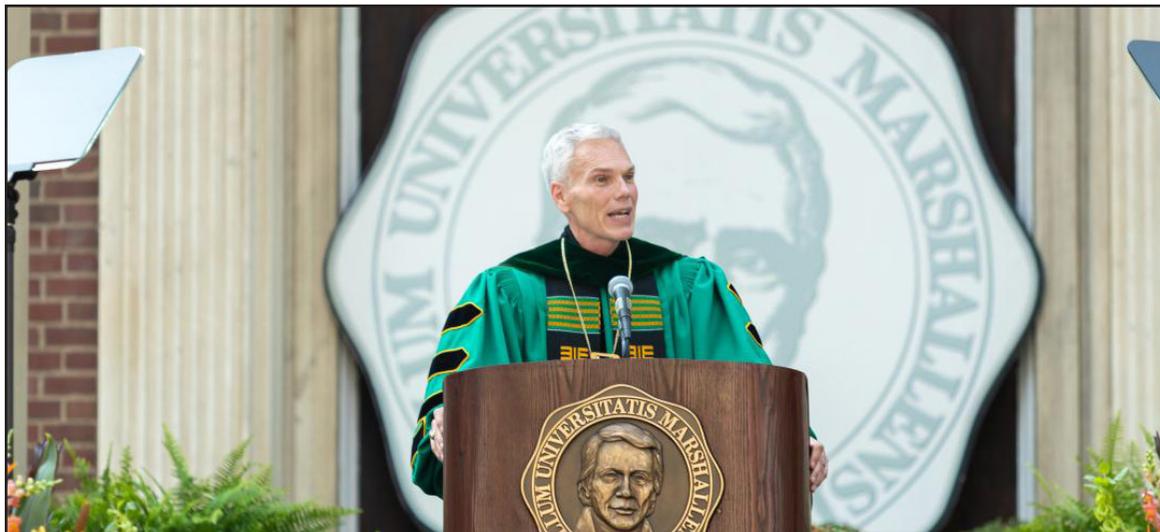
"No money's in the cookie jar," Smith said.

According to the roadmap, Smith plans for fall 2024 the "[d]ebt-load of Marshall students is reduced by

10% per year from 2023 forward."

Among other goals, Smith also plans to combat the nation-wide drop in college enrollment, seeking to increase the retention rate over the next 10 years.

Those interested in learning more can read the Roadmap to Future Prosperity at <https://www.marshall.edu/president/files/Marshall-for-All-Marshall-Forever-FINAL-DRAFT-FOR-DISTRIBUTION.pdf>



President Brad D. Smith spoke during his investiture speech to announce that Marshall would be working toward debt-free graduation.

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

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Judge Denies BOG's Title IX Motion



Student-led protest outside of Old Main against Marshall's Title IX office in November 2022

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
NEWS EDITOR

Citing the University's "incompetently administered" Title IX practices, a federal district judge has denied Marshall's Board of Governors' attempt to strike parts of a sexual assault lawsuit filed by a student last September.

"The University need not act shocked by the allegation that Marshall has continually incompetently administered the program," Judge Robert C. Chambers said in his ruling.

The motion attempted to strike four paragraphs of a 63-paragraph complaint filed by an anonymous 20-year-old Marshall student, referred to as Jane Roe.

"The court notes that this is not counsels' first, second or

third appearance before this Court representing Marshall on allegations of incompetent administration of Title IX," Chambers said.

The lawsuit, which accuses the University's Title IX Office of incompetence, was filed with Charleston-based attorney Ryan Donovan on behalf of the anonymous Marshall student.

"Marshall fails to understand our legal system allows plaintiffs to bring scandalous allegations, as scandalous events do, in fact, occur," the filing said.

The student reported to police on Sept. 3, 2022, that she had been sexually assaulted by an ex-boyfriend and fellow student, which led to the assailant being criminally charged.

drinking by the University and placed on probation.

The sections contested by the Board of Governors were these four paragraphs on the complaint:

"For years, Marshall University's Title IX Office has been a disaster—failing both complainants and respondents through a combination of fear, incompetence, bias and vindictiveness."

"For as long as these matters could be kept quiet, Marshall ignored them. In response to a recent series of high-profile lawsuits and media reports however, Marshall President Brad Smith was forced to issue public statements acknowledging the University's failures, promising to 'restructur[e] the Title IX Office,' and apologizing to Marshall's students."

"Marshall's apology comes too late for Jane Roe."

"Indeed, at the same time Marshall shirked its obligation to respond to sexual violence between its students—what President Smith

refers to as Marshall's 'highest calling'—it decided to punish Jane Roe for truthfully relaying the story of her victimization."

In trying to set the paragraph strike, the Board of Governors argued the allegations were "irrelevant, inadmissible, immaterial, impertinent and scandalous."

The complaint was filed prior to the release of a USA Today article published in November 2022, which drew national attention to Marshall's Title IX failings.

Following the publication, the University implemented multiple changes, including the implementation of attorney and former Title IX investigator Jessica Rhodes in February 2023.

Marshall also followed with the formation of a student-led Title IX Task Force, who was charged with recommending Smith on how the student body feels about Title IX.

