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## The Parthenon, February 28, 2024

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## Authors

Evan Green, Matthew Schaffer, Sarah Davis, Joseph DiCristofaro, Victoria Ware, Abigail Cutlip, Rafael Alfonso, Scott Price, Baylee Parsons, Emma Gallus, and Luke Jeffrey

# TEDxMarshall U Features Student & Community Speakers



Student speaker Sierra Lutz shares her experience of combining her passions of science and theater.



Adam Booath speaks on the power of orature and storytelling.



Clare Tuffy's talk focuses on one of Ireland's most important archaeological landmarks. Photos taken at rehearsal by Abigail Cutlip

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Story Available Online on Wednesday

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# Courage Valued at Amicus Curiae

By SARAH DAVIS  
NEWS EDITOR

Bravery bound together the stories of an African American World War II veteran, United States president and district judge, a district judge said on Thursday, Feb. 22, on Marshall's campus.

"Courage is a story that deserves to be told with all of its pathos, its brutality and its redemption of the American system of justice," said Judge Richard Gergel at the latest Amicus Curiae lecture.

Gergel currently serves as a district judge at the J. Waties Waring Federal Judicial Center in South Carolina. His 2019 book, "Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of the President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring," was the topic of discussion at the event.

The lecture focused on the beating and blinding of African American veteran Sgt. Isaac Woodard. In 1946, after having a confrontation with his bus driver on the day he was honorably discharged, Woodard was beaten and jailed. This ultimately led to his complete blindness.

Woodard was still wearing his U.S. army uniform when the incident occurred. This decorated fact, however, meant little to the current society, Gergel said.

"It didn't matter that he had sergeant stripes on his sleeve and battlefield awards on his chest," he said. "What mattered was he was a Black man, and he spoke up to a white man."

Gergel also said, following Woodard's arrest, he still spoke and made appearances across the country despite his disability.

"Most people who were victims of racial violence had funerals, not speaking events," he said.

However, many Americans are completely unaware of Woodard's story, Gergel said. In fact, the town of Batesburg, South Carolina, did not overturn Woodard's arrest until nearly 72 years after the fact.

"On June 1, 2018, the town attorney filed a motion to reopen the case of the town of Batesburg v. Isaac Woodard and overturned his unjust criminal conviction," Gergel said. "In March 2020, the town of Batesburg dedicated a historic marker candidly telling the story of the blinding of Isaac Woodard."

Gergel argued Woodard's case paved the way for 33rd U.S. President Harry Truman to integrate the U.S. armed forces in 1948. After hearing what happened to Woodard, the president acted on the matter at hand.

Gergel quoted a note written by Truman to a friend who warned the president that siding with equality could cost him votes.

"If you knew what I knew, you would not have the views you have," Truman wrote, including the story of Woodard in the letter. "If I lose the election on this issue, it will have been for a good cause."

Despite the warning from his friend, Truman stuck with his advocacy and won the 1948 election. Truman's bravery, Gergel said, was monumental to the movement.

"America, at the time, had no multiracial organization; it didn't exist," Gergel said. "And here was Harry Truman, in one full swoop, ordering the desegregation of the most respected organization in America."

Gergel also highlighted the work

of Judge Julius Waring, a district judge in the state of South Carolina for which his courthouse is named. Waring played an active role in early civil rights cases, including Briggs v. Elliott.

Briggs v. Elliott was a 1952 case concerning the segregation of schools in South Carolina and would later be included in the case of Brown v. Board of Education, which would label the segregation of schools unconstitutional in 1954. Waring pushed for segregation to be abolished in these cases.

Gergel said Waring constantly battled with death threats and violence in the midst of his controversial rulings. However, they never stopped him from staying true to his values.

"Time Magazine described him as the man they loved to hate, but also noted that Judge Waring was prov-

ing to be a person of cool courage," Gergel said.

Michael Borsuk, business and political science student, agreed that Waring served as an influential player in the early Civil Rights Movement. He also said the cases marked an important milestone in our history books.

"I think that it shows really how far we've come in American history—in creating the promise of the Constitution and the promise of law in general—which is equal justice for all," Borsuk said.

Gergel's wife, Belinda Gergel, said the history of civil rights is similar to a redemptive story. As a retired history professor, she said learning about the men behind the decisions has been both inspiring and fascinating.

