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Marshall Students Rally Against WVU Budget Cuts



Students protested outside the MSC to oppose the proposed WVU layoffs.

Photo by Matthew Schaffer

By **MATTHEW SCHAFFER**
MANAGING EDITOR

Marshall students and professors alike gathered in the Memorial Student Center Plaza on Friday, Sept. 8, to show solidarity with the students of West Virginia University following proposed budget cuts.

The budget cuts would see multiple academic programs in world languages, linguistics and literature cut, as well as cuts to several graduate and doctoral programs including those in music, English, math and more.

“I kept hearing about all these cuts going on at WVU before the semester began,” said Matthew Lebo, rally organizer and Marshall student. “It could not be more self-destructive, and the administration of WVU knows that.”

WVU is facing cuts because of declining enrollment, high employee costs and lingering economic effects of COVID-19, leading to a \$45 million deficit. The participants in the rally hope to combat the cuts through petitions started by Lebo.

“We are asking Governor Justice

to call a special session of the legislature to allocate to WVU \$45 million of emergency funding that should prevent the cuts that are slated to be approved next week, and we are asking for higher education funding in general for all of the public universities in West Virginia, so we don’t have to see another crisis like this happen,” Lebo said.

While Marshall also faces a deficit, President Brad D. Smith maintained Marshall’s plans to expand and introduce cost-control options rather than program cuts. However, some

students still fear that these cuts could influence Marshall as well.

“WVU and Marshall are West Virginia; you don’t have one without the other,” Ella Hiles said. “I’m in the history department, one of the smallest yet one of the most nationally published departments. There is a good chance that if these budget cuts came to Marshall, the history department would be on the chopping block.”

While some students fear for the possible future at Marshall, others like Meredith Shuff say that they are more worried about their fellow

students at WVU who could lose the program that they are enrolled in.

“I have a lot of friends and a lot of family that go up there,” Shuff said. “I learned that one of my closest friends won’t be able to continue his program, and that makes me really upset because I’m getting a quality education that I want to get, but he can’t.”

On Wednesday, WVU faculty voted to pass two resolutions to freeze the cuts, as well as a no-confidence vote for WVU President Gordon Gee.

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Title IX Classes Offered This Semester for Students and Staff



Students protest outside of Old Main following the USA Today article published in November 2022.

Photo by Taylor Isaac

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
MANAGING EDITOR

Title IX classes on bystander intervention will be offered this semester both virtually and in-person following the recommendations from the student-led task force.

“The course is designed to provide members of our university community with tools we can use to help prevent sexual violence,” Marshall President Brad D. Smith announced in a release on Tuesday, Sept. 12. “Including recognizing and stopping situations before they happen, stepping in during an

incident and speaking out against ideas and behaviors that support sexual violence,” “I encourage each of you to demonstrate your commitment to making Marshall University a safer place to learn, work and live by attending this training at your earliest convenience,” he added.

The classes will be offered virtually on Sept. 19, Oct. 24 and Nov. 6 and in-person on Oct. 3, Nov. 15 and Dec. 12. All classes will be held from 11 a.m to 12:15 p.m besides the Oct. 24 and Nov. 6 classes, which will be held from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. and from noon to 1:15 p.m., respectively.

These classes come in response to sweeping Title IX changes after the publication of a USA Today article in November 2022 that exposed failures of Marshall’s Title IX program. A student-led task force was formed who worked with staff and faculty to create a list of recommendations for policy.

These policies included a Title IX advisory board, public forum, a new physical location in the student center, audits of student conduct policies and procedures and annual Title IX training for faculty and staff.

Supreme Court of Appeals Returns to Campus

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
MANAGING EDITOR

An oral arguments session will be heard by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center today as a part of Marshall’s Constitution Celebration.

Students can attend for free; however, prior registration is requested, security measures will be in place and proper courtroom etiquette is expected to be followed.

“One important part of a college education involves preparing students to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship,” said Dr. Montserrat

Miller, executive director of the Drinko Academy.

“During our annual U.S. Constitution Celebration, we offer non-partisan programs designed to build student appreciation for the culture of democratic self-government.”

The event is a part of the annual Constitution Celebration, sponsored by John Deaver Drinko Academy and the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, and hosts multiple other events for the celebration, including an Amicus Curiae Lecture on Sept. 12, events for National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 19 and a First Amendment Forum on Sept. 27.



The Supreme Court of Appeals previously came to campus in March, hearing three different cases.

Courtesy of The Herald-Dispatch

Student Organizations Host Involvement Fair

BY JADA MILLS
STUDENT REPORTER

Participation in student events can lead to an improved college career, a leadership involvement coach said recently.

“Students who get involved on campus are 80% more likely to retain their attendance and complete their degrees,” Lenzie Stilner of the LEAD Center said during last Wednesday’s Student Involvement Fair, which featured some 52 organizations outside Memorial Student Center.

“The student involvement fair is the main source for students to see what clubs are offered to them,” Stilner said.

