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The Parthenon, June 21, 2023

Evan Green

Parthenon@marshall.edu

Conner Woodruff

Matt Schaffer

Chayce Matheny

Victoria Ware

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Evan Green, Conner Woodruff, Matt Schaffer, Chayce Matheny, Victoria Ware, Shauntelle Thompson, Rafael Alfonso, and Scott Price

Dr. David Gozal Welcomed as New School of Medicine Dean

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

After a six-month nationwide search, a pediatric pulmonologist and sleep expert has been named the new dean of Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

The announcement for Dr. David Gozal was made by President Brad Smith on Monday, June 17 in which Smith thanked the search committee which was headed by Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Avi Mukherjee.

"The goal was to identify a leader devoted to research and academic excellence," Smith said in the announcement. "The

selection of Dr. Gozal brings a proven leader to our campus."

"Dr. Gozal has extensive experience in academic medicine and an understanding of the complexities that will help guide our institution forward," Beth L. Hammers, chief executive officer of Marshall Health, added.

Gozal previously served as the Department of Child Health Chairman of the University of Missouri and Physician-in-Chief of the UM Health Children's Hospital.

He graduated from Hebrew University of Jerusalem with a Doctor of Medicine before earning MBAs from Georgetown University and ESADE in

Barcelona, Spain.

"I am simply ecstatic and humbled to be honored with the responsibilities of leading the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine into a brighter and healthier future for all West Virginians and beyond," Gozal said.

Gozal will begin his role as dean beginning July 31 with a Marshall community introduction following later this summer.



Dr. David Gozal

Photo Courtesy of MarshallU.net

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MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

School of Medicine Logo

Photo Courtesy of MarshallU.net

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Marshall computer lab

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

Marshall Cyber Competition Team Places 14th in Nation Cyber League

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall's Cyber Competition Team beat out 436 other colleges and universities to secure 14th place in the Cyber Leagues Spring 2023 season.

The cyber team featured students who were tasked with both team and individual exercises that tested real-world cybersecurity skills.

"Marshall's Cyber Competition Team has exemplified unparalleled cyber skills yet again," Josh Brunty, associate professor

and team coach, said in a news release. "This latest achievement and placement not only solidifies Marshall's position as a powerhouse in the field of cybersecurity, but reflects that our students are among the best and brightest students in the United States."

The spring 2023 competition featured teams from 450 academic institutions from across the nation going head-to-head in a series of cybersecurity events created to replicate challenges experienced in the

workforce.

Previously, the team has ranked in the top 10 over the past several years, while also winning in spring 2020.

The National Cyber League hosts over 7,500 students who all participate to test their cybersecurity skills and knowledge while showcasing their job preparedness for future employers.

West Virginia Supreme Court: Governor Shouldn't Have Been Forced to Block Charter School Approvals

By **LEAH WILLINGHAM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A West Virginia circuit court erred when it briefly prevented Gov. Jim Justice from enforcing a 2021 law he signed allowing an independent board to authorize publicly funded charter schools, the state Supreme Court of Appeals ruled on Thursday.

Justices unanimously vacated Kanawha County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Bailey's December 2021 preliminary injunction. They said in order to lawfully block the approval of new charter schools in the state, the court would have had to issue the injunction against the state's Professional Charter School Board, which was not named as a party.

Although Justice appoints the board's members with Senate approval, he doesn't have the authority to actually approve new charter schools himself, the Supreme Court ruled.

The injunction only briefly stripped the Professional Charter School Board of its authority to approve new charter schools. In February 2022, West Virginia's Supreme Court approved a stay while the state's appeal was underway.

Republican Gov. Jim Justice signed a bill in 2019 that allows for the creation of charter schools, and another in 2021 that created the unelected state-level charter board. Charter schools are publicly funded but privately run, tuition-free public schools that usually do not have to abide by the same rules and regulations as traditional public schools. Opponents argue they divert badly needed money away from traditional public schools.

Sam Brunett and Robert McCloud, two teachers with children in West Virginia public schools, sued Justice in 2021, alleging that the law is unconstitutional because it doesn't allow local residents to vote on whether or not to allow a new charter school to open in their county.

The suit also named defendants Republican House Speaker Roger Hanshaw and Senate President Craig Blair, the legislative leaders guiding the Legislature that wrote and approved the bill.

The state argued then that the teachers had "failed to identify any future actions that the Senate President, Speaker of the House, or the Governor — that they wish to stop," according to court documents.

Education Program Praised for Successful Reading Preparation

By SARAH DAVIS
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall's College of Education and Professional Development has been mentioned by a national teacher platform, receiving an "A" in the elementary reading category.

"All elementary teacher candidates should learn scientifically-based reading instruction, the research-based content and methods to effectively teach all children to read. This content should be clearly evident in a teacher preparation program's course materials, including class session topics, assignments, practice opportunities and background materials," reads the National Council on Teacher Quality report

concerning reading scores. The NCTQ works to establish ratings for thousands of teaching programs across the country. The organization specifically analyzes five components of literary education- phonics, fluency, vocabulary, phonemic awareness and comprehension- to "grade" the programs.