"Good things sometimes come out

of very bad things," she said. "I loved seeing how unintended consequences could lead to some very big events."

The heroic acts of Woodard, Truman and Waring made an uprising in civil rights activism and heightened inspiration to Americans today. Gergel believes in the significance of sharing their stories, especially when they have been under-shared—even if that means leaving his office.

"It's the highest calling of our system of justice," Gergel said. "It would be easier just to sit in my courthouse and do my work, but I feel like this is a story that needs to be told."



Judge Richard Gergel speaks on the importance of courage at the first Amicus Curiae event of the semester.

Photo by Sarah Davis



# Ham Radio Club Revives Alternative Communication

By **NOLAN DUNCAN**  
STUDENT REPORTER

The president of Marshall University's ham radio club said he believes radio communication is a great way to bring people together.

Jacob Wriston, the president of the Thundering Herd Amateur Radio Club, said his experience with ham radio began in high school. He said that when he was looking at Marshall, he had hoped there would be a radio club similar to WVU's amateur radio club. In July of 2022, he started a discord for the group before making it an official organization in the 2022 Fall Semester.

"I saw that WVU has a radio club," Wriston said. "They've actually had one since like 1913 as the oldest club on campus, and, so, I was hoping that Marshall would have the same thing, and they don't. So, I just started a discord server over the summer."

Wriston said the club's main goal is to promote the hobby of amateur radio.

The club's faculty advisor,

professor Tom Cuchta, said the average age is high for those interested in amateur radio; however, he said he believes that the digital side of the hobby will attract more younger members.

Cuchta said his personal experience with amateur radio began during the COVID-19 lockdown. He said he had already had an interest in computers and electronics when he learned about amateur radio.

Wriston said one of the benefits of ham radio is its lack of infrastructure needed to communicate. He said the direct connection is a strong point compared to other communication methods.

"When AT&T coverage went out, people with AT&T coverage were lost," Wriston said. "They had no way to communicate with people. When you have to rely on infrastructure to get communication, whether it's Internet, whether it's cell service, whatever- we're still able to communicate because when we set an antenna up, when we talk to somebody, we're not rely-

ing on infrastructure—I'm talking straight from me to you with an antennae and with the radio."

Wriston said the club does more than talk over radios; they were deeply involved in the practice emergency event at the campus football stadium last semester and helped provide radio communications for the event.

"So, in October, it was an emergency preparedness event at the Joan," Wriston said. "The radio club participated in that by facilitating communication between the buses that transported our 'UN victims' from the scene of the accident to the hospital."

Wriston said he and Cuchta were both on the buses running radio communications between the various sites.

Wriston said he believes that radio communication is an important skill in an age where everyone is trying to demonize each other.

"Whether you speak Russian, or you speak Ukrainian or you speak English," Wriston said, "if you go to church, if you don't go to church, whatever you



Wriston (left) and Cuchta (right) setting up their radio equipment.

Photos by Nolan Duncan

do- as long as we're both on the radio, and then we can communicate with each other, have a good time."

Cuchta said he had recently made contact with a fellow amateur radio hobbyist in Russia.

"It's really cool that I can throw a piece of wire in a tree, and I can make a contact in Russia, which I did last night," Cuchta said. "It's this idea that you can make really long range communications with very little equipment which is kind of fascinating."

Cuchta said part of the purpose of ham radio communication is its ability to backup broken infrastructure and build international goodwill.

"During the Cold War, for

example, you know, they're very heated two sides – they're the enemy," Cuchta said. "But, even then, ham radio people could talk to people, and they did, and it was great. People would play chess over the radio with people in the Soviet Union."

Wriston said the club meets bi-weekly in person, and the other weeks over the radio. He said because of how expensive the hobby can be, the club has radios members can rent and borrow.



The club uses an array of equipment to operate.



# Perceptions on Parking: Is Marshall's Plan Concrete?

By SARAH DAVIS  
NEWS EDITOR

Parking continues to be an issue on college campuses across the country, including Marshall University.

Marshall Police Chief Jim Terry said that a large percentage of the student population commutes to class. This can make parking spaces difficult to find.

Only a few of the parking lots on campus are specifically designated for students, Marshall Police Chief Jim Terry said. Students can also park in general lots and the 3rd Avenue parking garage with the appropriate permits.

