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### The Parthenon, August 30, 2023

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#### Recommended Citation

Green, Evan; Woodruff, Conner; Schaffer, Matt; Matheny, Chayce; Ware, Victoria; Thompson, Shauntelle; Alfonso, Rafael; and Price, Scott, "The Parthenon, August 30, 2023" (2023). *The Parthenon*. 5608.  
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Evan Green, Conner Woodruff, Matt Schaffer, Chayce Matheny, Victoria Ware, Shauntelle Thompson, Rafael Alfonso, and Scott Price

## Smith Sticks to Marshall For All Amid WVU Layoffs

By **EVAN GREEN**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As West Virginia University reels from proposed layoffs of 169 faculty members, Marshall's president says his university will go in a different direction by continuing to follow his Marshall For All, Marshall Forever program in an effort to grow the institution out of its financial deficit.

The WVU layoffs were announced in early August and will include the elimination of 32 majors, with other

similar majors combining into one. Additionally, the proposed cuts would completely terminate the university's world languages department.

Following the announcement of these layoffs, and the statements surrounding higher education made by WVU President Gordon Gee, fears had arisen that similar cuts could be on the horizon for Marshall.

"I see what WVU is navigating as indicative of all of higher education and what we're facing," Marshall University President Brad D. Smith

said in response to the proposed layoffs. "Marshall University and WVU both have structural deficits. They've estimated and publicized theirs at \$45 million. We have publicized ours 20 months ago. We have a roughly \$28 million deficit."

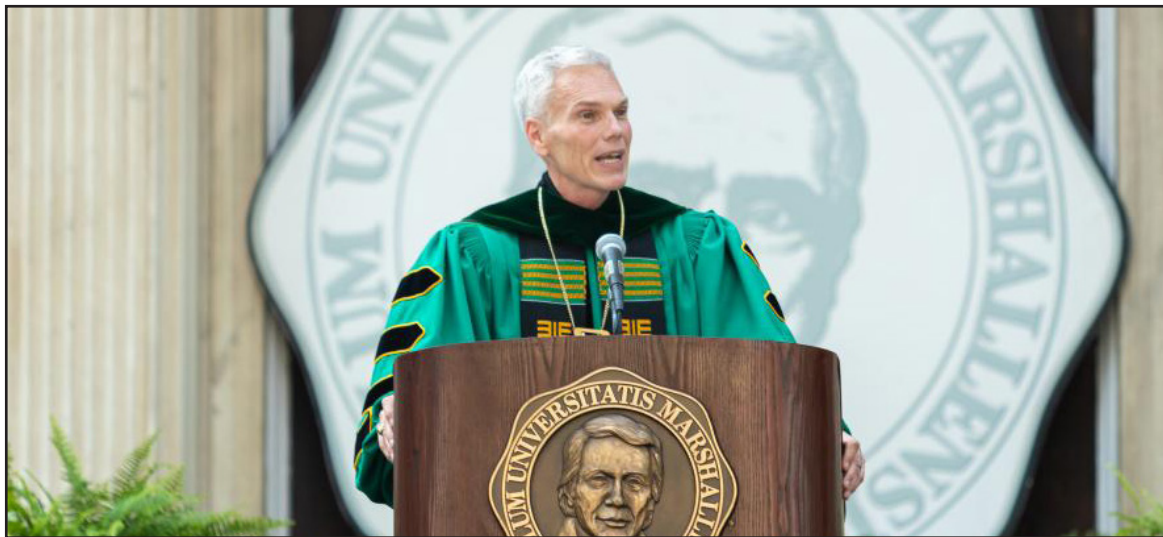
While both universities face deficits, Marshall has a very different plan for minimizing their deficit going forward. Smith maintained Marshall's dedication to its recently announced Marshall For All, Marshall Forever plan.

The plan was developed by Smith in collaboration with University staff and community members. The plan includes a combination of cost control measures, which Smith describes as Save to Serve, as well as growing out of the deficit by focusing on student-focused priorities for expansion.

"Ours is a combination of those efforts that between now and 2027, our goal is to get back to getting out of the deficit and get back to a positive trajectory," Smith said.

He also said that in addition to getting out of the deficit by 2027, the Marshall For All, Marshall Forever plan aims for any Marshall student to be able to graduate debt-free and be placed in any job of their choosing after graduation by 2037, the University's 200-year anniversary.

**Continued on Page 2**



President Brad D. Smith originally announced his plan for debt-free graduation during his investiture speech last fall.

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

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## Students and Faculty Rally to Raise Money for Campus Starbucks Employee



Karen Collinsworth working at the campus Starbucks.

Photo Courtesy Herdnet

By **VICTORIA WARE**  
OPINIONS & CULTURE EDITOR

Employees at the Starbucks on campus set up a GoFundMe to help fellow employee, Karen Collinsworth, with the purchase of a car.

Cassie Gray, one of Collinsworth's coworkers, started the GoFundMe. Meanwhile, Jaiden Chevelle, another Starbucks employee, posted about the fundraiser on her Facebook page, where it garnered traction.

Through social media shares and word of mouth, over \$35,000 has been raised for Collinsworth so far. Chevelle says that she is happy with the outcome of the fundraiser because Collinsworth is deserving of this type of treatment.

"It honestly feels amazing,"

Chevelle said. "I never expected it to blow up as big as it did, but I'm really glad that it did because she deserves all of that and more. She's honestly just amazing."

Over one thousand donations have been made. The top donation was made by President Brad D. Smith; he gave \$5,000 to the cause. The goal is now set at \$40,000.

Collinsworth said that the sheer amount of people donating means more to her than the amount of money.