Over 300 clubs are active on campus. Organizations use tabling as a way to showcase their club; they offer

informational brochures and free items like pens, pencils, bracelets, shirts and candy.

The fair was held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. during high traffic time for the plaza.

“The student center is the perfect place for the fair. We have had students stop and talk to organizations all morning as they walk through,” Stiltner said.

In-person interactions boost recruitment for the clubs which allow commuters and new students to get involved. Several new clubs are created each year; holding an involvement fair helps them gain attendance.

“Anything new can be scary, especially for new students to Marshall, but getting involved on campus will better connect them to the community,” Stiltner said.

A newly created club is the American Sign Language Club. Kierstyn Terry

created this club to teach students sign language. The club meets every Monday evening from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

“Knowing sign language can open doors for different jobs like interpreting for events and can be beneficial for resumes,” Terry said.

The cosplay club was also set up during the fair. “Members in this club get together and help each other make costumes that we wear to different conventions,” said Alexis Belt, the club’s president. “We have several events this month that new members can get involved with.”

Around 30 members are in the cosplay club. This semester they plan to use their club to benefit the community by volunteering their time to local fundraisers like the Angel Tree program through the Salvation Army and visiting

youth at Cabell Huntington Hospital while dressed up as princesses.

The Residence Hall Association was another organization tabling during the fair. This organization is the governing body for all the residence halls.

“The RHA is a way for students to have a voice and make the changes they want to see in the residence halls,” said Lauren Wright, the residence hall advisor.

The RHA offers National and Regional conferences that students can

attend to further leadership within the organization. There is also an executive board where students can run for positions like president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

The rec soccer club, religion-based clubs and fraternities and sororities were also tabling during the fair.

For students interested in joining a club, all information can be found on herdlink.marshall.edu.



Clubs and organizations tabled at the Plaza on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Photo by Jada Mills

Feature Documentary Brings Panel Discussion



“Imagining the Indian” was shown on Thursday, Sept. 7.

Photo by Victoria Ware

By VICTORIA WARE
OPINIONS & CULTURE EDITOR

The cultural impact and historical implications of Native American-themed mascots and team names were outlined in the film “Imagining the Indian,”—screened on Thursday, Sept. 7.

In partnership with the Appalachian Film Festival, the College of Arts and Media Video Production Program screened a feature-length documentary

that focused on the controversial use of Native imagery in American sports. Preceding the presentation filmmakers Ben West and Yancy Burns were awarded the first-place prize in the category of “Feature-Length Film” on behalf of the Appalachian Film Festival and the Foundry Theater.

The film began by providing historical background on the subjugation of Native American people. It tackled the way their history has been taught in American schools and the effect this has

on Natives and the general population’s view of them.

In a panel discussion following the screening—featuring West, Burns, sociology professor Dr. Carl DeMuth and moderated by video production professor Tijah Bumgarner—West said that in order to convey the impact of Native Americans’ portrayal in sports, it was necessary to first establish the history of Natives in the United States.

“We found that we really needed to dedicate the first 25 minutes of this movie to the baseline history of the genocide that occurred to Native people on this continent because a lot of people are unaware of that,” West said.

“In order to address mascots and cartoons and all that we do in the film, we have to dedicate that first portion of the movie just to make sure that the audience is to that baseline understanding of history,” West continued.

Along with examining the past treatment of Native Americans, the film cited examples of stereotyping in pop culture that Native activists argue are misrepresentations. Instances featured in the film were Tonto in “The Lone Ranger,” and Disney animated films such as “Pocahontas” and “Peter Pan.”

The crux of the film is the controversy around sports teams having names, mascots and symbols that include Native American slurs and cultural imagery. After the Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020 and the push for anti-racism that spurred from it, sports teams like the Washington Commanders and Cleveland Guardians changed their names from the previous ones that were considered offensive by Native people. The effort to get rid of Native American team names and mascots is ongoing.

The film features scientific research that shows exposure to Native mascots

can have a negative impact on Native youth.

“There is a tangible public health impact in these mascots,” Burns said. “We know from the research that exposure to Native American mascots leads to increased levels of suicide among Native people—particularly Native youth. We know it leads to increased levels of lowered self-esteem among Native people—particularly Native youth. And we know that it just leads to overall worse health outcomes for folks.

“There’s no good reason why the name of a sports team should ever be more important than the health and well-being of people,” Burns continued.

MUPD Uses FBI Technique in Active Shooter Training on Campus

By **TASHA ESSELSTEIN**
STUDENT REPORTER

Designed around the FBI's "Run. Hide. Fight." technique, MUPD and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety provided active student training for faculty, staff and students at the student center yesterday, Sept. 12.

According to FBI statistics on average, active shooter incidents occur every three weeks.

Police Chief Jim Terry, Lieutenant Parker, and Tracy Smith, director of environment health and safety, collaborated to put the training together.