Kaydee Brumfield, a cyber forensics and security junior, commutes. She said she struggles to find a convenient spot in the morning before class.

"Finding parking is really hard some days," she said. Brumfield owns a garage parking pass, which costs \$270 for a full academic year. This is a \$100 increase from a surface parking pass, which costs \$170 for a year.

"I think if I'm gonna pay more, I should be able to park in different places no matter the time of day," she said, "because you can only park at flat ground after 4:00."

Breanna Webb, a freshman nursing student, also commutes to campus. Like

Brumfield, she owns a garage parking pass.

She doesn't think parking is a problem at Marshall, saying she thinks the higher price tag for garage access is worth it.

"It's just safer for my car," Webb said. "I think the pricing's fine because it's more protected from the weather."

Terry said garage permits almost never sell out, unlike surface permits, which typically sell out before the first day of classes in the fall semester. There is no waiting list for parking permits once they are all sold.

Only a set number of permits are available to purchase each year, according to Terry. He said they always sell more permits than parking spots on campus, which is due to the high volume of commuting students.

"It's always a constant turn around in the parking lots," Terry said. "The only cars that stay are the kids that live in the residence halls."

Brumfield, Webb and Terry all agree that for commuters, the garages are more dependable when it comes to spot availability.

"I push the parking garage for commuters 'cause there's always spaces there," Terry said, "and you know where you're going everyday."

Terry went on to say a per



Students have limited options when it comes to parking on Marshall's campus.

Courtesy of Mackenzie Jones

fect solution to the problem does not exist, and Marshall's rates are lower than most.

"You're never going to please everyone with parking," Terry said. "Our parking's relatively cheap if you go look at other places."

In comparison to neighboring public universities, Marshall's parking prices run high. Students at Shawnee State University and West Virginia State University can park free, while WVU employees pay \$110 for an annual permit.

Marshall employees pay the same rates as students.

In comparison with West

Virginia University, Marshall's rates are cheap. Permits on the Morgantown campuses for students range from \$252 to \$858 for a full year.

WVU employees pay anywhere from \$252 to \$900 during an academic year.

Johnny Rinick, a freshman international business student, commutes from Putnam County, West Virginia. He says with a surface lot permit, he sometimes finds himself racing against the clock to park his vehicle.

"Whenever it comes to parking, I always have to wake up early, get here—normally as fast as I can—to find a spot," Rinick said.

He also said it can be stressful to find a spot on the surface lots. In a few situations, Rinick had to park at a meter, causing him to go back and forth between class and his car to continue paying.

"I'm already stressed with college work as is," he said, "but being able to actually come in, find a place to park and just not think about it for the rest of the day—that would be nice."

According to Marshall's Parking Enforcement Office, parking on campus is considered a privilege, despite the emptying of a student's pocket to get a chance on the concrete.

# Campus Couples: Jill Treftz and Britton "Cody" Lumpkin

By KAITLYN FLEMING  
STUDENT REPORTER

A true love story sprouts in the quiet moments between lectures and book pages for two professors in Marshall's English department.

"We got married on Dec. 16," said Jill Treftz, English professor and lover of 19th century British literature. "I was excited because that is also Jane Austen's birthday."

The couple met shortly after Cody Lumpkin, English professor and lover of Appalachian literature, came to Marshall in 2012. While Treftz said she does not remember their initial meeting, Lumpkin said recalls their meeting with perfect clarity.

"I remember she had hurt her wrist," Lumpkin said. "She was very animated and hard to miss."

Treftz married Lumpkin in December of 2023, but the pair have been together since 2017, she said.

"We had to learn to live together during COVID," Treftz said. "It really wasn't that hard."

"Jill is like coffee: I can have a lot of it everyday, and it's not a problem at all," Lumpkin said.

Impish, Treftz said, "I actually got him started on drinking coffee."

The pair said they are like puzzle pieces that fit together perfectly.

"Grocery shopping stresses me out," Treftz said. "Cody takes care of that for both of us."

Likewise, the couple supports each other's respective work pursuits.

"There is lots of cheerleading," Lumpkin said. "We both have to do that for each other."

"If one of us has a huge project, another makes dinner," Treftz said. "I'm likely to eat cereal for dinner, so he

makes sure I eat."

The pair said they regularly lean on each other for support.