"It's just amazing," she said. "They set the goal for ten thousand, and I just started laughing when I found out. Then it kept growing and growing."

Collinsworth said that people have told her that this whole situation feels like a reality show because they are on their phones

watching what people are saying about her and the amount of donations being made in her honor.

Collinsworth is grateful for her fellow Starbucks employees and says that she is lucky to work with a group of people who all care about one another.

"At Starbucks, we're like family anyway," she said. "I've been there for 13 years, and the kids come and go, but there just ends up being a bond between us. I knew they loved me. We just love each other, and we tell each other every day.

"We're always behind the line saying, 'I love you,'" Collinsworth went on to say. "They're just a really good group of kids, and they care about me. We just all care about each other back there. I'm just really lucky."

*Continued from Page 1*

Smith hopes that these goals will help strengthen the University's economic impact while also restoring faith in higher education, which Gee cited as one of the reasons behind WVU's layoffs.

Smith also noted the importance of cooperation and empathy toward WVU as they navigate the layoffs.

"I love WVU, and Marshall loves WVU, and if WVU is not strong, our state is in trouble. We need all of our institutions to be strong," Smith said.

Additionally, Smith stressed that while the two universities may be taking different routes to escape their deficits, that is because they have two different sets of circumstances, and the two should not be compared to each other.

*"I love WVU, and  
Marshall loves WVU,  
and if WVU is not strong,  
our state is in trouble.  
We need all of our  
institutions to be strong,"  
Smith said.*

WVU's cuts mainly focused on liberal arts and humanities programs and Smith maintained the importance of these programs and how Marshall plans to make them more viable in the workforce.

"Liberal arts and humanities do not suffer from a relevance challenge, they suffer from a branding challenge. When you interview anyone in society today...they say the skills most in demand are collaboration, communication, teamwork and critical thinking. If you then say, 'What does that spell?' that spells liberal arts and humanities," Smith said. Smith also stated that the most important change for these programs is to teach students how to apply the skills they learn in liberal arts programs to a modern workforce.

"My view is if we execute our plan, we're not only going to be okay, we're going to be stronger and better, and we can be a demonstration project for the rest of the world. That is my hope," Smith said.

"I want people to study Marshall University and say they did a great job. And, by the way, I want West Virginia University to be exactly the same. They are taking courageous decisions right now to try to course correct their own trajectory."



Students protest proposed cuts.

Courtesy of Leah Willingham/Associated Press



Gov. Jim Justice and President Brad Smith signing the bill.

Photo by Alaina Laster

signing in the Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex.

Bill 117, its resulting cybersecurity facility and the students trained through those

new resources provided are “a conduit for one of the components for making a new West Virginia,” Blair said. This idea of a “new West Virginia” appeared in several speeches delivered at the signing, including those by West Virginia Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw and Marshall President Brad Smith.

The facility will be built on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Hal Greer Boulevard, a space that is currently being cleared for construction. The building will be 78,000

square feet and will include 13 advanced labs to train the upcoming generation of cybersecurity experts, said Smith. These new labs will increase the number of spaces available for cybersecurity research and specialized training by more than 400%, expanding on the three currently present in the engineering building.

“I am proud that we are collectively, as a state, creating an opportunity for us to continue leading our country,” Hanshaw said. “We have done that. The state of West Virginia has, per capita, sent more people into the armed forces than any other state in America since our history—in our history. We will continue to do that now, but it takes a new kind

of training to defend our country. It takes a new kind of professional to defend our country.”

This investment in cybersecurity coincides with an increased focus by the U.S. Department of Defense. Smith and Hanshaw learned this at a recent visit to Seattle, Washington, to meet with a defense contractor. In his speech, Hanshaw highlighted how, during that meeting, the contractor said explicitly that their latest mission is to protect, land, space, air and sea, and also cyberspace.

**For the full story and additional pictures, visit [marshallparthenon.com](http://marshallparthenon.com)**

By **ALAINA LASTER**  
STAFF REPORTER

“The people of West Virginia, for the longest time, didn’t believe in themselves,” West Virginia Senate President Greg Blair

said at the signing of House Bill 117 this Tuesday.

“They are now starting to

believe and believe in the opportunities that can be in front of them.”

House Bill 117, which allocates \$45 million to Marshall for the establishment of a cutting-edge cybersecurity facility. Students,

faculty and West Virginia officials gathered to witness the

## New Title IX Policy Put in Place

By **EMMA GALLUS**  
STAFF REPORTER

Students can no longer be punished if there was an use of drugs or alcohol during the time alleged sexual misconduct happened in an effort to open lines of candid communication. This was put into effect in mid-August in the Marshall University Board of Governors Policy No. SA-1 Student Rights and Responsibilities document.

Medical Amnesty is covered in the Marshall University Student Disciplinary Procedures Handbook. It states that students who need emergency assistance for someone or themselves that is experiencing a drug

or alcohol related emergency are granted limited immunity from disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct. However, there was no amnesty provided in the case of Title IX issues.

This oversight made the revision of the already in place amnesty policy to include Title IX one of the main objectives for the recent Title IX Task Force from 2022. This task force provided President Brad D. Smith with a list of recommendations, dates that the recommendations should be met by and the offices that each recommendation applies to.

When asked about these

changes, Jessica Rhodes, the Title IX coordinator, said, “A lot of the changes I see come in the form of policy and procedure, and we have set forth

with the Board of Governors personal use if it occurs during an incident involving sexual harassment.”

personal use if it occurs during an incident involving sexual harassment.”



Title IX student task force members tabling

Photo by Emma Gallus

# MyMU and Blackboard to Become Virtual Construction Zones

By SARAH DAVIS  
NEWS EDITOR

Students will notice changes to both MyMU and Blackboard in the near future, according to Marshall's chief information officer.