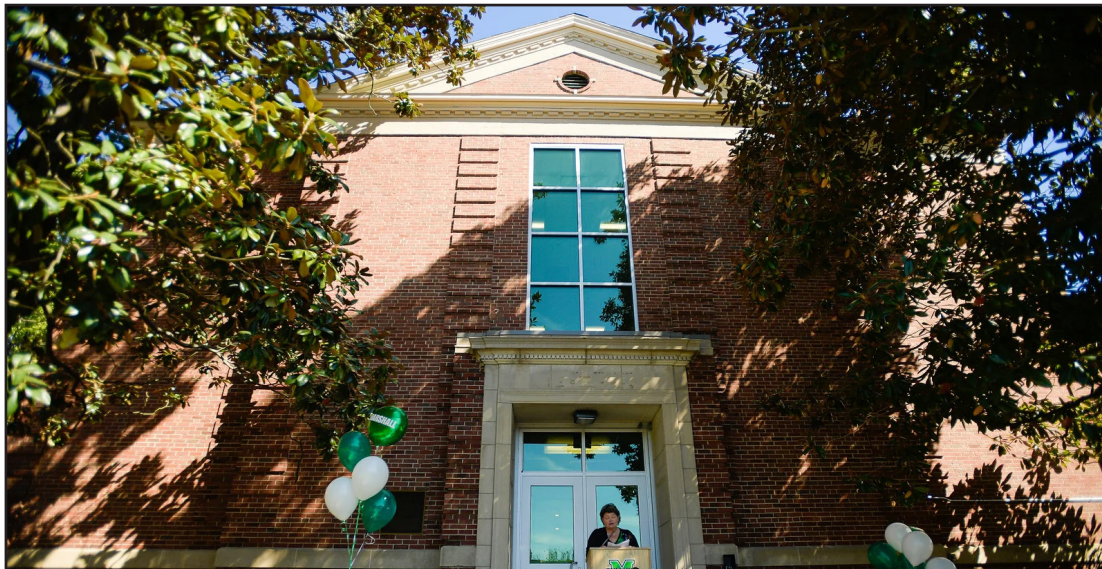
This is an accomplishment that bleeds into other areas of education, according to the school's dean.

"Success in reading leads to success in all other subject areas," said Dr. Teresa Eagle, dean of Marshall's College of Education and Professional Development, in a Marshall University

news release. "By using proven methods of teaching reading, we can train teachers that will lead their students well in all subject areas."

In its report, NCTQ also looked at Marshall's sufficiency in other elementary academic areas. The program earned a "B" in mathematics, in which the organization concluded that the programs "provide most of the content and pedagogical knowledge elementary teachers need for effective mathematics instruction."

Those who are interested in reviewing the full NCTQ report can access that through their official website at www.nctq.org.



Marshall's Education Building

Courtesy of Marshall University

Bank Commits One-Hundred Thousand to New Business Center



United Bank and Marshall officials pose with a \$100,000 check for the new business center.

Courtesy of Marshall University

By SARAH DAVIS
NEWS EDITOR

The new Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation received a \$100,000 gift from United Bank in support of the building and the education that will take place there.

The Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation is located on 4th Avenue. The center is currently undergoing construction and is expected to open its doors in January 2024.

The bank's Huntington market president says that their gift will prosper more people than the immediate students.

"Marshall is integral in educating and training the next generation of talent in the region," said Andrew Dawson, United Bank

Huntington market president, in a Marshall University news release. "Once graduates enter the workforce, it is going to raise

the talent level in the region. We will begin to see an influx of high-level students and professionals to

the region because of this significant investment in high-quality business education."

Other Marshall officials find the investment to be a boost of excitement for the new center.

"The key to the success of the new College of Business facility is our partnership with local and regional businesses that will help us grow and provide a strong measure of support for Marshall's students," said Dr. Ron Area, chief executive officer of the Marshall University Foundation. "United Bank is a great example of one of those partnerships."

The facility will be equipped to host gatherings and act as an economic hub for the community. Additionally, the student meeting room in the new center will be named after United Bank in honor of their support.



West Virginia Governor Jim Justice

Photo Courtesy of AP/Chris Jackson

Coal Firms Owned By Governor Jim Justice's Family Sued Over Unpaid Penalties

By JOHN RABY and DENISE LAVOIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Thirteen coal companies owned by the family of West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice are being sued over unpaid penalties for previous mining law violations that the federal government says pose health and safety risks or threaten environmental harm.

Justice, who was not named in the lawsuit, accused the Biden administration of retaliation. A Republican two-term governor, Justice announced in April that he is running for Democrat Joe

Manchin's U.S. Senate seat in 2024. He will face current U.S. Rep. Alex Mooney in the GOP primary.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday says that over the past five years, the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement cited the companies for more than 130 violations. The lawsuit says the total amount of penalties, fees, interest and administrative expenses owed by the defendants is about \$7.6 million.