"We are both sound boards for each other," Lumpkin said. "It is good to have a sympathetic ear from someone that gets it."

However, the couple's time together transcends work and domestic activities, they said.

"When the weather is nice, we like to go hiking," Treftz said. "We also enjoy watching shows together."

Treftz went on to say the pair went on a camping trip in Washington state, where she is originally from.

"It was cool to show him all of these places," Treftz said. "We grew up in different parts of the country."

Both Treftz and Lumpkin enjoy traveling and have visited places such as Key West, Florida and, recently, Indi-

ana to go snow-tubing.

In addition, the couple finds joy in bonding over their shared love for their feline companions.

"We spend time talking about our cats, taking pictures of our cats," Treftz said.

Likewise, Lumpkin said, "We are those cat people."

As for working together, the pair said they have had no issues navigating sharing a workplace.

"We really only see each other at meetings," Treftz said. "It hasn't changed a lot for me."

However, Treftz said that the support of the university has aided immensely in this.

"They don't treat us as one half of a pair," Treftz said. "Our department has been great about it."



Courtesy of Jill Treftz

Britton "Cody" Lumpkin and Jill Treftz pose with their assortment of feline companions.

# Sorority Advocates for Mental Health

By KAITLYN FLEMING  
STUDENT REPORTER

Reducing the stigma around women's mental health and providing helpful resources to struggling sorority members are the primary objectives of sorority mental health champions, said an Alpha Xi Delta leader.

"The mental health of the Alpha Xi girls is my top priority," said Brynn Foster, mental health and wellness chair for the sorority.

"College can be extremely overwhelming," Foster said. "My role is to be a resource for the girls and to be there for them."

Likewise, Katie Crouch, Alpha Xi Delta's vice president of risk management, said she is a main resource for those in the sorority who may be struggling.

"I am an open door for all the girls," Crouch said. "I think mental health can be a big problem for college girls, and I just want to make sure everyone is okay."

One way Foster said she offers support to the sorority members is by providing those who indicate they are struggling with mental health resources.

"If someone seems off, I can give them resources on or off campus," Foster said. "I can recommend things like our on-campus therapy centers."

In addition, Foster said check-ins with all the members are one of her top priorities.

"If I think someone is feeling down, I invite them to something like pilates or one of the classes at the Rec Center," Foster said.

Likewise, Crouch said she also reaches out to members to ensure everyone feels cared for.

Another endeavor of Foster is to

provide support to sorority members through words of affirmation.

"We have weekly chapter meetings where I reiterate how much I care for these girls," Foster said. "I tell them that I love them and that I hear them and am here for them."

Likewise, Foster said she sends inspirational and uplifting quotes to their sorority group chat to encourage members.

Beyond campus resources and words of affirmation, Foster shows her support through a weekly bulletin board that she adorns with empowering messages.

"I just hope that they motivate our girls for the week," Foster said.

Crouch said simply spending time together as a sisterhood is a great way to alleviate stress and improve mental health.

"We sometimes watch movies together," she said. "Any activity where we can all get together and spend time with each other is great."

As for future events, Foster said she plans to have a spa night around finals week.

"I was thinking about face masks and watching movies," she said. "Just something to get their mind off of their exams."

Most of all, both Foster and Crouch said they want to eliminate the stigma that surrounds mental health.

"It is something a lot of college girls struggle with," Crouch said. "Figuring out this time in life can be hard."

Likewise, Foster said struggling with mental health is nothing to be ashamed of.

"Balancing things like college and a job can be stressful," Foster said. "I want the girls to know that it is okay to lean on each other for support."



# Women's Basketball Clinches Shared Title



Women's basketball surpassed 20 regular season wins for the first time since the 1990-91 season.



Beeman leads the team in average points, rebounds and assists.

Courtesy of HerdZone

## By WADE SULLIVAN STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall Women's Basketball clinched a 99-90 win at the University of Louisiana at Monroe on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Marshall capped off a two week long road trip going 4-0 and improving their overall record to 21-6 and 15-1 in the Sun Belt Conference.

"I hated our first quarter," head coach Kim Caldwell said following the win. "Happy to get the win, especially after being on the road for the past two weeks."

Caldwell, who is now the most successful first year coach in team history, has 21 wins in her inaugural year leading the Herd. Marshall beat ULM in rebounds 42-38, including out-rebounding them 13-11 on the offensive glass.