"The MyMU platform is coming to its vendor 'end of life' in December 2024, so it was time to find a replacement," Dr. Jodie Penrod, CIO, said. She and Dr. Julia Spears, assistant provost of Online Education and Certification, made it clear early into their tenure that they wanted to take Marshall's Learning Management System in a new direction.

For students, the MyMU and Blackboard websites house many software and applications used for the daily operation of the University. This includes coursework, gradebooks, financial tabs and DegreeWorks, among

other important tools.

The websites will undergo renovations, both cosmetic and in functionality. The MyMU website will receive design updates, and Blackboard will be converted to Blackboard Ultra.

Penrod and Spears are working on these updates with the help of the IT Department. They describe the updates as both useful and needed.

"With both enhancements, there will be many new features and an overall better user experience," Penrod said in an email interview. "For the MyMU project, we will soon be contacting faculty and staff to participate in a week-long design thinking event. During this event, we will encourage faculty, staff and students to share their 'dream' portal, and then we will work to find ways in which we can optimize the design for the best experience."

"The updated LMS [Learning Management System] version, Ultra, has a better user interface and is mobile friendly and responsive. In addition, the common navigation will make it easier for students to know where to find items from course to course," Spears said.

Penrod added that these changes will not require updates on the user's end, saying that, "Students shouldn't have to modify or install anything separately."

Despite the virtual construction zone, both websites are expected to be compatible with the current Marshall internet bandwidth, according to Penrod and the IT Department. They also say that although "bugs" are bound to come up, precautions to handle them are in place.

"We continuously monitor it to ensure we are all well below our bandwidth. MU IT does not

anticipate any issues with the network during these technology upgrades," Penrod said. "With any technology, there can be an occasional issue that impacts performance or capability. The MU IT team will do our best to test and troubleshoot these issues prior to going live. All issues can be reported to servicedesk@marshall.edu, along with any other technology issue you might experience."

Faculty and students can expect to see the outcomes of these projects in 2024.

"The MyMU project will likely be ready mid-summer, prior to the Fall 2024 semester," Penrod said.

According to Spears, Blackboard Ultra began its conversion this fall.

"There are about 480 sections using Ultra this fall with the goal to transition all course materials into Ultra by next summer" she said.

Since we have multiple phases to the upgrade, students may see some of their courses using Blackboard Learn Ultra and others in the original version of Blackboard Learn." Penrod believes that these updates will greatly improve the usability of both websites and grow as they begin their projects.

"Both products will have a much more intuitive user experience and provide an enhanced feature set. There will be more to come as we get closer to the implementation of these projects!" Penrod said.



Dr. Jodie Penrod Dr. Julia Spears  
Courtesy of the Office of the President and Marshall Online

## Annual Herd Rally Canceled

By EMMA GALLUS  
STAFF REPORTER

Rain forced the planners of this year's Herd Rally to send fans home last Friday.

The annual event acts as a way to encourage school spirit surrounding Marshall athletics ahead of the football season. The rally also features multiple Marshall sports as well as the Marching Thunder and photo opportunities with the University's mascot, Marco.

Reeves Kirtner, the vice president and co-owner of Kindred Communications,

shared his thoughts saying, "[I am] extremely disappointed. This is one of my personal favorite nights of Ninth Street Live. A lot of planning goes into this week."

He continued by saying that he begins planning the event during the spring, along with cooperation from Marshall University, Marshall Athletics and the city of Huntington.

According to Kirtner, this would have been the ninth annual Herd Rally. This would also have been the third year of the Herd Rally

taking place at Ninth Street. Kirtner, who graduated from Marshall in 2004, said that being "a proud son of Marshall makes this night even that more special."

The event was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. but was delayed by a half an hour due to rain. Ultimately, the rain proved to be too much of an obstacle for many of the activities on display, including poster signings and speakers, so Kirtner canceled the event.

Kirtner said that, "It was awesome seeing all the fans here. It made it harder to

have to make that decision to cancel it."

Despite the rainy weather, fans were excited to see their favorite Marshall athletics teams. Karen Lemaster and Bob Pelfrey Sr., who are community members who have been fans for 60 years, always looked forward to the football season that follows the rally. As lifelong Marshall fans, the two said that they come to Herd Rally every year and were upset that this year's had to be canceled. Lemaster said that she "was really excited to see the band" this year.



Fans before the rally was canceled Photo by Emma Gallus

# MarshallU App Focuses on Community Development

By **EVAN GREEN**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A new multi-use app, Marshall U, focuses on connecting students both to the tools they need as students, as well as other students through a number of social features.

“We needed an app. One that provided a way for students to engage, not just an app that provided links or websites, but a true way for students to get instant feedback or questions answered or connect to campus instantly,” said Marcie Simms, vice president for Intercultural and Student Affairs.

Simms was inspired to begin work on the app after leaving her previous institution, Shawnee State University,

which had a very similar app that allowed students to engage with campus life.

Marshall U currently hosts a number of features, with others still in development. Among these are links (called tiles) to useful websites for students, such as MyMU, and a student feed that anyone with a Marshall email can post to as well as the ability to add friends and send private messages.

“We will be implementing channels, similar to Discord channels, and different forums to where your organization that you’re a part of- you can join that channel and chat with people within your organization, or just based on similar interests,” said David Miller, communications coordinator and developer for the Marshall U app.

Miller also sees these channels as an opportunity for students to find others they connect with, and is something unique to the college environment.

According to Simms, the app was released early into its development so that Week of Welcome could act as an opportunity to show off the capabilities to incoming students. Because of this, new features are actively being developed, including an upcoming feature that provides push notifications for important events on campus, such as the due dates for tuition.