According to the "Run. Hide. Fight." technique, during an active shooter situation the first thing that everyone should do is try to run and get as far away from the threat as possible.

The training was designed around the FBI technique of "Run. Hide. Fight." Meaning

"Water runs through the lowest point and is fluid and keeps moving no matter what," Parker said. "That's how you run. You don't stop."

If running isn't an option and the exits are blocked, the next option is to hide. The goal is to locate somewhere with the most coverage to hide and silence all devices.

The last resort in the FBI's stated

plan is to fight, meaning barricade any doors with chairs, desks or anything found around the room.

"If we have come to that point in that event, there are no fair fights, you do everything you can," Parker said.

During the training, Parker walked around the room asking what people have with them and explained that a pen, water bottle and purse can all be used during active shooter situations.

"All of those things are now weapons," he said.

Emphasizing the importance of personal preparation, Terry said, "Be aware of your surroundings, identify the closest exits and think of how you would get out of a restaurant, classroom and even your own home."

"When you're walking to your car late at night," he went on to say, "don't stare at your phone, be aware of your surroundings, and have a plan with your friends and family when you go out."

Students interested in learning more about the training can find the video link uploaded to Blackboard, which will be accessible to all students, faculty and staff.

Marshall also has many resources and events becoming available to the community in the near future to address concerns related to active shooting situations and the

new campus carry law coming this summer.

"The Campus Carry Work Group is actively preparing for the July 2024 adoption of concealed carry legislation on higher education campuses," UComm said recently. "Current efforts focus on creating an implementation plan based on recommendations from the Campus Carry Action Learning Team."

Several events related to campus safety in the upcoming months include an R.A.D. Self-Defense Course on Oct. 4 beginning at 1 p.m. in the student center and a Campus Safety walk on Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Memorial Fountain to assess campus safety.

The Marshall Police Department is also active on campus and there to help with any questions or concerns during their patrol.

"We are here 24/7," Terry said. "We patrol on bikes, cruisers, the whole 9 yards. So, that's an active patrol function."

Those interested in getting to know MUPD can attend events like the Coffee and Donuts event with the department on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 8 a.m.

All details regarding upcoming campus safety events can be viewed through the new Marshall U app.

Sandfest Raises Money for Local Children's Museum



Those in attendance sculpted sand into various creations.

Photo by Abigail Cutlip

By **EMMA GALLUS**
STAFF REPORTER

The second annual Sandfest brought children to campus and the beach to Huntington to fundraise for the Huntington Children's Museum on Sunday, Sept. 10.

In partnership with the Office of Student Affairs, the event raised money to renovate the museum's new location, buy new exhibits and cover general operating costs.

The new location in Huntington's West End needed renovations before the new exhibits could be brought in.

Tosha Pelfrey, president of the Huntington Children's Museum Board, said that most of the repair costs have already been covered by grants and donations. On top of the renovation costs, two of the largest exhibits have also been completely funded.

Different local businesses sponsored the event itself, volunteered, sold food or competed in the sculpture contest.

Chris Aluise, another member of the board, said, "There's more and more vendors and people within the community that come in."

Sandfest, which took place on the plaza in front of the Memorial Student Center, featured a tabletop sand sculpture competition.

Members from different organizations and businesses around Marshall created a sculpture to compete for cash prizes and the Golden Shovel.

The groups had from when the event started at 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., after which the panels of judges walked around to admire the works.

In total, five organizations competed and three took home prizes. Keramos Clay Club took first place with their creation featuring a mix of different animals including lobster claws, a horse face and cat ears, to name a few.

Sandfest also had many events outside of the sand sculpture competition covering STEAM learning, a new style of education that mixes the arts with traditional STEM topics. Some of these events included face painting and experiments.

As a volunteer-run project, Pelfrey said that the Huntington Children's Museum's goal is to "create a space where children can learn and grow through play."

Katie Holland, a mother at the event, said, "Sand and toddlers is always a great mix."

This year's event was Holland's first time, but she said her family "loves all the events the museum puts on, and we've loved it so far."



Marshall Police Chief Jim Terry spoke at the training on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Photo by Sarah Davis

Domestic Violence Shelter Focuses on Changing Narrative

By **TASHA ESSELSTEIN**
STUDENT REPORTER

With an unwavering commitment to advocating, educating and assisting the community of Huntington, Branches Domestic Violence Shelter is dedicated to changing the stigma surrounding local domestic violence issues.

Branches commits to educating the public with in-person and virtual events throughout the year. Sara Blevins, director of development at Branches, hosted a virtual men's domestic violence training event on Sept. 1.

Blevins began her advocacy journey when she volunteered at the shelter as part of a women's study course during her undergraduate years at Marshall.

She shared that the experience profoundly impacted her understanding of gender and violence.

"Domestic violence is influencing generations of the Appalachian community that I love," she emphasized.

During the men's domestic violence training, Blevins discussed the importance of recognizing that both men and women may be victims. "Regardless of man or woman, it's important to always believe the victim and survivors," Blevins said.