"Our offensive rebounds, especially in the second half, won us the game," Caldwell said.

The first quarter was slow for Marshall, scoring only 17 compared to 32 points by ULM. The Herd shot 33% in the first quarter compared to the Warhawks' 59%.

Early in the second quarter, ULM led by as many as 17, but Marshall came back, outscoring their opponent 30-17 in the second quarter to cut that deficit to just two going into halftime.

Following halftime, Marshall jumped out of the gates, outscoring ULM 32-18 in the third quarter to lead by 12 going into the fourth.

The fourth quarter saw Marshall falter, with ULM outscoring Marshall 23-20, but the Herd held on to win by nine points.

In the game, Marshall made 48.6% of their shots, going 36-for-74 from the field. Thirteen of the made shots were from the three-point line.

The Herd had four players score in double digits; three had at least 20 for Marshall.

A frontrunner for conference player of the year, Abby Beeman had 25 points on 10-for-17 shooting. Aislynn Hayes had a double-double, scoring 21 points on 8-for-19 shooting and pulling in 10 rebounds in 28 minutes of action. She also made a team

high of four three-pointers. Senior Breanna Campbell had 20 points on 6-for-8 shooting. Seven of her points came from the free-throw line. Sydni Scott scored 12 points on 5-for-10 shooting.

Both teams combined for 50 fouls during the game. The Herd fouled 28 times compared to ULM's 22 fouls.

ULM's Daisha Bradford led all scorers with 29 points. Fifteen of her points came from the first quarter.



# Mountaineers Maul the Herd



The Herd is on a five-game losing streak going into its matchup in Georgia.

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall Men's Basketball lost its final regular season home contest 65-58 against the Sun Belt powerhouse Appalachian State Mountaineers on Saturday, Feb. 24.

In the first 20 minutes of the contest, App State struggled to make shots, allowing the Herd to keep it close. The Mountaineers shot 29% from the floor making only nine of its first 31 shots.

The Herd's three-point centered

offense struggled from beyond the arc, shooting 2-10 in the first half and 3-23 on the night. Despite the low shooting percentages, Marshall kept the game close in the first half. Going into halftime, Marshall led the Mountaineers 29-23.

"We didn't shoot the ball very well," head coach Dan D'Antoni said. "I thought we played hard enough. That's the good thing: we competed."

The Herd kept the game competitive until a 9-0 run from the

Mountaineers in the late stages of the contest, putting the Herd in a 12-point hole that they were unable to climb out of.

Shooting struggles that have followed the Herd this season were prominent in the second half, going 1-13 from three.

"Anytime you can shoot 32 [percent from the field] and 13 [percent from three] against the best team in the league and one of the most offensively efficient teams in the country and get beat by seven points, you played well enough,

but you have to shoot the basketball," D'Antoni said.

Mountaineer Myles Tate showed that offensive efficiency by going 9-14 and leading App State in scoring with 25 points.

Kevon Voyles and Kamdyn Curfman, both of whom were honored in the pregame senior ceremony, tallied a team-leading 19 points. Despite the Mountaineers shutting Curfman down from his comfort zone behind the arc going 1-8 from long range, the senior finished the night 8-19.

The Herd out-rebounded the Mountaineers on the offensive glass 18-13, with both teams finishing the night with 46 boards. Transfer standout Nate Martin followed his career-high 16 rebound performance on Wednesday night against James Madison with another night of double-digit rebounds, finishing with 14.

The Herd will begin its final road trip of the regular season against the Georgia Southern Eagles on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

# Biden and the DNC Face an Uphill Battle in 2024

By **MATTHEW SCHAFFER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

As the 2024 Presidential Election looms closer, a rematch between Joe Biden and Donald Trump seems even more likely. However, both candidates this time around are entering the race in increasingly weak positions.

Biden's position has particularly suffered, with his accomplishments during his time in the Oval Office vastly overshadowed by the failure to deliver on campaign promises and taking unfavorable positions on several key issues at the

behest of his core voting bloc.

Since taking office, Biden has had one of the lowest approval ratings going into a re-election campaign in modern history, with the incumbent rarely able to break 40% since hitting the one-year mark of his tenure. According to the polling site 538, Biden is currently sitting at an approval rating of 39.5%, with a disapproval rating of 55.3% in a projected average amongst current polling. This figure shows Biden as holding the lowest approval rating of any president since Harry Truman in his third year of

the presidency.