Another quality-of-life feature is being developed in collaboration with Blackboard, and it will allow students to see their schedule, grades and class announcements as soon as they open the app.

Additionally, the app’s developers have had to consider moderation tools while working on the social aspects of the app.

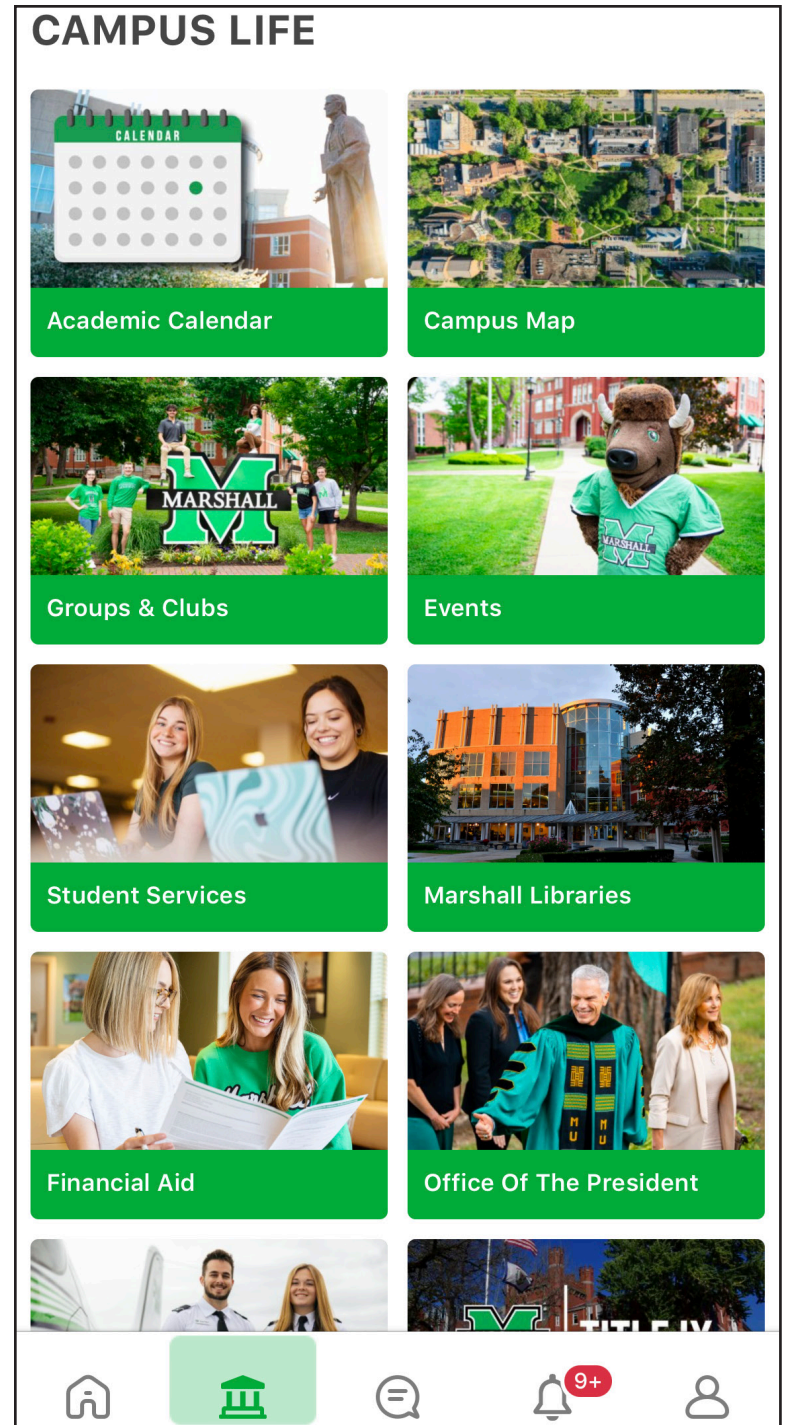
“Thankfully with this, you can’t be anonymous. It’s tied directly to your Marshall email,” Miller said. He also mentioned that once the channel feature is released, student leaders will be able to act as their own moderators within the channels. The app also includes a report feature that automatically removes posts from the student feed if it is reported more than five times.

While only people with a Marshall email are able to see and post on the student feed, the app does include an option for guests that allows parents or prospective students to use the app in a limited capacity.

Simms also mentioned that since the app’s initial launch during WoW Week, the app has reached over 1500 users, which has surpassed her initial goal of 1000 users in the first week after launch.



Marcie Simms has led the Marshall U app’s development as the University’s vice president for Intercultural and Student Affairs.



This screen greets users after opening the Marshall U app.

Courtesy of Marshall U App

# OPINION: Marshall Football 2023 Preview

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Thundering Herd football team kicks off the 2023 season at home Saturday, Sept. 2, against the Albany Great Danes.

Marshall's defense played a vital role to the team's success last season, allowing just 16 points per game—a first in the Sun Belt. Two teams in the conference held their opponents under 300 yards per game: The James Madison Dukes and The Marshall Thundering Herd.

Albany's offense, however, will prove to be a test for Marshall's

defense. The Great Danes won their season opener in explosive fashion, beating Fordham 34-13. The Herd's secondary will have their hands full with quarterback Reese Poffenbarger, who threw for 253 yards and four touchdowns along with 47 yards on the ground.

On the offensive side of the ball, Marshall will rely on their run game again, as it did last season. Despite Khalan Laborn's departure from the program, The Herd's run game

dominance will continue with star running back Rasheen Ali, who ran for more than 1,400 yards and scored 23 touchdowns in the 2021 season.