Addressing the stigma regarding Appalachia and domestic violence, she said, "Appalachia also has the issue that domestic violence should be dealt with behind closed doors."

Domestic violence is an issue

that can impact anyone, and Blevins highlighted the additional misconceptions surrounding domestic violence against men.

Blevins acknowledged that it can be challenging for men to report such incidents.

"Regardless of your gender or sexual orientation, it is always worth talking about it, and it's always worth leaving," she added.

During the Zoom conference, Blevins discussed the many forms that domestic violence can take, including coercion and threats, intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, denying, minimizing, blaming, using children, gender privilege and economic abuse.

She also shared a thought-provoking quote by Jackson Katz: "Calling

gender violence a women's issue is part of the problem. It gives a lot of men an excuse not to pay attention."

Branches offers numerous educational resources and public events to raise awareness and engage the community in addressing the issue of domestic violence in Appalachia.

Blevins and the dedicated staff and advocates at Branches are ready to help anyone in need with their services, including a 24/7 crisis hotline, an emergency shelter (open to both men and women), legal advocacy with attorney referrals and assistance with protective orders, crisis counseling (individual or group) and case management of resource referrals and overall victim support.



Branches' Logo

Courtesy of Branches Domestic
Violence Shelter

Communications Professor Receives Dyslexia Certification

By **BEX LAW**
STAFF REPORTER

Jennifer Baker, a communications disorders assistant professor, is now certified as a structured literacy dyslexia specialist through the Center for Effective Reading Instruction.

"There is a significant need for science-based intervention for struggling readers, especially those with dyslexia," Baker said. "Every child deserves to learn to read, even when there are obstacles."

"I'm thankful for this opportunity to expand my knowledge and skills so that we can better serve our clients and ensure that our clinical students leave Marshall with a better understanding of dyslexia and the evidence-based interventions that

can help."

"Professor Baker is a valuable member of our faculty and an excellent resource for families in the Tri-State area," said Pam Holland, the chair of the Department of Communication Disorders.

Baker, who has focused her career on working with children with language disorders and difficulty reading, is a speech-language pathologist in the Marshall Speech and Hearing Center.

Baker was the recipient of "Leading the Way for Literacy: Education and Skill Development for Practicing Speech Language Pathologists," a grant by the West Virginia Department of Education. She will be offering professional development courses for speech-language pathologists.



Jennifer Baker, Marshall University
communications disorders assistant professor

Courtesy of
Marshall Communications

Fourth Quarter Dominance Propels The Herd Over ECU on the Road



Head Coach Charles Huff celebrates with Defensive Coordinator Jason Semore.

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**
SPORTS EDITOR

A fourth-quarter surge by The Herd propelled the team to a 31-13 win against the ECU Pirates in a rainy and historic matchup in Greenville, NC on Saturday, Sept. 9.

“This game means a lot to a lot of people connected to both of these universities,” Marshall Head Coach Charles Huff said. “We talked to the team before the game. The way you honor somebody is how you do something.”

After both teams were held scoreless in the first quarter, The

Herd would go up two scores on the Pirates after a one-yard touchdown rush from Rasheen Ali followed by a 20-yard field goal from Cameron Lake in the second quarter.

ECU would soon capitalize on miscues by Marshall on both sides of the ball. Going into halftime, ECU evened the score at 10-10.

“I think they played with the right mentality,” Huff said. “We knew it was going to be a battle. This was one of the premier teams in the American (Athletic) Conference, but we talked all week about playing to our standard, and our standard is 60 minutes.”

The weather was not on the side of the teams on Saturday night. Sheets of rain poured down upon the field. Lightning strikes would cause the game to be delayed one hour and 41 minutes.

After the delay, ECU would score the only points in the third quarter. Andrew Conrad would nail his second field goal of the game to push the score to 13-10.

In less than five minutes, The Herd would score 21 unanswered points. The first strike was a trick play; wide receiver Chuck Montgomery found a wide-open Caleb McMillan to score a 75-yard touchdown to push the lead to 17-13.

Ali would continue his campaign, scoring the final two touchdowns of the game to ultimately push the game out of reach for the Pirates. Ali was held to just six yards on his first 15 carries. Ali finished the night with three touchdowns on 18 carries for 85 yards.

Through the first two games of the season, Ali has five touchdowns, which is tied for the second-most rushing touchdowns in the nation.

Cam Fancher finished the night 15 of 28 for 178 yards. He had 30 yards on the ground on 15 run attempts.

“They just came out and battled,” Huff said. “We had to win the

game, and that’s the mentality we have to have. Offensively, we have to feel like we have to go win the game. Defensively, we’ve got to say we’ve got to go win the game. I think the leadership showed up tonight. There were times where we could’ve folded, and we didn’t.”

Eli Neal and J.J. Roberts led the Marshall defense with seven tackles each. Sam Burton and J’Coryan Anderson recorded one sack a piece.