Smith agreed with 12 University commitments following the task force's recommendations on March 10.

Marshall's Title IX Office labeled the case an off-campus event; therefore, they did not open a case. However, the plaintiff was later charged with underage



During the November protest, students marched across campus, meeting at the Memorial Student Center Plaza.

Photos by Taylor Isaac

Mayor Teases Bid in Governor Race



Huntington Mayor Steve Williams hints at run for Governor's seat. Courtesy of Austin O'Connor and Shaun Thompson

By **MATT SCHAFER**
NEWS EDITOR

Huntington Mayor Steve Williams has begun hinting about a gubernatorial run to succeed West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice, who has held the office since 2017.

Williams, who would be seeking the Democratic nomination, retweeted a MetroNews article on April 5 in which the mayor explained that he is "having a lot of conversations right now."

Williams continued by listing his accomplishments that he achieved in his term as mayor, including raising \$55 million in grants for projects and \$514 million dollars of current active

projects around the city.

Meanwhile, Justice has recently come under scrutiny for COVID-19 federal relief spending, which included \$10 million in funds for a new Marshall University baseball stadium.

If Williams were to win the post, he would be flipping the position from Republican to Democratic; however, he would still face a Republican supermajority in both the state's House of Representatives and Senate.

If Williams secures the bid, he will appear on the ballot for the 2024 election in Nov. 5 concurrently with the next presidential election.

University Prepares for Handgun Safety

By **LYDIA MONTAGUE**
STUDENT REPORTER

A small safety committee is working to prepare Marshall University for the introduction of concealed handguns on campus, under the recently passed Senate Bill 10—or the "Campus Self-Defense Act"—which will take effect in July 2024.

Jim Terry, Marshall University chief of police, says a group of several senior VP's are preparing with tentative planning and help from other affected organizations.

"We have been working behind the scenes before it passed, and now, we're moving forward," Terry said. "The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission is going to help us."

"I've reached out to other schools that already have campus carry and are speaking with them to see what they did. Once we come out of our sessions, we're going to go to a broader campus-based group and meet with a bigger group of all the impacted."

In a message to the campus community University President Brad Smith, he discussed the committee and how the administration has been "engaged, consistent and transparent in our concerns."

"We attended committee meetings, met with legislative members and sent out statements to government leaders throughout this process," Smith said. "We must come together as a community and work through the

implications as they relate to the overall safety of our campuses and centers."

Terry says the committee is also involved with other campuses and out-of-state schools that have had similar experiences with the bill.

"I've been reaching out to other campus police officers, and I've reached out to another state who's already had campus carry since 2017 to see what they did and have similar legislation to West Virginia's legislation," Terry said.

The Higher Education Policy Commission HEPC has been contacted by the committee, and Terry said they've "been bringing in some people to help us out."



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MU Spring General Faculty Meeting



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2 P.M.

Don Morris Room

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MU Spring General Faculty Meeting

Courtesy of Marshall.edu

Eight Faculty Members Awarded Distinguished Service Awards

By **ABIGAIL CUTLIP**
STUDENT REPORTER

Eight faculty members were honored for their service to Marshall University during a faculty meeting on Tuesday, April 11, in the Don Morris Room inside the Memorial Student Center.

The Distinguished Service Awards recipients are Dr. Laura Adkins, a professor of mathematics in the College of Science, and Dr. Elizabeth Reed Smith, a professor of music in the College of Arts and Media.

To qualify for this award, they must have 20 years of service to the University, a history of distinguished service to the University or their respective college and a history of distinguished teaching that has been observed in peer,

administrative and/or student evaluations. The recipients will both receive \$1,000 each.

The Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award was presented to three individuals and one team of two. The recipients were Dr. Vicki P. Stroehrer, a professor of music in the College of Arts and Media (senior recipient), Dr. Maria Serrat, an associate professor of biomedical sciences in the School of Medicine (senior recipient), Dr. Kyle Palmquist, an assistant professor of biological sciences in the College of Science (junior recipient) and, as a team, Dr. Wael Zatar, a professor of civil engineering, and Dr. Gang Chen, a professor of mechanical engineering.

To qualify for these awards, they must either be tenured or hold tenure-track appointments. The award was created in order

to recognize distinction of artistic fields and scholarly activities on the part of the Marshall faculty. Senior recipients receive \$2,000 each, the junior recipient receives \$1,000 and the team will receive \$2,000 to be split amongst themselves.

The John and Frances Rucker Graduate Adviser of the Year award was awarded to Dr. Brittany Canady, assistant professor of psychology. This award acknowledges the contributions of Marshall's outstanding graduate advisers.

Additionally, 18 retiring faculty members, six faculty award winners who were announced prior to the meeting and the recipients of the Hedrick Program Grant for Teaching Innovation will be recognized.

Continued on page 11

Alumni Create New Med School Scholarship

By **SARAH DAVIS**
STAFF REPORTER

Two Marshall alumni have created a scholarship for students in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

Patrick Stone, M.D., and Cynthia Coleman, MSN-FNP, are the founders of the Dr. Patrick A. Stone and Cynthia E. Coleman Scholarship for first-year medical students.

Stone is a 1999 graduate of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. He is currently a professor and vice chair of operations at Vanderbilt University in the vascular surgery department.