Dual-threat quarterback Cam Fancher will also play a key role in the run game. Fancher can keep the defense guessing as he can make plays happen on the ground or through the air.

Kickoff for the 2023 season will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2, at Joan C. Edwards stadium.

## Men's Soccer Wins 4-0 In Season Opener

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Marshall men's soccer team shut out Oakland University 4-0 in the season opener at Hoops Family Field on Thursday, Aug. 24.

Matthew Bell, 2022 SBC Freshman of the Year, led the Thundering Herd's offensive onslaught and scored within the first two minutes of the game. Bell tallied three total goals in

the contest to complete his first career hat trick.

Newcomer to the Marshall offense, junior Alvaro Garcia-Pascual, provided assists for two of the three goals scored by Bell.

Senior Aymane Sordo scored his first goal of the season in the 77th minute to push the lead to 4-0.

Altogether, the Thundering

Herd's offense made 29 shots, 12 of which were on goal. Bell and Pascual accounted for 19 of The Herd's 29 shots.

Marshall's defense, meanwhile, held the Oakland attack at bay allowing only 5 shots and zero shots on goal.

**Pictures on page 24**

## Herd Women's Soccer Ties at Indiana State



*Courtesy of Indiana State Athletics*

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Marshall women's soccer team (2-0-1) remains undefeated after tying 1-1 with Indiana State on the road despite delays caused by excessive heat on Friday, Aug. 24.

The first goal of the match came in the late stages of the first half from Indiana State midfielder Chloe Tesny in the 38th minute.

The Herd trailed going into the second half, but Huntington native Abi Hugh scored the equalizing goal in the 55th minute. Marshall applied consistent pressure in the second half, outshooting the Sycamores 9-2.

"We got smarter as the game

went on and really had some fantastic chances and some moments when we got unlucky in front of goal," Michael Swan, Herd women's soccer coach, said.

The intense heat index endured by each team led to an unconventional two water breaks per half.

"We've got to give so much credit to our players tonight," Swan said. "Such tough conditions for both sets of players but our performance and desire to get back in the game was impressive."

The Herd women's soccer team will be back in action at Hoops Family Field tomorrow, Aug. 31, against Ohio University, marking the start of a five-game homestand.



# Volleyball Sweeps Bethune-Cookman



Courtesy of HerdZone

By **JOEL SPEARS**  
STUDENT REPORTER

The Marshall University Volleyball Team had a successful weekend at the Bash at the Beach Tournament, finishing with a record of 2-1. They capped off their performance with a sweep of Bethune-Cookman University, winning in straight sets 25-18, 25-11 and 25-13.

Lydia Montague and Jazmin Parrish were recognized for their outstanding play and named to the all-tournament team. Montague led the team with five blocks, including two solo rejections. Her defensive efforts helped Marshall control the net and limit Bethune-Cookman's scoring opportunities.

Head Coach Ari Aganus expressed her pride in the team's performance, especially during their first weekend of competition and preseason. She emphasized the importance of finally playing against other teams and working out the kinks. Aganus highlighted the team's improvement in minimizing unforced errors and their strong offensive effort.

She did recognize the need for improvement in serving, passing and blocking, but overall, she was pleased with the team's 2-1 record and excited to prepare for the upcoming matches against Morehead and their home tournament.

In the first set, the Herd found themselves trailing by five points early on. However, they fought back and took control of the set, ultimately winning 25-18.

This momentum carried into the next two sets, with Marshall scoring 25 points against the Wildcat's 24.

Bria Samilton and Sarah Wadsworth made contributions to the team's success, each recording a match-high 10 digs. Brynn Brown led both sides with 24 assists and added seven kills to her performance.

# Men's Soccer Rout Wright State



Defender Takahiro Fujita

Photo by Abigail Cutlip

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 11-ranked Marshall men's soccer team (2-0-0) kept their hot start rolling against Wright State with a commanding 5-0 win at Hoops Family Field on Aug. 28.

Sophomore Marco Silva scored his first career goal to put The Herd up 1-0 in the 18th minute of the contest. Silva would go on to score two more goals in the 26th and 35th minute to complete his first career hat trick.

Matthew Bell would make his presence known by slipping the ball past the goalie into the bottom right corner of the net in the 26th minute on an assist by Silva to tally his fourth goal of the season in just two games.

The final goal of the game came in the 69th minute of the contest by Alvaro Garcia-Pascual to make any chance of a comeback by Wright State hard to imagine. Pascual also tallied an assist on one of the several goals scored by Silva.

Marshall dominated both offensively and defensively, outshooting Wright State 22-9. Over the past two contests, Marshall has outscored their opponents by a margin of 9-0.

The Herd will attempt to remain undefeated as they go into their next match at home on Friday, Sept. 1.

# The Economy Is Booming, but America Disagrees

By **PRAKASH KOLLI**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The numbers show the United States economy is booming. The inflation rate has fallen, unemployment is low, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is climbing, and technology and growth stocks are in a bull market. The American economy has defied predictions from experts and economic models of a recession.

But Americans are pessimistic and seemingly disagree with the data showing a historically strong economy, giving President Biden low marks for handling the economy. The disparity between the data and American sentiment may surprise some, but experts point to still struggling workers as the catalyst.

By many metrics, the United States economy is performing historically well and better than in 2022. The GDP has grown for four consecutive quarters. However, last year and early this year, headlines convinced many people in America that hyperinflation was here to stay. In fact, many economists predicted inflation combined with rising interest rates would result in an unprecedented recession. But the U.S. economy has been resilient, and many pessimistic forecasts did not materialize.