The Herd will go into the early bye week undefeated. Marshall will face Virginia Tech at home on Sept. 23.

Men's Soccer Topples High Point at Home

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 2 Marshall men's soccer team (5-0-0) is off to its best start in program history after knocking off the High Point Panthers 2-1 at home on Friday, Sept. 8.

The Herd got out to an early lead in the 10th minute after Alex Stjernegaard sent a corner kick into the box. The ball would deflect off of several players, but Alvaro Garcia-Pascual would head the ball off of a High Point

defender and into the net for the first goal of the match. Pascual's goal in the contest marked his fourth consecutive match with a goal.

High Point would return after Toney Pineda notched his second goal of the season for the Panthers to tie the game 1-1 going into the half.

"It feels like I've just been through a fight to be fair," Marshall Men's Soccer Head Coach Chris Grassie said. "This was a tough one; it was probably the toughest one we've had here

in a long time. That was a gritty win, and we got tested. High Point is very well coached."

In the 56th minute, Marshall would strike again. Matthew Bell lobbed a through ball over the Panther defense to find Marco Silva. Silva launched the ball into the net to score the game-winning goal and put The Herd up 2-1.

Goalkeeper Gabriel Perrotta made two crucial saves in the first and second half to keep the Panthers from encroaching on The Herd's lead.



Pascual celebrates with Morris Duggan.

Courtesy of HerdZone

Women's Soccer Falls to Liberty



Women's team during the match

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**
SPORTS EDITOR

The Marshall Women's Soccer Team's winning streak came to an end Sunday, Sept. 10, at home after the undefeated Liberty University Flames won 2-0.

The Flames filled up the stat sheet with over 10 shots in each half, accumulating 23 in the whole contest. Marshall's offense could not muster any momentum, having zero shots during Sunday's game.

Marshall goalkeeper Alexis Wolgemuth had a strong performance, achieving a season-best of 11 saves. Wolgemuth has won the Sun Belt Conference

Women's Defensive Player of the Week twice in the 2023 season. The goalkeeper has 36 saves overall this fall.

Liberty put a goal on the board in each period. Ava Goodman found the back of the net in the 27th minute of the first half. Rachel DeRuby scored her third goal of the season to push the Flames' lead to 2-0 in the 80th minute.

Liberty's record is now 7-0-0. The Flames pitched their fourth clean sheet of the season.

The Herd will start conference play on Sunday, Sept. 17, against the University of Louisiana Monroe.

Skilled Trade Gap Widens Even as College Costs Soar

By **JILL CAREN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the past 40 years, the cost of college has increased, on average, an astonishing 161%. As millions of young Americans head back to campus for the fall semester, the college dream is not what it used to be. University students nationwide are facing skyrocketing college costs and are struggling to pay.

In 1979, the average annual cost to attend a four-year college was \$11,505, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. By 2021-22, the total price, including tuition, fees, room and board, and adjustments for inflation, increased to \$30,031.

Parents and students are now considering alternative options. Trade school, community college, and

apprenticeship interest is growing.

Undergraduate college enrollment is declining due to costs and aftereffects of the pandemic. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the drop since 2018 is the biggest ever. People are also changing their views on the need for higher education.

As of 2019, only about half of U.S. adults considered a college education “very important,” according to a Gallup poll. This is down from 70% in 2013.

That number declined further in 2023, with four in ten parents saying their children must earn a college degree. Attitudes about the necessity of college are shifting. There has been a growing interest in trade school programs over the past few years.

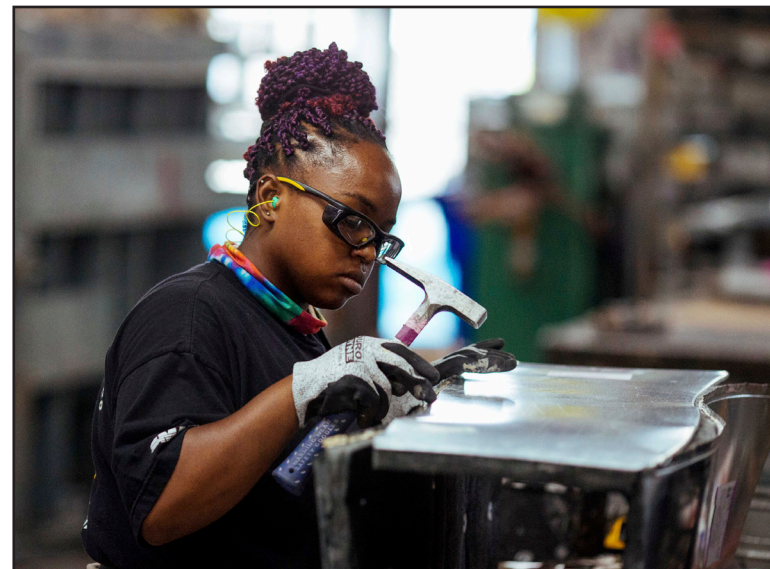
More people are studying to be mechanics and repair workers. According to the National Student Clearinghouse, enrollment in these programs increased 11.5% from 2021 to 2022. Construction courses grew by 19.3%, while culinary grew by 12.7%.