Coleman serves as the senior director of clinical services implementation at Edwards Lifesciences.

The pair is no stranger to overcoming adversity. Stone gained an interest in the medical field as a child following the death of his mother. Coleman has passed her passion down to her daughter, whom she had as a teenager.

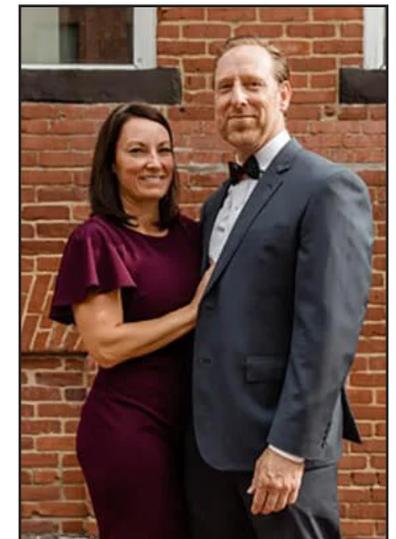
Both are eager to assist medical students as they seek to influence West Virginia healthcare.

“Growing up in West Virginia, we both dreamed of the endless opportunities careers in health care represented,” they said in a Marshall University press release. “We were both determined to achieve more than our circumstances. It is exciting to

be at a place in our careers where we can see the fruits of those labors and to create a scholarship for future medical students who are dedicated to improving health care in West Virginia.

The fund will be available for students with an annual household income of less than \$100,000 and can be renewed for an additional three years, depending on academic progression.

Those who are interested in applying or donating to the new Scholarship should contact Linda Holmes, the school's director of alumni affairs at 304-691-1711 or holmes@marshall.edu.



Patrick A. Stone, M.D., and Cynthia E. Coleman, MSN-FNP

Courtesy of Marshall.edu

Lecture Showcases Lives of Lincoln and Douglass

By SARAH DAVIS
STAFF REPORTER

The shared principles between two Civil War-era men are grand, according to an author and Harvard professor, speaking on the lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Marshall's Amicus Curiae Lecture Series, which is sponsored by the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy and the West Virginia Humanities Council, concluded on Thursday, April 6 with "GIANTS: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln."

"Douglass and Lincoln are among, if not, the preeminent self-made men in the United States," Dr. John Stauffer said of the parallels between the two historical figures.

Stauffer is an author and professor of English and African American studies at Harvard University. Stauffer is the author and/or editor of 20 books, and his work has been published in various publications such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He also acts as a film consultant for movies including 2016's "The Free State of Jones."

In his lecture, Stauffer explored the similarities and differences between Douglass and Lincoln, arguing that the parallels between these two Civil War-era political leaders are in fact what made their friendship so powerful.

"Friendship has always meant that two people are not only connected in terms of their likeness (liking each other), but it reflects this understanding of equality between two friends, as

well as this emotional, intellectual bond," he said.

In addition to both men's involvement in politics, they both had little education, enjoyed the same few books and grew up in what Stauffer called "vicious communities."

Stauffer informed the audience that both men had to overcome bullies in their childhood. Douglass, who grew up as a slave, fought a slave breaker, and Lincoln fought a gang of boys.

"They both defined a fight as the turning point in their lives," he said.

Douglass and Lincoln did, however, differ on their political stances. Douglass was an abolitionist, meaning he was working to abolish slavery. Lincoln was anti-slavery, meaning he did not agree with slavery, but was not active in abolishing it.

Once Lincoln began his journey of American presidency in 1860, the differences between the two started to show more prominent. Douglass referred to Lincoln as an "excellent slave hound" after his first inaugural speech in 1861.

The two men had their first meeting in 1862, second in 1864 and third in 1865, at Lincoln's second inauguration. It was at their third meeting when Lincoln finally called Douglass his friend.

Stauffer explained the lessons that can be learned from Douglass and Lincoln, perhaps the grandest being their prioritization of their relationship over politics.

"Their political differences were separate from their interpersonal relationship," he said.

They also taught how to improve oneself and one's communities,

according to Stauffer. The pair did not underestimate the power of working together.

"Both recognize[d] that in order to destroy slavery, you had to win the war, and in order to win the war, you had to destroy slavery, and the two worked together in achieving those goals," he said.

Stauffer also included photographs

in his presentation. One of the photographs featured Douglass posing with Lincoln's cane, which he received as a gift from Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, after her husband's assassination in 1865.

In conclusion, Stauffer encouraged those in attendance to look up to the two men.

"I think ultimately that Douglass

and Lincoln's friendship can serve us today as inspiration, in the sense that they can help us bind up the nation's wounds, and we have a lot of them right now," he said. "And complete the unfinished work, fulfilling the ideals of freedom and equality of opportunity for all people."



Dr. John Stauffer presented the final Amicus Curiae lecture of the semester, which focused on the lives of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Photo by Sarah Davis

Softball's 23-Game Win Streak Snapped at ULM



Team huddles together before game at ULM.

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **LUKE HAMILTON**
STUDENT REPORTER

Thundering Herd Softball traveled to Monroe, Louisiana over the weekend and won two of its three games against the ULM Warhawks.