U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh of the Western District of Virginia said the defendants were ordered more

than 50 times to stop mining activities until the violations were corrected.

"Today, the filing of this complaint continues the process of holding defendants accountable for jeopardizing the health and safety of the public and our environment," Kavanaugh said in a statement.

Among the violations, the companies failed to ensure the seismic stability of a dam, to maintain sediment-control measures, to clear rock and debris from a haul road after a rock fall, and to properly dispose of non-coal waste.

"Our environmental laws serve to protect communities against adverse effects of industrial activities including surface coal mining operations," Assistant U.S. Attorney General Todd Kim of the U.S. Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division said in a news release. "Through this suit, the Justice Department seeks to deliver accountability for defendants' repeated violations of the law and to recover the penalties they owe as a result of those violations."

Justice listed 112 coal, agricultural and other businesses on a financial disclosure form he filed this year with the state Ethics Commission, including seven that were placed in a blind trust in 2017. His worth peaked at \$1.7 billion in recent years, but he was taken off Forbes' prestigious list of billionaires in 2021.

The governor's companies have been perennially dogged in litigation over unpaid bills. He has tried to put distance between himself and the businesses, saying that his two adult children now run them. His son, Jay Justice, is named in the lawsuit, which lists Roanoke, Virginia, as the coal companies' principal place of business. A message left for Jay Justice in Roanoke wasn't immediately returned Wednesday.

Jim Justice said he didn't know details of the lawsuit but expects to be briefed by his son. During his weekly media availability Wednesday, the governor again tried to put space between himself and his companies while also pointing a finger at the Biden administration.

"I've announced as a Republican that I'm running

for the U.S. Senate. The Biden administration is aware of the fact that with a win for the U.S. Senate and everything, we could very well flip the Senate," Justice said. "There's a lot at stake right now."

Later Wednesday, Justice's Senate campaign doubled-down on criticism of the lawsuit's timing.

"Joe Biden, Chuck Schumer, and the Democrats have seen the polls that show Jim Justice winning this race, and they're panicking," Roman Stauffer, Justice's campaign manager, said in a statement. "So now the Biden Justice Department has decided to play politics. We will see a lot more of this as the Democrats work to help Alex Mooney because they know they can easily beat him."

As Supreme Court Considers Affirmative Action, Colleges See Few Other Ways to Diversity Goals



Students sit on the lawn near Royce Hall at UCLA in the Westwood section of Los Angeles on April 25, 2019.

Courtesy of AP/Jae C. Hong

By COLLIN BINKLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As an alternative to affirmative action, colleges from California to Florida have tried a range of strategies to achieve the diversity they say is essential to their campuses. Many have given greater preference to low-income families. Others started admitting top students from every community in their state.

But after years of experimentation — often prompted by state-level bans on considering race in admissions — there's no clear solution. In states requiring race-neutral policies, many colleges have seen enrollment drops among Black and Hispanic students, especially at selective colleges that historically have been mostly white. Now, as the Supreme Court decides the fate of affirmative action, colleges nationwide could soon face the same test, with some bracing for

setbacks that could erase decades of progress on campus diversity. A ruling is expected by the end of June.

At Amherst College, officials have estimated that going entirely race-neutral would reduce Black, Hispanic and Indigenous populations by half.

"We fully expect it would be a significant decrease in our population," said Matthew McGann, Amherst's director of admission.

Facing a conservative Supreme Court that appeared skeptical from the start, colleges have been preparing for a rollback. Some are considering adding more essays to get a better picture of an applicant's background. Others are planning to boost recruiting in racially diverse areas, or admit more transfer students from community colleges.

The court took up affirmative

action in response to challenges at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina. Lower courts upheld admission systems at both schools, rejecting claims that the schools discriminated against white and Asian-American applicants.

Meanwhile, other schools have been taking lessons from colleges that don't consider race. Nine states previously banned affirmative action, starting with California in 1996 and most recently Idaho in 2020.

After Michigan voters rejected it in 2006, the University of Michigan shifted attention to low-income students.

It sent graduates to work as counselors in low-income high schools. It started offering college prep in Detroit and Grand Rapids. It offered full scholarships for low-income Michigan residents. More recently, it started accepting fewer early admission applications, which are more likely to come from white students.

Despite those efforts, the university offers itself as a cautionary tale. The share of Black and Hispanic undergraduates hasn't fully rebounded from a falloff after 2006. And while Hispanic enrollments have been increasing, Black enrollments continued to slide, going from 8% of undergraduates in 2006 to 4% now.

The campus is drawing more low-income students, but that hasn't translated to racial diversity, said Erica Sanders, the director of undergraduate admissions at Michigan.

"Socioeconomic status is not a

proxy for race," Sanders said.