Costs remain at the core of the discussion around college and as a barrier to entry for many. Seventy-five percent of Americans believe people do not attend college due to unaffordability. This statistic is according to a survey by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

According to the Federal Reserve, student loan debt in the U.S. is over \$1.75 trillion – and that’s making many students think twice about going to college. Compared to a traditional four-year degree, trade programs are often more affordable. According to Indeed, two-year programs at private trade schools average \$15,549. Parents are becoming more open to considering what the trades have to offer.

Jonathan Sanchez, co-founder of Parent Portfolio and father of two, is ready to support his children if they head into the trades. “We’re small business owners and already teaching our kids the power of being your own boss, controlling your own time, and not being capped on how much money you can make,” he said. “Another financial benefit is avoiding the sizable amount of college debt.”

Despite surging demand for skilled workers, supply doesn’t quite measure up to demand. Even with increasing trade school enrollment, the worker gap is a concern. According to NPR, the application rate for technical jobs like plumber and electrician has dropped by 49% between 2020 and 2022.



Sheet metal worker Carey Mercer assembles ductwork at Contractors Sheet Metal on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021.

Courtesy of AP/ Kevin Hagen

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

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Letters to the Editor are accepted. See guidelines online.

THE PARTHENON’S CORRECTIONS POLICY

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

While the number of open trade jobs has continued to grow, the number of students interested in applying for them hasn’t. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, aging workforces and a “massive” shortage of skilled workers pose an issue for many trades.

Matt DiBara, CEO of The Contractor Consultants, points out the social stigma around skilled trades, “If you go out with your friends and tell them you’re involved in a skilled trade like plumbing, there’s no excitement or prestige associated with it,” he said. “In fact, it’s almost as if you should be embarrassed about it as if you’ve somehow made a wrong choice in your career path.”

The current skilled worker shortage has been decades in the making. In the 1980s and ’90s, career and technical education saw a stark decline, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). As academic requirements for high school graduation increased, the value of the

trades declined. Many schools removed vocational courses entirely from their curriculums.

The decades-long push for high school graduates to prioritize academics has succeeded. Although Gen Z is on track to be the most well-educated generation yet, the lack of skilled workers and tradespeople is concerning.

While 85% of young people value a skilled trade career, only 16% are likely to consider such a career, according to Stanley Black & Decker’s inaugural Makers Index report.

Misconceptions about the trades seem to drive the lack of incoming youth, according to Stanley Black & Decker. Pay progression and quality of life are vital to young students — but there’s a widespread misunderstanding about what the trades have to offer.

Young people underestimate the earning potential of work in the trades.

Got That Beat Club Explores 1970s Makeup

By **JADA MILLS**
STUDENT REPORTER

The history of 1970s makeup was explored during a recent event by Got That Beat, a club on campus that focuses on all things beauty-related.

"In the '70s, the makeup culture exploded; the women became more creative with their makeup looks," said Paige Rinschler, the club's founder. "Eyeliner and vibrant colors became popular, thanks to the model Twiggy."

Every week the club's "From Past to Future Friday" event looks at how makeup has changed throughout the decades. Club members learn about the application processes and specific products that were popular in that decade.

"Next Friday, we are exploring the '80s decade, and, the week after, we will look into the '90s," Rinschler said. "Once we get through all the decades, we will learn about traditional goth makeup and so on."

The club was created last year to share Rinschler's passion for makeup with other students.

"Trying to come up with a catchy name was a challenge, but 'Got That Beat' popped into my head, and I thought it fit perfectly since your face is your beat," Rinschler said.

How to apply stage makeup, special effects, production and normal to creative makeup looks are the main focuses of the club. They also explore cosplay, drag

and abstract makeup.

"The club is for all levels of makeup experience, even if you are just starting out, and no matter what type of makeup you are into, we are the club for you," Rinschler said.

Every other Monday, the club also hosts an event called "Makeover Monday," where members can learn about the basics of skincare and try out different products.

"I will bring in different cleansers and toners for members to test out so they can find the best products for their skin type," Rinschler said.

Some 38 members are active, and Rinschler hopes this number will grow even more throughout the fall semester.

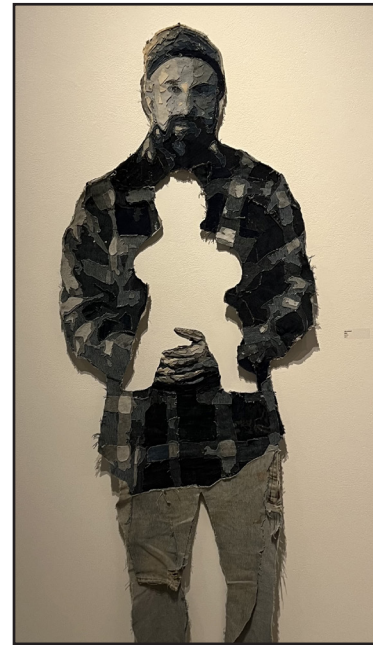
"I was eager to join this club because I am interested in grand stage makeup," said Oeryssa Anderson, the club's social media director. "I am trying to get more skilled through practice, and this club allows me to do that."