Marshall dominated in the first game of the series against the conference opponent on Friday 13-2.

The Herd got off to a hot start scoring three runs off a RIELLY Lucas hit into left center field in the top of the first inning.

In the sixth, Marshall had five runs to end the game thanks to a Camryn Michallas single, Lauren Love double, Brooklyn Ulrich hit to right field and a Bub Feringa hit one up the middle for a Ulrich score.

Sydney Nester received her 19th win of the year, allowing two hits and striking out seven Warhawks for the Herd's 22nd straight victory.

Savannah Rice started in the first game on Saturday where Marshall won 4-3.

Redshirt senior pitcher Nester came in the seventh for relief and saved the game with a double play as Michallas got the out at third base before throwing to Lucas for the final out.

Ulrich hit her third home run of the season to tie the game at two, and the Herd had two more runs in the fifth to take the two-point lead.

The second game of Saturday's doubleheader, However, ended Marshall's historic 23-game win streak.

The final game of the series was close as well; a run of two-out hits from Lucas, Michallas and Abby Darnley started off a three-run Herd rally in the top of the fourth inning.

ULM responded with a four-run fifth inning. Nester is now 19-3 for the season and allowed six hits, five runs, and one strikeout in just over four innings of play.

Marshall will travel to Morehead State to take on the Eagles on April 12 and will return to conference play this weekend against Coastal Carolina.

Baseball Swept by Ragin' Cajuns



Daniel Carinci



Luke Edwards

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**
SPORTS EDITOR

Louisiana swept the Herd in a three-game series over the weekend.

In game one on Thursday, Marshall lost 8-4.

"Cope (Patrick Copen) wasn't as sharp as normally is, but at the end of the day, he still went five innings and only gave up three runs, but we did get behind early," Head Coach Greg Beals said after the loss. "Their pitcher did a good job, and he pitched differently than our scouting report. He used a different type of breaking ball and a lot of it. Give him credit. It kept us off balance."

Starting pitcher Copen gave up three runs on five hits, walking three and striking out two batters in 5.0 innings.

Owen Ayers drove in three runs for the Herd on two doubles.

Kyle Schaefer hit a sacrifice fly to bring in a run as well.

In game two on Friday, Marshall lost 5-2

"We are in a three-game losing streak, but I think we're getting better. We're getting closer," Beals said. "It comes down to the little things. This is a very good conference we're playing in. These are good teams. The talent gap is a very small gap. The line between winning and losing is a very fine line."

Daniel Carinci had a career night with four hits that included a double. Luke Edwards also added a double of his own.

Schaefer and Christian Lucio each had a hit that brought in the two runs for the Herd.

Raymond Pacella pitched 7.0 innings giving up seven hits with five strikeouts.

In game three on Saturday, Marshall lost 8-2.

"This is a good baseball team in Louisiana. They do all the little

things right. They take advantage of their opportunities. They execute all the smaller things," Beals said after the series. "I'm not a fan of losing, but there are some lessons in that. Seeing how a team does all the little things, and that's where we need to get better."

Carinci and Schaefer both went two for three on the day.

Marshall's two runs came from an Ayers single that scored Schaefer and an Elijah Vogelsong sacrifice fly that scored Gio Ferraro.

Zac Addkison was the starting pitcher for the game, pitching just 3.1 innings, reliever Ryan Capuano finished the game giving up three hits with five strikeouts and one earned run.

Marshall will pick back up against Ohio University for one game on Tuesday, April 11, at 6 p.m.

Herd Tennis Sweeps South Alabama With 4-0 Win



Emma Vanderheyden celebrating after her comeback victory

Courtesy of HerdZone

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University tennis team (13-6, 7-2 Sun Belt) swept the South Alabama Jaguars (14-5, 4-4 Sun Belt) on Easter Sunday at the Brian David Fox Tennis Center in final home dual of the season.

“South Alabama is good, and they are really good competitors,” Herd Tennis Head Coach John Mercer said after the team’s win over the Jaguars. “Today, we played the best outdoor match we have so far. It’s encouraging. We had

some ups and downs, but we worked out of some tough spots. It was good to see JoJo keep rolling and Emma have a bounce back day.”

The Herd started with a 6-4 win at number two doubles by the pairing of Aisling McGrane and Sophia Huron.

Gabrielle Clairotte and Rieke Gillar continued the momentum as they battled back from down 2-4 to clinch the doubles point with a 6-4 triumph at number three doubles.

After taking her first set in singles 6-1, Emma Vanderheyden found herself

down 0-3 in the second set. The sophomore won the next six games to extend the MU lead to 2-0 with a win at number two singles.

Freshman Johanna Strom followed with a straight-sets win at number one singles to make it 3-0 Herd. Strom is now 17-1 in singles this spring.

Angela Lopicic then rallied from behind in her second set to seal the match for Marshall with a 6-1 and a 6-4 victory at number five singles to complete the sweep.

An advertisement for Caesars Sportsbook & Casino and HD Media. The ad features the logos for Caesars Sportsbook & Casino and HD Media. The main text reads "letsbetwv.com SPORTSBETTING". Below this, it says "Make the best bets and have fun while you're at it with HD Media and Caesars Sportsbook". There is a QR code and a small image of a smartphone displaying the sportsbook app interface. At the bottom, there is a disclaimer: "Must be 21 or older to gamble. Know when to stop before you start. Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER or visit 1800gambler.net." and the Mountain Dew logo.