At the same time, some of Michigan's less selective colleges have fared better. At nearby Eastern Michigan University, the number of students of color increased, reflecting demographic shifts in the state. It illustrates what experts say is a chilling effect seen most acutely at selective colleges — students of color see fewer of their peers at places like Ann Arbor, prompting them to choose campuses that appear more welcoming.

Growing up in Ann Arbor, there was an expectation that Odia Kaba would attend the University of Michigan. When her application was deferred, she started at Eastern Michigan with plans to transfer to Ann Arbor her sophomore year.

By then, Kaba was getting daily texts from her sister, who attended U-M, describing the microaggressions she faced as a Black student on campus. Rooms went silent when she walked in.

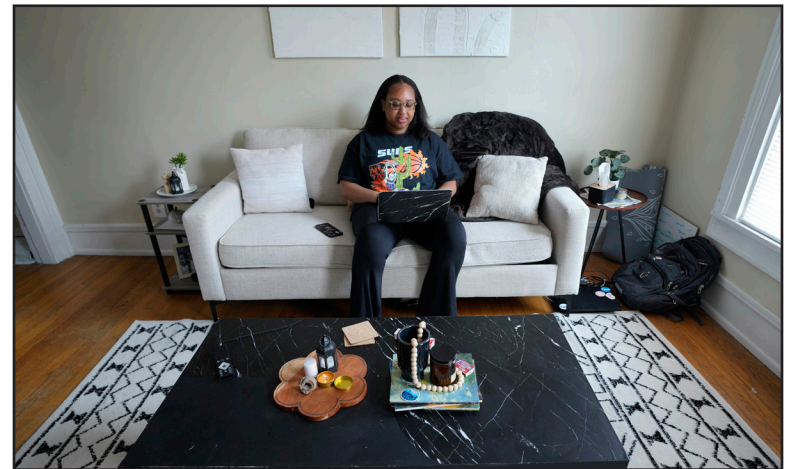
She was ignored in group projects. She felt alone and suffocated.

"Why would I go to U of M?" Kaba, 22, remembers thinking. "I'm just going to be stuck with people that don't look like me, can't relate to me, and with no way to escape it."

Kaba stayed at Eastern Michigan and graduated with a degree in quantitative economics this year. Even though it's a mostly white campus, Kaba said she found pockets of diversity that helped make her comfortable.

"I'm in economics, which is a white male-dominated space. But I can walk out of the classroom and be surrounded by my people, and I just feel safe," she said.

The University of California saw similar enrollment slides after a statewide ban in 1996. Within two years, Black and Hispanic enrollments fell by half at the system's two most selective campuses, Berkeley and UCLA.



Kaba stayed at Eastern Michigan and graduated with a degree in quantitative economics. Even though it's a mostly white campus, Kaba said she found pockets of diversity that helped make her comfortable

Courtesy of AP/ Paul Sancya

Megan Smith Lyon Leaves Open Spot for Softball Head Coach



Former Head Coach Megan Smith Lyon

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **MATT SCHAFER &
SCOTT PRICE**

INTERIM EXECUTIVE & COPY EDITORS

Marshall has begun a national search for a new softball coach following the resignation of Coach Megan Smith Lyon, who took on the head coach position at the University of North Carolina.

Director of Athletics Christian Spears thanked Lyon for her time at Marshall and immediately started the search for a new head coach.

“Megan will be missed, but we are immensely proud of her accomplishments and wish her well at UNC,” Spears said. “We are extremely confident we can attract an amazing person to Marshall to lead our softball program and that process has already begun.”

Smith Lyon is an alma mater of UNC, previously playing for the Tar Heels from 1996-1999.

Smith Lyon’s five-year spell with the Thundering Herd saw the team hold a successful win percentage of 67% during her tenure, going 160-70 over the five years. This included a 23-game win streak.

She also became the fastest coach to reach 150 wins in the history of the program while making a Sun Belt Championship run in the team’s first season in the conference.

“Megan is the epitome of what we are trying to do at Marshall,” Spears said. “She has elevated our program, led it with passion and purpose while always keeping the overall experience of our student-athletes at the forefront. Naturally, that led to competitive success, national recognition and a team that cares greatly for each other and our community.”

Volleyball Charlie French Promoted to Associate Head Coach



Associate Head Coach Charlie French

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **SCOTT PRICE**
COPY EDITOR

Marshall Volleyball Head Coach Ari Aganus announced on Friday, June 16 that fourth year coach Charlie French has been promoted to Associate Head Coach.

French has been important both on and off the court to the team as student-athlete according to Aganus.

“Charle is one of the hardest working, loyal, compassionate and driven humans I’ve ever had the pleasure of working with,” Aganus said. “She exudes everything the

title of Associate Head Coach encompasses, which became evident after her first year on staff. The elevation is a no-brainer. Our student-athletes, staff and all those involved with our program are better because of Charlie.”