So, what does this all mean? Well, with the current backing of the Democratic National Committee, Biden is looking to lose his position in the White House barring Trump being indicted on federal charges that would see him disqualified from his presidential bid. In fact, Biden is currently trailing Trump in the latest Presidential General Election polling from HarrisX, YouGov, Morning Consult and Quinnipiac that have been released in February.

While polling has, and still is, a flawed system of measurement, the averages nevertheless paint a picture with broad strokes of the nation's current political climate and the trouble Biden finds himself in for his bid to retain the Oval Office.

Devoting unwavering support to Biden may prove to be costly in November's election, especially amongst key demographics who oppose Biden's position of one of the biggest conflicts in the current zeitgeist of many Americans: Israel and Palestine.

Biden's continued military funding to Israel is proving increasingly unpopular with the American people, with polling by the Associated Press showing 50% of adults in the U.S. feel Israeli response to the attacks on Oct. 7 has gone too far, with 63% of Democrats reflecting that feeling. This comes following Biden's request for \$14.3 billion in additional military funding for Israel in the immediate aftermath of the Oct. 7 attacks by the militant group Hamas.

Voters will also go into their polling stations later this year reflecting on Biden's impact on the daily lives of his constitu-



President Joe Biden goes into the 2024 election with a 38% approval rating according to the latest Gallup Poll.

Courtesy of AP/Susan Wals

ents, specifically considering the economic impact.

Biden has faced some of the highest inflation rates since 2000, even topping those reported during the financial crisis in 2008. While Biden came into office having adopted the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, his administration is only now beginning to curve the effects rates have had on the average citizen.

These issues paired with several campaign promises have either since been shot down in Congress, such as an increased minimum wage to \$15, which was vetoed by Democrats Kiersten Sinema (AZ) and Joe Manchin (WV) and student-loan forgiveness and those completely swept under the rug, such as a public healthcare option or the elimination of cash bail. These put the Biden administration in a difficult spot in his bid for the White House in 2024.

As November looms closer, Biden is also seemingly avoiding the public spotlight as many begin to question his cognitive fitness entering 2024, with an NBC poll earlier this month showing over 60% of voters cite concerns over Biden's mental and physical health going into a second term, compared to the 34% who worry over Trump's mental and physical health, despite being only four years apart in age.

With all the warning signs of a potential disaster for the Democratic Party, the DNC has continued to back Biden in the race for 2024. While we won't know whether the bid will pay off until November, a poignant moment of reflection should be had by the Democrats who, instead of offering alternatives and solutions to voter's concerns, have chosen to stick with their candidate in hopes of another four years in the Oval Office.

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



# 'The Wolves' Portrays Struggles of Girlhood

By **BAYLEE PARSONS**  
COPY EDITOR

Marshall's School of Theatre and Dance's production of "The Wolves" closed its curtains on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center after two weeks of performances.

Running Feb. 14-17 and Feb. 21-24, "The Wolves" told the story of a high school girls soccer team who grew up playing together.

While the show appears to be about soccer, it reflects on themes of growing up as a girl and what it means to be a woman, said Leah Turley, assistant professor and director of the show.

"I call the show 'a really messed up love letter to being a teenage girl,'" Turley said. "Going from 13-17, those are remarkably fundamental years for deciding who we will become."

"When you look at a play like 'The Wolves,' you see women that you know," she added. "You see women that you know who they're going to be when they grow up."

While the show's meaning went beyond soccer, the sport was still an essential element to its plot, which Turley said was a learning curve for herself and much of the cast.

Sophomore Reilly McLain, a former soccer player, is no stranger to the game, though, landing her a role as an assistant director despite it being her first show as an actor at Marshall.

"I played soccer for 18 years, so getting to be able to do my first show here at Marshall as a play about soccer or a soccer team has been really exciting," McLain said. "It really made me reminiscent on my time



*"The Wolves" explores girlhood through the inner-workings of a soccer team.*

*Courtesy of Sholten Singer*

playing soccer."

As assistant director, McLain taught her castmates how to kick, pass and perform tricks and drills with the ball. Meanwhile, senior Amelya Bostic said the sport was new to her, as she grew up playing practically every other sport besides soccer.