Inflation has faded, much to the surprise of many economists. In 2022, the highest inflation rate in four decades caused producer and consumer prices to surge. However, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) peaked at

9.1% in June 2022 but was only 3% in June 2023. Although prices are higher than before the pandemic, they are no longer rising as quickly.

The United States Federal Reserve targets an inflation rate of approximately 2%. Clearly, the consumer inflation rate is heading in the correct direction.

The unemployment rate also fell below 4% in 2022 and has so far stayed near 3.5%, near a record low. Additionally, many states are at or near record-low unemployment. Moreover, workers are satisfied with their jobs. Surveys show a 62% job satisfaction rate, the highest reported value, and driven largely by a hybrid work culture.

The American economy has rapidly added jobs. About 3.1 million more jobs exist now than before the pandemic. July 2023 saw another 187,000 jobs added — the 31st monthly gain in a row. A person who wants a job can find one. The number of job openings has come down from the highs of 2022 but is still above 9 million — a historically high quantity. In 2019, the year before the pandemic, that number was between 7 and 7.5 million.

Furthermore, the economic positives are causing investors to purchase equities. Stock market news shows a strong bull market, especially for technology and growth stocks. The Nasdaq is performing exceptionally well, up more than 33% this year. But the other indices, like the S&P 500 Index and Dow Jones Industrial Averages (DJIA), are positive too. As a result, retirement portfolio values are rising.

But why are Americans so gloomy if the economic news is so good?

Only about one in three Americans

approve of how President Biden has handled the economy. Broader sentiment surveys show comparable results. The well-known University of Michigan Survey of Consumers, reported a 71.6 in July 2023, 39% higher than one year ago, but still near the values during the Great Recession in 2008 to 2009.

Consumers in the United States are dissatisfied, despite a booming economy. This discontent can be traced mainly to high inflation. The experts agree. Jesse Carlucci, Ph.D., Certified Financial Planner, of Arrow Investment Management LLC in Oklahoma City, told Dividend Power, “...much of the pessimism about the economy comes from the fact that inflation has already increased the value of important household items like groceries, fuel, and supplies, as well as recreational items like car

rentals and airfare. Even though the labor market is thriving and the economy is growing again, inflation from the previous 18 months is already entrenched into the costs of everything consumers purchase.”

Another reason people are cynical about the economy is wages have not kept up with inflation. Usually, when the economy is performing well, and the unemployment rate is low, real wages rise. But the highest inflation in four decades has caused real wages to shrink, increasing living costs. “While year-over-year inflation is cooling, costs of living are still very high for most Americans, especially in comparison to wage increases. With less money for discretionary spending, many Americans naturally have a dismal outlook on the economy,” stated Christopher Johns of Spark Wealth Advisors in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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President Joe Biden speaks on the anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Courtesy of AP/Evan Vucci

# Marshall Students Use Study Abroad Program to Bring European Culture to Huntington

*This University Class Uses Color and Emotion to Explore the End of Life*

By **MARCIA BRENNAN**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

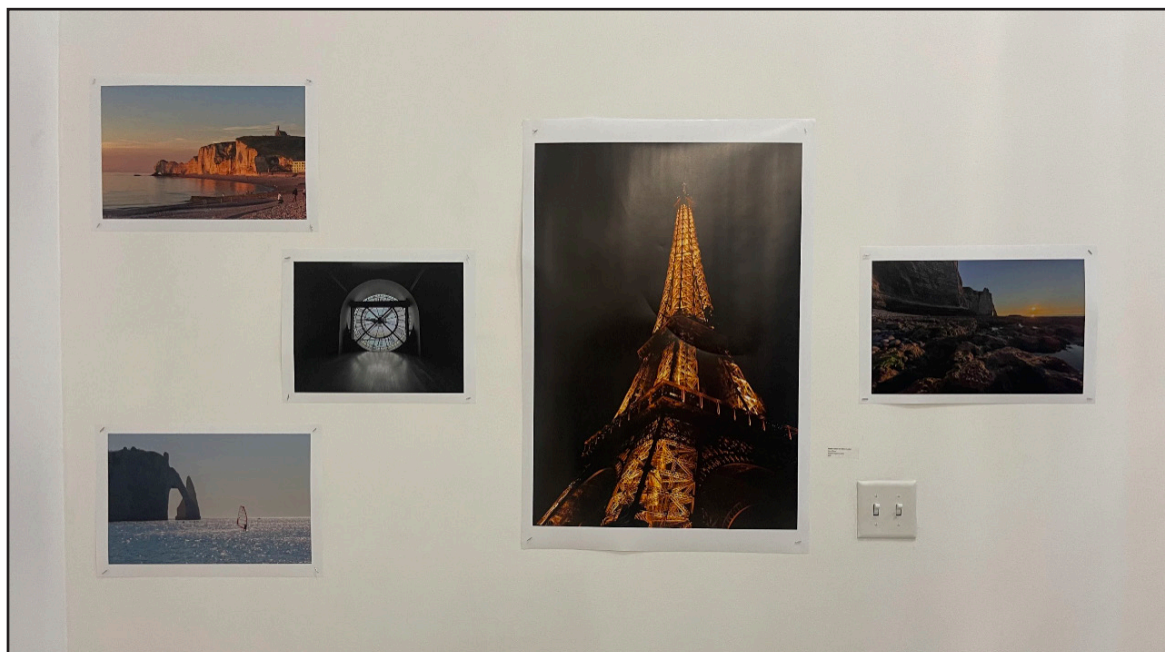
For many years, I've worked as a literary artist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In both contexts, I work with advanced oncology patients and with people at the end of life.

During the hospital visits, I ask people about images that are close to their heart. As people speak, I write down their words verbatim and put their phrases into successive lines, like poetry – a gift for the patient and their loved ones.