Survey Shows Americans Trust Doctors Less, Online Information More

By **MICHAEL DINICH**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A recent survey of over 2,000 American adults has shed light on a growing trend in healthcare: relying on online information instead of visiting the doctor.

The survey revealed that about 2 in 5 people have self-diagnosed based on internet research, leading to questions about the accuracy of online health advice. But what are some of people's most common misconceptions about what is and isn't healthy? Read on to learn more.

About two in five (39%) surveyed

people have used online information in lieu of visiting their physician, with the average person self-diagnosing four times in the past year based on information found online.

A recent survey of 2,016 U.S. adults ages 40 and over revealed people's most common misconceptions about what is and isn't healthy, such as believing fish oil (47%), garlic (45%), and honey (44%) are sufficient to cure or treat certain ailments.

And 64% associate carbs with being mainly "bad" for their health compared to "good" for their health.

Misconceptions aside, 62% of

people surveyed still trust their doctor the most for health advice, more so than health websites (42%). Women were more likely than men to trust their physicians (66% vs. 54%).

When asked what they usually do for their overall health, people reported taking vitamins or supplements (51%), getting regular check-ups with a doctor or specialist (49%), and exercising (46%) - although fewer said they manage their stress levels (30%) and monitor cholesterol levels (23%), both factors that can affect heart health.

Conducted by OnePoll on behalf of Bayer for American Heart Month, the survey also discovered how much people really know about their heart health.

Nearly three-quarters of people surveyed (74%) feel at least somewhat well-informed about their family's health history, although men were more confident in their knowledge than women (81% vs. 69%).

Overall, a greater number of people surveyed reported heart disease running in their family (36%) compared to obesity (24%), dementia/Alzheimer's (23%), or mental illness (21%).

However, survey results found knowledge gaps in their ability to identify heart attack symptoms. When asked to select potential symptoms from a list, many correctly identified chest pain or discomfort (71%) and shortness of breath (68%), but far fewer knew nausea and



Courtesy of AP/ Michael Dinich

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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vomiting (42%) or jaw pain (40%) could also be common indicators.

And while the vast majority were aware that smoking (72%), obesity (71%), and stress (70%) could increase heart attack risk, just half (50%) knew over-exertion could, as well.

A whopping 41% did not know heart attack symptoms may differ for women and men.

Over half (52%) of adults surveyed "always" or "often" think about aging. Sixty-one percent say they've accepted it but sometimes struggle with it. Men were more likely than women to look forward to aging (35% vs. 20%).

"This survey shows older Americans are knowledgeable about certain aspects of their heart health. That's good news. But there's still a great deal of education needed for people to fully understand prevention and potential risk factors," said Bayer® Aspirin partner Dr. Suzanne

Steinbaum, cardiologist. "Heart disease can be scary, and we often just don't want to think about it. Through the work I do, I'm dedicated to overcoming fear through accurate information about heart health and risk factors to reduce disease. Information saves lives because heart disease is preventable 80% of the time."

"While heart disease is skewing younger in recent years, it remains true that your risk increases with age. I often prescribe an aspirin regimen to patients who have had a heart attack to help reduce the risk of another one," Dr. Steinbaum added. "Elevating awareness and education about heart health, including the benefits of a doctor-directed aspirin regimen for secondary heart attack prevention, can save lives. Aspirin is not appropriate for everyone, so be sure to talk to your doctor before you begin an aspirin regimen."

Art Student Capstones Cover Range of Themes

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**
STUDENT REPORTER

Mental health, going back to roots, secondhand life and childhood memories were all core themes prevalent in the second installment of the art students' capstone projects at the Marshall University Visual Arts Center on Tuesday, April 4.

The exhibit showcased the hard work of four different artists who expressed their themes through several different types of artistic mediums.

In her piece "Anamnesis," Katlyn F. Kitchen incorporated her childhood memories into a collection of three smaller pieces that form one large piece that paints the memories of her childhood.

"I wanted this to become a reflection of the sudden memories that come to you by your senses," Kitchen said. "Like when you walk into a candle section and smell the scent that was in your parents' kitchen

while you were growing up or drinking the off-brand chocolate milk that your grandma always had in her fridge."

Inspiration for her work came from childhood memories as well as other places.

"My piece was inspired by Faith Ringgold's story quilts," Kitchen said.

Artist Midnight Moon also incorporated parts of childhood and mental health challenges into a collection of pieces on display.

"I lived in West Virginia in the early 1990s and spent most of my childhood time outside from dawn until dusk. I enjoyed the tactile feel of using my hands: climbing trees, riding bikes, picking flowers or catching critters," Moon said.

"My love of sensory learning influences how I work as an artist. I love getting ink on my hands, the physicality of carving a wood block," Moon said.

Moon also drew inspiration from

personal experiences to portray mental health challenges and how art can help with expressing emotions.

"My work revolves around the themes of self-perception, body image and mental and physical challenges, inspired by my personal experiences," Moon said. "As a kid, I was not allowed to express feelings other than happiness, but I found that I could express myself through art."