French sites her emphasis on the importance of relationships to motivate the athletes as the reason she and Aganus work well together.

“Hard work is the key. It’s really the starting point,” French said. “I truly believe that what you put in is what you get out of any experience. Building relationships with out staff, players and employees here at

Marshall makes it easy to work hard because the love is there. We have fun through the entire process, not just the easy moments. We believe that success will naturally fall into place if you put in the hard work.”

French came to Marshall December 2020 and started as a volunteer assistant for Aganus. The following season, she was named assistant coach.

French specializes in defense and serve receiving; Aganus adds that she will be important going towards the Sun Belt Championship.

Marshall Players Named Phil Steele Preseason All-American



Defensive back Micah Abraham celebrating.

Courtesy of HerdZone

THE PARTHENON

Marshall cornerback Micah Abraham was named a 2023 Fourth Team Preseason All-American by “Phil Steele Publications.” He also led a trio of Marshall players named to the 2023 All-SBC Preseason First Team from the magazine.

Abraham was named as an Honorable Mention All-American and All-Sun Belt First Team selection by Phil Steele Publications in 2022 after a year in which he ended tied for third in the Football

Bowl Subdivision in interceptions with six.

The Tampa, Florida native finished with 36 tackles and 10 pass breakups on the season as well. The 10 pass breakups and six interceptions marked the second consecutive season he had at least 15 passes defended.

Joining Abraham on the 2023 All-SBC Preseason First Team were Marshall running back Rasheen Ali and Thundering Herd defensive end Owen Porter.

Ali returns to the Marshall backfield

healthy for the 2023 season after missing a portion of the 2022 slate with injury. Late in the 2022 season, Ali returned to the form that made him an all-league selection in 2021.

The Cleveland, Ohio native capped his 2022 season with MVP honors in the Thundering Herd’s 28-14 win over UConn in the Myrtle Beach Bowl. In three games, Ali rushed for 273 yards and a touchdown.

Porter is the emotional leader for the Marshall defense, which finished in the top-25 in several statistical categories in

the 2022 season. He was a First-Team All-SBC selection by the league.

The Huntington, West Virginia native finished with 60 tackles and team-highs in tackles for loss (15), sacks (9.5), quarterback hurries (9) and forced fumbles (2).

Phil Steele All-SBC Second Team Selections included offensive tackle Ethan Driskell and linebacker Eli Neal.

Driskell was a protector at tackle for the Thundering Herd, who won their final five games of the 2022 season, based on an efficient offense and a top-

tier defense.

Neal led Marshall’s defense with 98 tackles in 2022 while contributing 9.5 tackles for loss and three sacks to go with nine quarterback hurries, which matched Porter for top honors on the team.

Marshall also had a pair of Phil Steele All-SBC Third Team Selections in center Logan Osburn and punt returner Talik Keaton.

Advice for New Members of the Herd

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As many incoming students look forward to the fall semester, there is no doubt that the transition from high school, or wherever, to college is a daunting, exciting experience full of uncertainty. It's an experience that we have all been through to varying degrees.

As a non-traditional student who has learned to love and appreciate Marshall more and more with each passing semester, here are some simple pieces of advice to keep in mind for anyone looking to gain a

successful and enlightening time here at Marshall.

College is a microcosm of the outside world, diverse in people and perspectives.

During my time at Marshall, I have been able to meet several brilliant and unique people who have different ways of presentation, perspectives and ideals. While college may seem so large with such a vast student body, there are so many like-minded groups that anyone can find their place within this extended family.

One of my few regrets is waiting

so long into my college years to get involved in student groups because the people I have met have stuck with me, and the times we have experienced will last.

Don't be afraid to reach out.

I have met so many kind people, both friends and faculty at Marshall, who were accepting and helpful, both personally and throughout my academic career. It is important that you know that there are always people to turn to and are there to make sure you succeed, and as a non-traditional student, this was overwhelmingly reassuring.

Have fun but prioritize your time.

Most of us have heard the expression, "College is the best years of your life," whether it's been through television shows, movies, books or our family members, and while it certainly can be, it is also challenging.

As previously mentioned, both students and faculty here will usually go the extra mile to ensure your success, but you also have to put in the work. It is vital to your success that you balance your time between the fun and the grind.

Enjoy your time.

The last piece of advice is to enjoy your time here. As I approach my final year here, I have learned so much during my time at Marshall, specifically about myself. Use your time here to explore and take the steps toward the person you hope to become.

Saying That Students Embrace Censorship on College Campuses is Incorrect -- Here's How to Discuss the Issue More Constructively

By **BRADFORD VIVIAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The claim that college students censor viewpoints with which they disagree is now common. Versions of this claim include the falsehoods that students "shut down" most invited speakers to campuses, reject challenging ideas and oppose conservative views.

Such cynical distortions dominate discussions of higher education today, misinform the public and threaten both democracy and higher education.

Indeed, politicians in states such as Florida, Texas and Ohio argue that a so-called "free speech crisis" on college campuses justifies stronger government control over what gets taught in universities.