Then, a year and a half ago, I was offered an opportunity to consult on an animation project in Hollywood. After decades working with university students and people facing the end of life, I found myself working with people at the beginning of life – with children.

The themes converged, and I was inspired to write a children's book and teach a related university class about how art can help us understand major life insights and experiences, especially the wisdom that emerges at the end of life.

Classes pair original literary artworks that I produced with people at the end of life with related texts and images from philosophy, ethics, biomedicine, literature – including my new children's book – and the fine arts. Together, we read everything from 15th century texts about the *Ars Moriendi*, or "the art of dying," to contemporary writings by figures such as the physician-poet Rafael Campo and the surgeon Atul Gawande.



Photos showcased of study abroad trip

Photo by Jada Mills

By **JADA MILLS**  
STUDENT REPORTER

"These are the memories that will start to fade first," said Alaina Laster, a student at Marshall University who studied abroad this summer. "I feel like I never left when I look at the pictures from my trip to Paris."

Laster and another Marshall University student, Bryce Lusher, participated in the KIIS study abroad program to Paris, France over the summer.

"This specific program highlights the study of art and fashion design, and we were able to take a course in photography," Laster said.

The KIIS study abroad program is a non-profit study abroad that is faculty-led. Students can choose from over 20 countries and over 140 courses.

Laster and Lusher were assigned to take roughly 300 pictures over the course of their trip, several of which are on display in the Student Gallery at the Marshall University Visual Arts Center in Pullman Square.

"Being able to bring something so amazing back to Huntington, where it is not as diverse with different plants and people, is an awesome way to showcase our experience in Paris," Lusher said. "We want to showcase what the rest of the world is like through our pictures."

The students were tasked to take pictures in several sections which include human portrait, close up/texture, landscape/architecture, shadows/reflections and photos featuring any subject using only a cellphone.

Only 40 of their photos are showcased at the student gallery.

"By the end of the trip, we had thousands of images to sort through, it felt impossible to bring it down to only 40 images," Laster said.

"For me, personally, I wanted to use the photos as a way to take people on the trip with us," Lusher said. "The pictures that we took over the summer were a really good interpretation of that; you can see the beauty behind the architecture of the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame."

The study abroad program allows students to explore other parts of the world while also attending class and being responsible for assignments.

"This trip gave us the chance to explore our artistic style," Laster said. "I developed

a passion for street photography and capturing people within their element while Bryce found his love for landscape and extreme close-up photography."

The students chose images out of both of their collections to showcase for the exhibit.

"Our exhibit flows together even though we have different styles because we were able to make them collaborate; they each highlight our favorite parts of the trip," Laster said.

Students who have completed their freshman year and have at least a 2.50 overall/cumulative GPA are welcome to apply for a study abroad program through the Office of Study Abroad in Old Main.

"I don't think a lot of students know about the study abroad program because only a few professors push for it," Lusher said. "For me, I have heard people talking about it, but I never thought I could be a student who could do it."

Most study abroad programs require that students apply at least six to nine months in advance before departure. There are three programs that students can go through including Marshall Led Programs, Exchange Programs and Affiliate Programs.

More information on these programs can be found on marshall.edu under the Office of Study Abroad section.

Their exhibit will be displayed in the VAC for the public and students to see from Aug. 21 until Sept. 8.

**Alaina Laster is a staff reporter for The Parthenon.**

# Judge Dismisses Lawsuit by Sorority Sisters who Sought to Block Transgender Woman from Joining

By **MEAD GRUVER**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A judge has dismissed a lawsuit contesting a transgender woman's admission into a sorority at the University of Wyoming, ruling that he could not override how the private, voluntary organization defined a woman and order that she not belong.

In the lawsuit, six members of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority chapter challenged Artemis Langford's admission by casting doubt

on whether sorority rules allowed a transgender woman. Wyoming U.S. District Court Judge Alan Johnson, in his ruling, found that sorority bylaws don't define who's a woman.

The case at Wyoming's only four-year public university drew widespread attention as transgender people fight for more acceptance in schools, athletics, workplaces and elsewhere, while others push back.

A federal court cannot interfere with the sorority chapter's freedom of association by ruling against its vote

to induct the transgender woman last year, Johnson ruled Friday.

With no definition of a woman in sorority bylaws, Johnson ruled that he could not impose the six sisters' definition of a woman in place of the sorority's more expansive definition provided in court.

"With its inquiry beginning and ending there, the court will not define a 'woman' today," Johnson wrote.

Langford's attorney, Rachel Berkness, welcomed the ruling.

"The allegations against Ms.