Meanwhile, "Naturalia" is the name of the pieces done by Santi Rose, whose works included a tent installation along with several prints.

"The idea came to me after talking to one of my mentors and one of my professors about my original idea, "Grief," which was a collection of pictures representing the five stages of grief and a five to ten minute video going alongside it," Rose said. "I was unhappy with where the idea was going, and I was losing more and more motivation as time passed."

After a trip to New York, he discovered a new passion for architecture that guided him in his decision of what to do for a project.

"After returning to WV, I wanted to go back to where I started, to what made me fall in love with photography in the first place," Rose said, "and make something that I wanted to make, not something that was for a project. I wanted to combine my old love of landscape photography and my new love of cityscape photography."

"The term naturalia means that nature has reclaimed something, but for me, this project was me reclaiming the old me and going back to my roots," Rose said.

Secondhand life, on the other hand was the theme of Alexa Pecorelli's work "Shelf Life," which incorporated various mediums to create, such as print and video. Furniture was also incorporated into the installation.

"The video playing on this free

2000s TV was recorded on my family's childhood camcorder," Pecorelli said, "and the photographs printed behind it were all found in my iPhone photo album from my past four years here at Marshall."

"I chose to hang these photos as they would be on a college apartment wall and using my own \$20 couch for the main piece of furniture," Pecorelli said.

Utilizing thrift stores and other ways of obtaining second-hand goods, Pecorelli created parts of "Shelf Life."

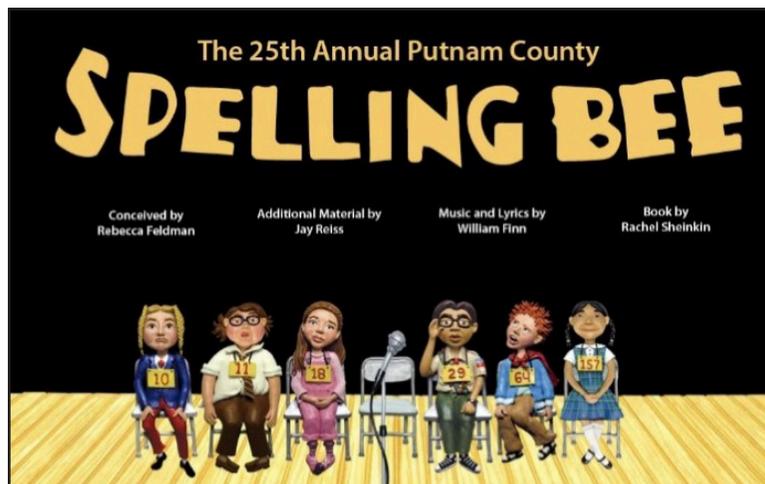
"Each piece of furniture in the installation was found at Goodwill or Facebook Marketplace around the tri-state area," Pecorelli said.

The overall point of "Shelf Life" is to prove that art is all around us, according to Pecorelli.

The Visual Arts Center will host two more groups of capstone students' works in the coming weeks.

Pictures on page 12

'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' Opens Today



"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" poster

Courtesy of the School of Theatre and Dance

By **BEX LAW**
STUDENT REPORTER

A story about children struggling to fit in and find themselves will be the final show for the spring 2023 semester from the School of Theatre and Dance.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is a musical comedy with book by Rachel Sheinkin and music and lyrics by William Finn. It opens at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, April 12, and performs nightly at 7:30 p.m. through April 15 with a closing matinee on Sunday, April 16, at 2 p.m.

"It's a hilarious, touching, sometimes irreverent and crowd-pleasing musical,

complete with audience participation," said Samuel Kincaid, box office and public relations manager for the School of Theatre and Dance. "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is amongst the first true classics of 21st century American musical theater."

The show stars students George Kinley as Chip Tolentino; Sierra Lutz as Logan Schwartzandgrubenierre; Gavin Spiewak as Leaf Coneybear; Noah Ritchie as William Barfee; Jaden Babbit as Marcy Park; Nikki Riniti as Olive Ostrovsky; Rachelle Snyder as Rona Lisa Peretti; Jacob Cremeans as Mitch Mahoney and Jimi Lee as Vice Principal Panch. Jack Cirillo serves as their director.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" won both a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award for Best Book. Focusing on a group of children competing in a spelling bee, the quirky kids get the audience involved in the competition during the show while also displaying the highs and lows of middle school life.

Tickets are free for Marshall students with their MUIDs. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for employees and seniors age 60 and older. For more information or to order tickets, visit the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center box office or call 304-696-ARTS.

April 12-15 | 7:30 p.m.
April 16 | 2:00 p.m.

Community Colleges Reeling 'The Reckoning is Here'

By JON MARCUS
ASSOCIATED PRESS
THE HECHINGER REPORT

When Santos Enrique Camara arrived at Shoreline Community College in Washington state to study audio engineering, he quickly felt lost.

"It's like a weird maze," remembered Camara, who was 19 at the time and had finished high school with a 4.0 grade-point average. "You need help with your classes and financial aid? Well, here, take a number and run from office to office and see if you can figure it out."