Since 2020, numerous state legislatures have attempted to censor forms of speech on campuses by citing exaggerations about students and their studies. Passing laws to ban certain kinds of speech or ideas from college campuses is no way to promote true free speech and intellectual diversity. The most common targets of such censorship are programs that discuss race, gender, sexuality and other forms of multiculturalism.

My concerns over public discourse about higher education extend from my book on popular misinformation about universities and why it threatens democracy. In it, I show that many negative perceptions of students and universities rest on factual distortions and exaggerations.

The character of public debates about higher education is important. Millions of Americans rely on a healthy system of university education for professional and personal success. Rampant cynicism about higher education, leading to declines in public support for it, only undermines their pursuits.

Based on my research, I offer alternative ways to frame debates about higher education. They can lead to discussions that are more constructive and accurate while better protecting fundamental American values such as free speech and democracy.

The idea that college students are hostile to opposing viewpoints is false. Pundits and media personalities have promoted this falsehood aggressively. Such figures have benefited, politically or financially, from sensationalism about a college "free speech crisis." In opinion polls, college students typically express stronger support for free speech and diverse viewpoints than other groups. Partisan organizations often cherry-pick that data to make it seem otherwise. But poll results tell only part of the story about college campuses today.

Several thousand institutions make up U.S. higher education. The system includes hundreds of thousands of students from different backgrounds. College campuses are often more demographically and intellectually diverse than surrounding communities.

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.

Matt Schaffer - Interim Executive Editor
Victoria Ware - Managing Editor
Sarah Davis - News Editor
Scott Price - Sports & Copy Editor
Sandy York - Faculty Adviser

Follow The Parthenon on Twitter and Instagram @MUParthenon
109 Communications Bldg

Marshall University | One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755 | parthenon@marshall.edu
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Amanda Gorman's Poem for Biden's Inauguration Barred for Younger Children by Florida School

By **FREIDA FRISARO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A poem written for President Joe Biden's inauguration has been placed on a restricted list at a South Florida elementary school after one parent's complaint.

In a Facebook post, poet Amanda Gorman vowed to fight back. Her poem, "The Hill We Climb" was challenged by the parent of two students at Bob Graham Education Center in Miami Lakes, along with several books.

"I'm gutted," she wrote. "Robbing children of the chance to find their voices in literature is a violation of their right to free thought and free speech."

Gorman, who at 17 became the country's National Youth Poet Laureate, said she wrote the poem "The Hill We Climb," so "all young people could see themselves in a historical moment," and that she's received countless letters and videos from children who were inspired to write their own poems.

She became an international sensation at Biden's inauguration, where she was the youngest poet to read at the ceremony since Robert Frost was invited to John F. Kennedy's in 1961.

In "The Hill We Climb," Gorman references everything from Biblical scripture to "Hamilton," and at times echoes the oratory of Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With urgency and assertion she begins by asking, "Where can we find light/In this never-ending shade?" and used her own poetry and life story as an answer.

She said she planned to share a message of hope for Biden's inauguration without ignoring "the evidence of discord and division." She had completed a little more than half of the poem before Jan. 6 and the siege of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump.



American poet Amanda Gorman recites a poem during the Inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 20, 2021, in Washington.

Courtesy of AP/Patrick Semansky

The poem and books are still available in the media center for middle school-aged children, Ana Rhodes, a spokesperson for the Miami-Dade school district, said in a statement.

While book bans are not new, they are happening much more frequently, especially in Florida — where Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has championed policies that allow the censorship of books some have deemed inappropriate for children in schools, causing national uproar.

DeSantis, who entered the 2024 presidential race Wednesday, has leaned heavily into cultural divides on race, sexual orientation and gender as he gains support from conservative voters who decide Republican primary elections.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre condemned the decision to ban Gorman's poem, saying Biden and his administration stands with her.

"The President was proud to have Ms. Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet, speak at his inauguration," she said. "Banning books is censorship, period," she

added. "It limits American freedom — Americans' freedom — and we should all stand against that type of act."

Yecenia Martinez, principal of the K-8 school, which is part of the Miami-Dade public school system, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment about the poem's ban. The school is named after Bob Graham, a former Democratic governor and U.S. senator from Florida.

Daily Salinas, the parent who objected to the poem and books, told the Miami Herald she's not "for eliminating or censoring any books." Salinas said she wants materials to be appropriate. It was not immediately clear what she objected to in Gorman's poem.

After her complaint, a materials review committee made up of three teachers, a library media specialist, a guidance counselor and the principal, determined one of the books in question was balanced and age appropriate, and would remain available for all students, the newspaper reported.

Drawing, Making Music and Writing Poetry Can Support Healing and Bring More Humanity to Health Care in US Hospitals

By **MARLAINE FIGUEROA GRAY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The COVID-19 pandemic shined a light on the deep need that people feel for human touch and connection in hospital settings. Having relatives peering through windows at their loved ones or unable to enter hospitals altogether exacerbated the lack of human intimacy that is all too common in health care settings.