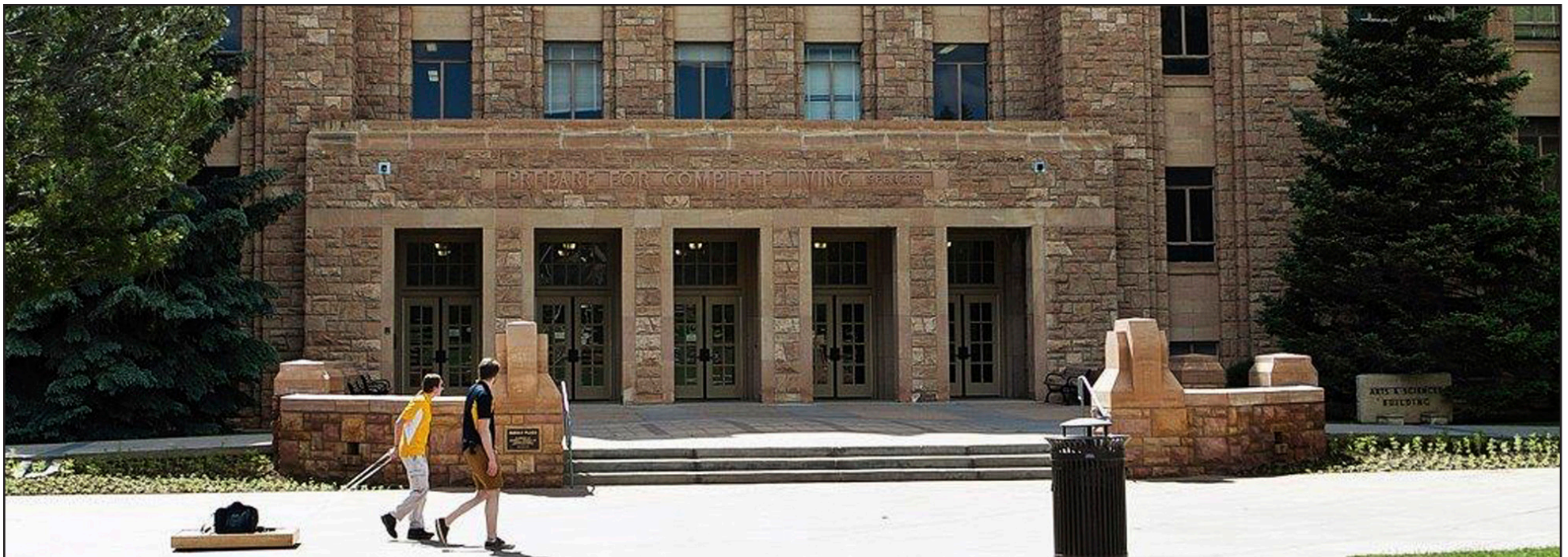
Langford should never have made it into a legal filing. They are nothing more than cruel rumors that mirror exactly the type of rumors used to vilify and dehumanize members of the LGBTQIA+ community for generations. And they are baseless," Berkness said in an email.

The sorority sisters who sued said Langford's presence in their sorority house made them uncomfortable. But while the lawsuit portrayed Langford as a "sexual predator," claims about her behavior turned out

to be a "nothing more than a drunken rumor," Berkness said.

An attorney for the sorority sisters, Cassie Craven, said by email they disagreed with the ruling and the fundamental issue — the definition of a woman — remains undecided.

"Women have a biological reality that deserves to be protected and recognized and we will continue to fight for that right just as women suffragists for decades have been told that their bodies, opinions, and safety doesn't matter," Craven wrote.



Two people walk on the University of Wyoming campus, June 14, 2016, in Laramie, Wyo. On Friday, Aug. 25, 2023, a judge dismissed a lawsuit contesting a transgender woman's admission into a sorority at the University of Wyoming.

Courtesy of the AP/Shannon Broderick and Laramie Boomerang

# University of North Carolina Graduate Student Charged in Killing of Faculty Advisor, Denied Bond

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM,  
GARY D. ROBERTSON and  
SARAH RANKIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Authorities charged a University of North Carolina graduate student Tuesday with first-degree murder in the fatal shooting of his faculty advisor, in an attack that caused a campuswide lockdown while police searched for the gunman.

During a brief hearing, Orange County Superior Court Judge Sherri Murrell ordered 34-year-old Tailei Qi to remain jailed without bond as an interpreter

explained to Qi in Mandarin what was happening. She scheduled his next court date for Sept. 18.

Dana Graves, a public defender who represented Qi during the hearing, left the courtroom without talking to reporters.

Qi is charged with first-degree murder and having a 9mm handgun on educational property in the Monday killing of Zijie Yan inside of a science building on UNC's flagship campus in Chapel Hill. The attack led to a roughly three-hour lockdown of the campus, a week after students returned for the start of the fall

semester.

Authorities haven't publicly discussed a motive for the attack.

Yan was an associate professor in the Department of Applied Physical Sciences who had worked for the university since 2019, UNC said in a statement Tuesday.

Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said in a message to the UNC community that his team had met with Yan's colleagues and family to express condolences on behalf of the campus.

"He was a beloved colleague, mentor and friend to many on

our campus," Guskiewicz said.

On Wednesday, the school's iconic Bell Tower will ring in honor of Yan's memory and students are encouraged to take a moment of silence, he wrote.

In a page that has been taken down since the attack, Qi was listed on the school's website as a graduate student in Yan's research group and Yan was listed as his adviser. He previously studied at Wuhan University in China before moving to the U.S. and earning a masters in mechanical engineering at Louisiana State University in 2021.

Qi, who lives in Chapel Hill, was arrested during a roughly three-hour lockdown that followed the shooting, authorities said at a Monday news conference.

The lockdown was lifted around 4:15 p.m.

Yan led the Yan Research Group, which Qi joined last year, according to the group's UNC webpage. He earned his PhD in materials engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York and previously worked as an assistant professor at Clarkson University.

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### Fifth Avenue Baptist Church

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

Visit our website for Worship Services  
and for other times of Bible study, worship, and activities  
for children, youth, and adults.

[www.fifthavenuebaptist.org](http://www.fifthavenuebaptist.org)  
304-523-0115

HD-486891

### CATHOLIC

#### SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

HD-486492

#### 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-486890

### CATHOLIC

#### St. Peter Claver Catholic Church

828 15th St. (on 9th Ave) Htgn.  
248-996-3960

Sunday Mass: 11:00a.m.  
Daily Masses: 12:05 on  
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday  
Confession by appointment

Father Shaji Thomas

HD-486764

# Photos From Men's Soccer Against Oakland University

Photos from story on Page 6



Marshall's Men's Soccer Team faced off against Oakland University.



Photos by Abigail Cutlip

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