The club is also interested in participating in some off-campus events this semester.

"There are several conventions that happen throughout the year that would make a fun field trip for the club. They can broaden our knowledge and introduce us to a wider range of techniques," Anderson said.

More information about the club can be found on herdlink.marshall.edu or the club's Instagram, [@MUGOTTHATBEAT](https://www.instagram.com/mugotthatbeat).

Jim Arendt Shares His Experience as an Artist



"Mike" by
Jim Arendt

Photo by
Emma Gallus

By **SARAH DAVIS**
NEWS EDITOR

Excuses concerning time, money and space can harm the work of an artist, suggested an art professor, talking to students at the Visual Arts Center on Thursday.

"Art is never made under ideal conditions," said Jim Arendt, artist, gallery director and professor at Coastal Carolina University. Arendt received his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of South Carolina after attending the Kendall College of Art and Design.

His art has been housed in various exhibits across the country, including the Arkansas Art Center and, recently, Marshall's Charles W. & Norma C. Carroll Gallery.

Arendt lectured and showcased

his work to students and faculty, sharing his experiences and artistic journeys. A recent exhibit entitled, "For Those of Us Still Living," featured his art to the Huntington community.

The pieces in the "For Those of Us Still Living" exhibit were made of denim jeans. One of the sculptures included in the lecture, "Pure Lies", explores the depth behind the Michigan water crisis, a situation that carries great significance to the Flint, Michigan native.

Other pieces discussed at the lecture ranged from portraits to life-sized cardboard figures. Arendt also shared a love for sewing, showing those in attendance a short movie on his Singer sewing machine.

"I like it so much I made a movie about it," he said. "It essentially can sew through anything."

In addition to his denim art, Arendt has found a passion in reusing automated road signs across college campuses. Instead of the typical safety message, a sign at the University of North Carolina at Asheville reads, "people like you." He calls it a "highway haiku."

Arendt also highlighted the importance of taking care of your mental health, saying that creating art has helped him manage his own emotional state.

"It allows me to externalize my demons," he said. "I can make my demons tangible. I can look at them, and, just like seeing any other monster in a horror movie, it's not as scary after the jump."



Student applying makeup at the Got That Beat club meeting.

Photo by Jada Mills

Can Medicine Diversify Without Affirmative Action?

By **KAT STATFORD**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Starling Tolliver knew she wanted to become a doctor. Yet, as a Black girl growing up in Akron, Ohio, it was a dream that felt out of reach.

She rarely saw doctors who looked like her. As a child, she experienced severe hair loss, and struggled to find a dermatologist who could help.

Tolliver made a pact with two childhood best friends to become doctors who would care for Black and underserved communities like their own. Now 30, she is in her final year of dermatology residency at Wayne State University in Detroit.

She plans to spend her career caring for the body's largest organ, where differences in melanin give humans the skin colors underpinning the construct of race. In dermatology, only 3% of U.S. doctors are Black.

Despite her success, the girls' pact remains unfulfilled. While her friend Charmaine became a nurse, Maria, who wanted to become a pediatrician, was killed in their hometown at the age of 19.

Her friend's death only strengthened her resolve.

"I'm going to continue to go on this path of medicine," Tolliver said. "Not only for myself, but for Maria, and to potentially help others in the future from similar backgrounds as mine know that they can do it as well."

But more than two months after the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action in college admissions, concerns have arisen that

a path into medicine may become much harder for students of color. Heightening the alarm: the medical field's reckoning with longstanding health inequities.

Black Americans represent 13% of the U.S. population, yet just 6% of U.S. physicians are Black. Increasing representation among doctors is one solution experts believe could help disrupt health inequities.

The disparities stretch from birth to death, often beginning before Black babies take their first breath, a recent Associated Press series showed. Over and over, patients said their concerns were brushed aside or ignored, in part because of unchecked bias and racism within the medical system and a lack of representative care.

A UCLA study found the percentage of Black doctors had increased just 4% from 1900 to 2018.

But the affirmative action ruling dealt a "serious blow" to the medical field's goals of improving that figure, the American Medical Association said, by prohibiting medical schools from considering race among many factors in admissions. The ruling, the AMA said, "will reverse gains made in the battle against health inequities."

The consequences could affect Black health for generations to come, said Dr. Uché Blackstock, a New York emergency room physician and author of "LEGACY: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine."

"It's really about holding these larger organizations, institutions

accountable and saying: 'Right now, we're in a crisis — a crisis of humanity,'" Blackstock said.