"I played almost every sport I could growing up, and soccer was the only one that I've not played," Bostic said. "I find it a little ironic – here I am so late in life – I thought sports was over, and now I'm playing soccer."

Both Bostic and McLain agreed with Turley in the show having themes outside of the sport McLain listed bullying as one, and Bostic listed reflecting on the high school self as another.

Bostic said the modernity of the show allowed its themes to translate to the audience.

"Even though it was written in 2016

and so many things have changed since then, it really doesn't look that way," Bostic said. "The script can be, like, kind of evolving."

Turley said the contemporary show was purposely chosen to create a contrast with the Shakespearean focus last semester.

"We wanted to try to span the gambit of what theater can be," Turley said. "So, we started with Shakespeare. We came in with this quick and dirty play about women, and then we end with a fun little comedic romp."

The latter of Turley's remarks referred to the School of Theatre and Dance's last production of the 2023-24 season, "Brighton Beach Memoirs."

"Brighton Beach Memoirs" will run at 7:30 p.m. on April 10-13 in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

## Business Fashion Show Demonstrates Interview Attire



*Sophia Smart*



*Mason Mitchell*



*Sierra Bolles modeling business attire with fellow students.*

*Photos by Abigail Cutlip*

# BeyondMU: Overqualified Graduates Working Low-Wage Jobs



By **MATTHEW SCHAFFER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

A new study shows most college graduates are working jobs that don't require degrees, raising the question of the costs versus the benefits of pursuing a degree.

The study, conducted by The Burning Glass Institute and the Strada Institute for the Future of Work, found 52% of college graduates with no advanced degrees are currently underemployed based on their level of qualification with the number remaining at 45% 10 years after graduating.

"Most students' families, policymakers and educators look to higher education as a bridge to economic opportunity and mobility," the study said. "While a college education is still worth it for the typical graduate, it's not a guarantee; college students face an increasing risk."

As colleges and universities across the nation are attempting to combat dropping enrollment numbers following the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic environment, many of those who manage to graduate are turning to low

paying jobs that don't require a degree.

This puts prospective students in a vulnerable spot of cost-benefit analysis, with one in every four higher education programs earning them a salary of less than \$32,000 a year.

Meanwhile, the average cost to attend a public four-year in-state institution is \$104,108 total or \$26,027 per year in the United States, according to [educationdata.org](http://educationdata.org), which is perpetuating the current student debt crisis.

With an estimated 43.5 million Americans currently holding student loan debt, the cost of underemployment for recent college graduates is noticeable.

The study reveals while recent grads who enter the workforce with a college-level job still earn 88% more than those who only possess a high school diploma, those who enter the workforce in an underemployed job only make 25% more.

This statistic points out the importance of the first job post-graduation, with the study finding those who start their career in a college-level job rarely slide down the ladder into underemployment, with 86% of them remaining in a college-level job over the next 10 years.

However, not all degrees are equal in levels of underemployment, with computer science, engineering, mathematics or math-intensive business degrees experiencing the lowest underemployment



*Graduates are working jobs that don't require degrees.*

*Courtesy of Adobe Stock*

with 86% of them remaining in a college-level job over the next 10 years.

However, not all degrees are equal in levels of underemployment, with computer science, engineering, mathematics or math-intensive business degrees experiencing the lowest underemployment rates at 35%. Meanwhile, graduates with majors in public safety and security, such as criminal justice, recreation and wellness and general business fields like marketing, face the highest with 57%.

Notable other factors in graduate underemployment rates include the academic institution the graduate attended, as well as race, ethnicity and gender.

Graduates from more exclusive academic institutions, such as the Ivy League, are less likely to experience underemployment than those who attend public, state-funded schools.

Black and Hispanic degree holders are substantially more likely to be underemployed than white graduates, and men are more likely than women.

While all these factors can work against a recent graduate, there is one factor the study found had a positive impact on a prospective graduate looking to enter the workforce after graduation: experience.