Advocates for community colleges defend them as the underdogs of America's higher education system, left to serve the students who need the most support but without the money to provide it. Critics contend this has become an excuse for poor success rates and for the kind of faceless bureaucracies that ultimately led Camara to drop out after two semesters. He now works in a restaurant and plays in two bands.

With scant advising, many community college students spend time and money on courses that won't transfer or that they don't need. Though most intend to move on to get bachelor's degrees, only a small fraction succeed; fewer than half earn any kind of credential. Even if they do, many employers don't believe they're ready for the workforce.

Now these failures are coming home to roost.

Community colleges are far cheaper than four-year schools. Published tuition and fees last year averaged \$3,860, versus \$39,400 at private and \$10,940 at public four-year universities, with many states making community college free.

Yet consumers are abandoning them

in droves. The number of students at community colleges has fallen 37% since 2010, or by nearly 2.6 million, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

"The reckoning is here," said Davis Jenkins, senior research scholar at the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. (The Hechinger Report, which produced this story, is an independent unit of Teachers College.)

Those numbers would be even more grim if they didn't include high school students taking dual-enrollment courses, according to the Community College Research Center. High school students make up nearly a fifth of community college enrollment.

Yet even as these colleges serve fewer students, their already low success rates have by at least one measure gotten worse.

While four out of five students who begin at a community college say they plan to go on to get a bachelor's degree, only about one in six of them actually manages to do it. That's down by nearly 15% since 2020, according to the clearinghouse.

Two-year community colleges have the worst completion rates of any kind of university or college. Like Camara, nearly half of students drop out, within a year, of the community college where they started. Only slightly more than 40% finish within six years.

These frustrated wanderers include a disproportionate share of Black and Hispanic students. Half of all Hispanic and 40% of all Black students in higher education are enrolled at community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges says.

The spurning of community colleges has implications for the national economy, which relies on their graduates

to fill many of the jobs in which there are shortages. Those include positions as nurses, dental hygienists, emergency medical technicians, vehicle mechanics and electrical linemen, and in fields including information technology, construction, manufacturing, transportation and law enforcement.

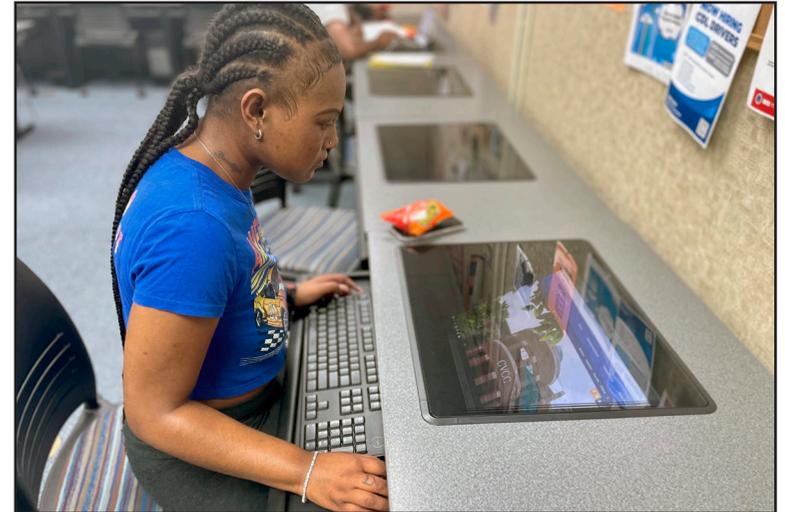
Other factors are also contributing to the enrollment declines. Strong demand in the job market for people without college educations has made it more attractive for many to go to work. Thanks to so-called degree inflation, many jobs that require higher education call for bachelor's degrees where associate degrees or certificates were once sufficient. And private, regional public and for-profit universities, facing enrollment crises of their own, are competing for the same students.

Many Americans increasingly are questioning the value of going to college at all.

But they are particularly rejecting community college. In Michigan, for instance, the proportion of high school graduates enrolling in community college fell more than three times faster from 2018 to 2021 than the proportion going to four-year universities, according to that state's Center for Educational Performance and Information.

Those who do go complain of red tape and other frustrations.

Megan Parish, who at 26 has been in and out of community college in Arkansas since 2016, said she waits two or three days to get answers from advisers. "I've had to go out of my way to find people, and if they didn't know the answer, they would send me to somebody else, usually by email." Hearing back from the financial aid office, she said, can take a month.



Computer lab at Chattahoochee Valley Community College in Phenix City, Alabama

Courtesy of Rebecca Griesbach/
AL.com/Press-Register via AP

Oryanan Lewis doesn't have that kind of time. Lewis, 20, is in her second year at Chattahoochee Valley Community College in Phenix City, Alabama, where she is pursuing a degree in medical assisting. And she's already behind.

Lewis has the autoimmune disease lupus and thought she'd get more personal attention at a smaller school than at a four-year university; Chattahoochee has about 1,600 students. But she said she didn't receive the help she needed until her illness had almost derailed her degree.

She failed three classes and was put on academic probation. Only then did she hear from an intervention program.

"I feel like they should talk to their students more," Lewis said. "Because a person can have a whole lot going on."