Opportunities for creative expression through arts in medicine programs are increasing in U.S. hospitals, and it may be because art-making offers something that medicine can't. Evidence shows that taking part in art programs has many therapeutic benefits, such as reducing anxiety and stress, supporting mental health and well-being and connecting people to one another.

Research has also shown that these programs can bring relief from the stresses and burnout that health care workers regularly experience.

As a medical anthropologist studying how to support people who are facing serious illness, as well as those who care for them, one of my research interests is the intersection of arts and medicine.

Participating in creative activities helps with expressing emotions. This can improve optimism, boost the body's immuneresponse and improve healing times.

Arts in medicine programs are also correlated with improved blood pressure and less pain and depression for some patients. Some music activities can help stroke victims recover balance and rhythm.

These types of clinical benefits are

certainly valued. But what people I spoke with shared that was the most transformative for them were the ways art-making allowed them to feel more fully human.

Art therapy reduces the sense of isolation

One example is at the MD Anderson Cancer Centers in Houston. Ian Cion founded the hospital's arts in medicine program in 2010. In 2014, he worked closely with more than 1,300 MD Anderson patients, their family members and staff to create a life-size paper dragon sculpture — one scale at a time.

Cion built the dragon's frame in his home out of popsicle sticks, wire and cardboard and then placed the 9-foot frame inside a high-traffic area in the hospital. Young cancer patients, their families and the entire hospital community were invited to create scales, which they filled with their hopes, prayers and favorite images. A row of scales could be finished and placed on the dragon in 45 minutes or less, but it still took months for the project to be completed.

Cion's goal with such collaborative projects was to pull people out of the isolation of illness and into community, and to celebrate and embrace the unknown.

Detachment and routine are rife in hospital settings is happening more frequently in hospitals, what benefits it provides and how these programs function alongside traditional medical care.

Medical care in the U.S. can be dehumanizing for both the people giving and receiving care.

Students Meet Under Trees as Schools Shelter Villagers Displaced by Philippine Volcano

By **JIM GOMEZ AND AARON FAVILA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MALILIPOT, Philippines (AP) — Nearly 20,000 people have fled from an erupting Philippine volcano and taken shelter in schools, disrupting education for thousands of students, many of whom are having classes in chapels and tents or under trees, officials said Friday.

The Mayon volcano in northeastern Albay province, one of the deadliest of 24 active volcanoes across the Philippine archipelago, began expelling lava late Sunday in a gentle eruption that has not caused any injuries or death. But it could drag on for months and cause a prolonged humanitarian crisis, officials warned.

Most of those forced to evacuate live in farming villages within a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius of the volcano's crater that has long been designated as a permanent danger zone but has been home to thriving communities for generations.

The evacuees were directed to more than 20 emergency shelters, which are mostly grade and high school campuses. Every classroom has turned into an overcrowded sanctuary for several families with sleeping mats, bags of clothes, cooking stoves and toys for

children.

More than 17,000 students in five Albay towns are among affected by the displacements for the eruption. About 80% are continuing their daily school lessons through an emergency system in which parents teach their children at home or elsewhere using school-provided "learning modules," said Alvin Cruz of the Department of Education in Albay.

The temporary distant-learning approach for students was extensively used during the two years of the coronavirus pandemic, when most of the Philippines was under police-enforced quarantine that restricted people to their homes.

"We came from the pandemic and the learning loss was grave, and now we have the Mayon volcano erupting," Cruz told The Associated Press. "Our challenge now is how to track the displaced school children so we can give their parents the learning modules."

Some teachers are trying to continue in-person classes, meeting with their students inside village halls, chapels, gymnasiums and daycare centers, outside in gardens and under trees, or even in school corridors, Cruz said.

"We can't do anything because we're in an emergency," he said. "We will always find ways to ensure the learning continuity."

At the San Jose elementary school campus now crammed with more than 2,400 displaced villagers in Malilipot town, AP journalists saw teachers holding classes along narrow open-air walkways, in a flower garden, inside a tiny guest hut and under the shade of a tree.

"Life must go on despite the volcano," teacher Shirley Banzagales said as she held a mathematics class for 13 children in uniform under a mango tree. "We are now essentially in an evacuation camp, but I have to continue teaching my students."

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. flew to Albay on Wednesday to reassure displaced villagers, hand out food and discuss with the provincial governor and town mayors the impact of the eruption on villagers, schoolchildren and the province's economy.

The eruption is the latest natural calamity to test the administration of Marcos, who took office last June in a Southeast Asian nation regarded as one of the most disaster-prone in the world. About 20 typhoons and storms lash the Philippines every year, and the archipelago with 24 active volcanoes is shaken by frequent earthquakes.

Marcos told evacuees at one center that it could be up to three months before the volcanic eruption eases and allows them to return home.