With affirmative action off the table at predominantly white institutions, historically Black colleges and universities may see an increase in applications, said Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, president and CEO of Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

The college, which typically has 115 openings for new medical students, receives between 7,000 and 9,000 applications per year, a number Rice said she believes will increase in light of the Supreme Court ruling. HBCUs have long served as a direct pipeline of Black doctors.

Experts say diversity is especially needed within specialty medicine. In dermatology, just 65 of the 796 applicants for residencies in 2020 were Black, data from the Association of American Medical Colleges shows. Only 39 were Latino.

For a field focusing on the skin, the unequal access among patients of color is stark: Patients of color are half as likely as white patients to see a dermatologist for the same conditions.

The consequences can be devastating.

"The skin is a window to the rest of your health," said Dr. Ginette Okoye, professor and chair of dermatology at Howard University, who is a programming lead for the American Academy of Dermatology's Pathways program.

"If you have kidney disease, if you

have cancer, sometimes those clues show up on the skin first. We are able to preemptively diagnose cancer sometimes just by the way a specific rash shows up on the skin," Okoye said. "That's pretty impactful."

Black men are more likely to die of melanoma, compared with men of other races, according to a study co-authored last month by dermatologist Dr. Ashley Wysong in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. They also are more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage, when the condition is more difficult to treat. Melanoma is the most invasive and serious form of skin cancer.

The reasons for the different cancer rates are unclear, and more research is needed to understand in particular how economic and social conditions impact the cancer rates, Wysong said. The study found survival rates in men with melanoma were highest among white men, 75%, while the survival rates were lowest among Black men at only 52%.

"As medical professionals, any time we see disparities in care or outcomes of any kind, we have to look at the systems in which we are delivering care and we have to look at ways that we are falling short," Wysong said.

Without affirmative action as a tool, career programs focused on engaging people of color could grow in importance.

For instance, the Pathways initiative engages students from Black, Latino and Indigenous communities from high school through medical school.

The program starts with building

interest in dermatology as a career and continues to scholarships, workshops and mentorship programs. The goal: Increase the number of underrepresented dermatology residents from about 100 in 2022 to 250 by 2027, and grow the share of dermatology faculty who are members of color by 2%.

Tolliver credits her success in becoming a dermatologist in part to a scholarship she received through Ohio State University's Young Scholars Program, which helps talented, first-generation Ohio students with financial need. The scholarship helped pave the way for medical school, but her involvement in the Pathways residency program also was central.

Azariah Providence, a 17-year-old rising high school senior who lives in the U.S. Virgin Islands, participated in the high school Pathways program last month. She wants to become a dermatologist because of her own scalp psoriasis diagnosis, which is a skin disease causing a rash with itchy, scaly patches.

Her condition hampered her self-esteem as a 9-year-old girl. The dermatologist she saw, one of very few on the island, prescribed medication causing Providence's skin to burn and her hair to fall out.

"It was a difficult experience because as a little girl, your hair is very important to you," Providence recalled. "After going through that, I wanted to help little girls who have similar conditions that I have."

New Exhibition Highlights Indigenous Perspectives

By **JADA MILLS**
STUDENT REPORTER

A traveling exhibition will highlight seven native Appalachian artists in Drinko Library until Dec. 11. Titled "Indigenous Appalachia," the exhibit is a part of the WVU Art in the Libraries Program and explores ancestral and contemporary perspectives of the Indigenous people, focusing specifically on the Appalachian area.

The main goal of the exhibit is to acknowledge the underrepresented culture and history of Appalachia's Indigenous people, highlighting their successes and perspectives.

Nine businesses are also sponsoring the "Indigenous Appalachia" exhibition, including the Marshall Libraries and Online Learning. Marshall sponsors the exhibit as a way to introduce the Indigenous culture to students.

"The exhibit helps celebrate Appalachia Indigenous art

while also offering lots of information about the artists and tribes that are a part of this region," Michelle Alford, the library information systems technologist, said. "We thought it would be a nice thing to bring to Marshall to share with the community."

Around 20 posters are on display throughout the first floor Learning Commons area in the library.

Livable Housing Project Celebrates First Home Treatment

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
MANAGING EDITOR

The Livable Housing Project, a program to improve the livability conditions of homes throughout the state, will unveil its first home during a ceremony at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 15.

The program was established in October 2021 as a collaboration between Marshall University Minority Health Institute and UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia. The project received a \$1 million grant to help families with issues such as mold in homes across the state.

The first home to receive treatment belongs to Matthew and Angel Plante, who will take part in the opening ceremony along with other community members.

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Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-2pm

Rev. Fr. Thomas

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

HUNTINGTON, WV
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(304) 525-5202

Pastor: Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer

Sunday Mass Schedule
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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

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Photos From WVU Rally

Photos From Story on Page 12



Students gathered on campus to protest WVU President Gordon Gee's proposed cuts.



Meredith Shuff designed a poster that she brought to the protest.

Photos by Matt Schaffer

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