Employers, meanwhile, are unimpressed with the quality of community college students who manage to graduate. Only about a third agree that community colleges produce graduates who are ready to work, according to a survey released in December by researchers at the

Harvard Business School.

Community colleges get less government money to spend, per student, than public four-year universities: \$8,695, according to the Center for American Progress, compared with \$17,540.

Yet community college students need more support than their counterparts at four-year universities. Twenty-nine percent are the first in their families to go to college, 15% are single parents and 68% work while in school. Twenty-nine percent say they've had trouble affording food and 14% affording housing, according to a survey by the Center for Community College Student Engagement.

Community colleges that fail these students can't just blame their smaller budgets, said Joseph Fuller, professor of management practice at Harvard Business School.

"The lack of resources inside community colleges is a legitimate complaint. But a number of community colleges do extraordinarily well," Fuller said. "So it's not impossible."

Continued from page 4

The 18 retiring faculty members are: Stephen Lawson, Ronald Bieniek, Ronald Martino, Bonita Lawrence, Donna Sullivan, Jo Dee Gottlieb, Ivan Muslin, Richard Begley, Jingping Zhang, Matthew Carlton, Denise Landry, Charles Somerville, Gwenyth Hood, David Yost, William Palmer, Pamela Mulder, Majed Khader and Kimberly Broedel-Zaugg.

The six additional award winners to be recognized are Dr. Rachael Peckham, a professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts, with the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award Marshall; Dr. Jill Treftz, an associate professor

of English in the College of Liberal Arts, with the Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award; Dr. Timothy Bryan, an assistant professor of accounting; Dr. Mehdi Esmailpour, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering; Dr. Megan Marshall, an assistant professor of English, with the Pickens-Queen Teacher Award and Dr. Laura Stapleton, an instructor of mathematics in the College of Science, with the Council of Chairs Award for Excellence in Teaching.

University Announces New Administrators

By MATT SCHAFFER
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall announced new administrators for the positions of dean of the College of Science, dean for the School of Pharmacy and director for the School of Nursing.



Dr. Eric Blough has served as the interim dean of the School of Pharmacy since Jan. 2022.



Dr. Wesley Sites fills the position of dean of the College of Science coming from University of Arkansas. He previously earned his PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Dr. Annette Ferguson stewards the School of Nursing after being an associate professor of nursing at Marshall University since 2017.

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

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or by appointment

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Father Tijo George, Pastor

HD-486764

HD-486768

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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

HD-486692

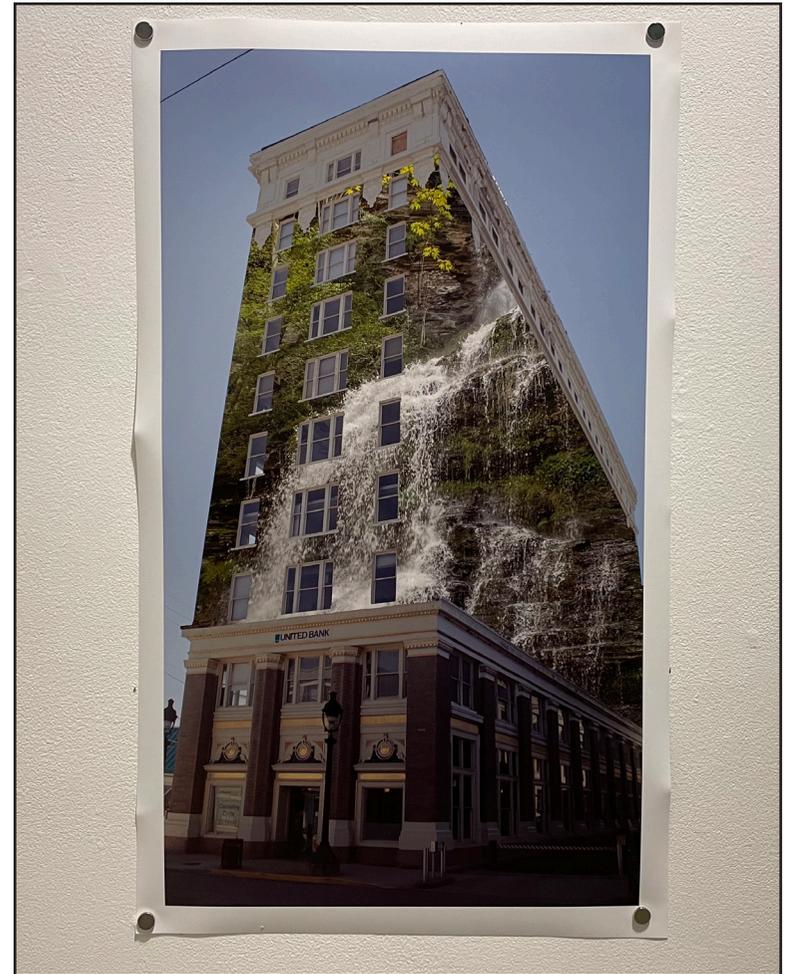
HD-486690

Photos From Art Student Capstones

Photos from story on page 9



"Anamnesis" by Katlyn F. Kitchen



"Naturalia" by Santi' Rose

Photos by Joseph Dicristofaro

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