Some of the displaced villagers have complained about heat and overcrowding in emergency shelters, and local officials pledged to provide more electric fans and improve their condition.

Albay's governor, Edcel Greco Lagman, expanded the permanent danger zone around Mayon to a 7-kilometer radius Monday and has warned people living nearby to be ready to move out quickly if the volcano's conditions should intensify.

Mayon appeared calm Friday, though government volcanologists said lava was still flowing slowly down its slopes and could not be seen easily under the bright sun.

The 2,462-meter (8,077-foot) volcano is a top tourist draw in the Philippines because of its picturesque conical shape, but is the most active of the country's 24 known volcanoes. It last erupted violently in 2018, displacing tens of thousands. An 1814 eruption buried entire villages and killed more than 1,000 people.



Students hold class under trees because the school was converted into a temporary evacuation center at Malilipot town, Albay province, northeastern Philippines.

Courtesy of AP/Aaron Favila

School of Pharmacy Now Offering Bachelor of Science Program

By SARAH DAVIS
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall's School of Pharmacy is now accepting applicants for its newest offered degree, a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (B.S.P.S.).

With the new bachelor's program, pharmacy students will now have more options when choosing their academic paths. The addition supplements the existing master's and doctoral (Pharm.D.) programs.

Those who complete the degree will be one step closer to their Pharm.D. completion than other students in the program, according to the school's dean.

"This new academic program

is a fast track to becoming a pharmacist," said Dr. Eric Blough, dean of the School of Pharmacy, in a Marshall University news release. "The fourth year of the B.S. program overlaps with the first year of the Pharm.D. program, which enables students to graduate with a Pharm.D. in seven years rather than the traditional eight years."

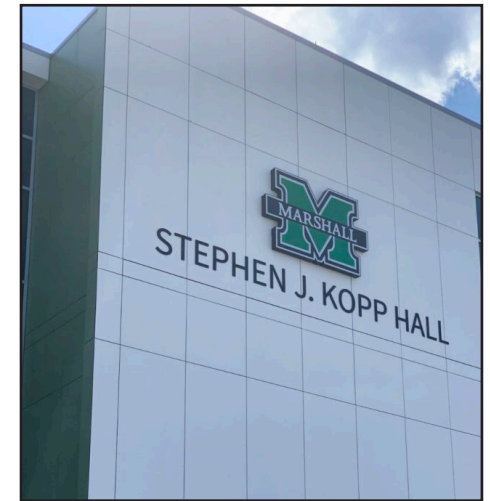
According to the school's website, the new study path is designed to equip students for various entry-level careers in the pharmaceutical field.

"The B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences program prepares students for careers in the field of drug discovery, development and commercialization.

Graduates are prepared for entry level positions in the pharmaceutical industry, academic research laboratories and biotechnology companies," the website reads.

Students who are interested in entering the program must meet certain academic requirements, including a minimum composite ACT score of 27 with a math score of 21 or a composite SAT score of 1060 with a math score of 530. Applying students must also meet all Marshall University admission requirements.

More information on the new degree opportunity, as well as the remaining admission requirements, can be found on the School of Pharmacy's website.



Marshall's Kopp Hall, where the School of Pharmacy is located

Courtesy of WV Metro News

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(304) 525-5202

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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

NCAA Committee Recommends Dropping Marijuana From Banned Drug List for Athletes

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - An NCAA panel is calling for the removal of marijuana from the organization's list of banned drugs, suggesting that testing should be limited to performance-enhancing substances.

The proposal released Friday from the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports would mark a big change for the NCAA, which has been conducting drug tests at championship events since 1986. Committee members recommended halting cannabis tests at such events until a final decision is made, likely this fall.

Legislation would still have to be introduced and approved by all three NCAA divisions to take effect. Administrators in Divisions II and III had asked the committee to study the issue.

The recommendation comes as the U.S. is seeing more and more states allowing medical or recreational marijuana use. Earlier this year, the committee increased the THC

threshold needed for a positive test and recommended revamped penalties for athletes. The threshold for THC — the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana — was raised from 35 to 150 nanograms per milliliter, matching that of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

The committee noted last December that marijuana and its byproducts are not considered performance-enhancing substances. Instead of focusing on penalties for cannabis use, the panel suggested stressing policies that focus on the potential threats from marijuana use and the need to reduce the harm and use of cannabis products.

It also recommended schools that test to use those results to help find "problematic" cannabis use. The committee also wants to provide schools with additional guidelines about cannabis.

Separately, the committee proposed setting a threshold of 0.1 nanograms per milliliter as a trace level for the hormone GW1516 in hopes of preventing athletes from becoming ineligible because of ingesting



An NCAA medical committee believes it is time to remove marijuana from the governing body's list of banned drugs.

Courtesy of AP/Hans Pennink

the substance unintentionally. The substance was initially but was discontinued in 2007. from contaminated supplements. designed for diabetes treatment

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