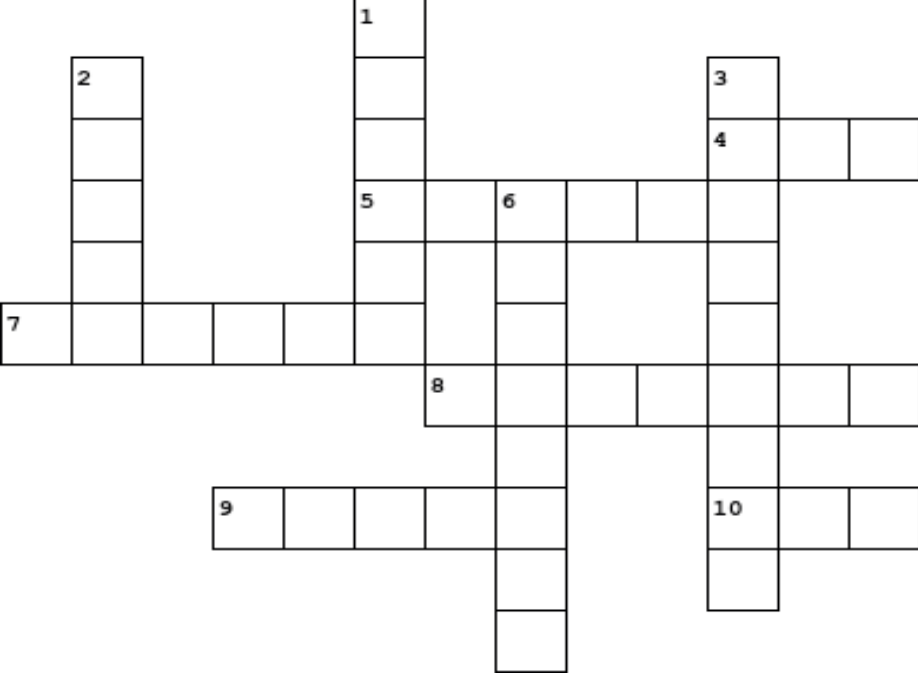
According to the study, those who enter internships while completing their undergraduate studies saw a risk of underemployment decrease

by nearly half. By gaining experience from an internship, graduates are more likely to enter the workforce at a college-level job with most employers emphasizing experience over qualification.

"The odds of underemployment for graduates who had at least one internship are 48.5% lower than those who had no internship," the study said. "The benefits associated with completing an internship are relatively strong across degree fields." Students looking to enter the workforce in their field of study must prioritize gaining experience to get their foot in the door, with many of those who wait until post-graduation finding themselves on the outside looking in.



Parthenon Puzzle: Crossword #15



- Across**
4. A shortened version of amateur radio
5. Parking at this location could cost \$270
7. Alpha Xi is working to reduce stigma around \_\_\_\_\_ health
8. Jill and Cody were the latest featured in our series Campus \_\_\_\_\_
9. The 46th president and incumbent running in 2024
10. John Moon's occupation

- Down**
1. Judge and speaker of Amicus Curie
2. This wiener dog visits freshmen halls
3. A play exploring girlhood
6. Nate Wilson had another double-digit night for these against App State

Crossword answers can be found at [marshallparthenon.com](http://marshallparthenon.com)

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# Furry Friends Frequent Residence Halls



Chloe visits students in Freshman residence halls. Photos by Baylee Parsons

By **BAYLEE PARSONS**  
COPY EDITOR

A former West Virginia Hot Dog Festival Wiener Dog Race champion now spends her days comforting students on campus.

A therapy dog for the new MU Paws in the Halls program, 12-year-old dachshund Chloe could not wait to get to work for her second week on the job, her owner said.

"She was pulling me down the sidewalk to get here today," Mary Thompson said. "I think she already knew where she was going, and she was pretty excited about it."

Paws in the Halls will allow Chloe,

along with three other therapy dogs, to visit the residence halls each week to bring students comfort in their everyday life.

"The students seem very grateful that she's there; it gives them a little bit of stress relief," Thompson said. "They just are very enthusiastic about getting to see her and spend some time with her."

This enthusiasm is exactly what Mistie Bibbee, the director of Housing and Residence Life, had in mind when she started the program.

"For me, it's all about the student experience with it," Bibbee said. "I want the students to have fun."

As the handler of Lily, the therapy dog for the Commons and Buskirk halls, Bibbee said she enjoys the informal interactions that "paw-ffice" hours allow her to have with students.

"It's a great connector," Bibbee said, "and, so, that's one of the things I enjoy. I'm not 'Mistie, director of housing,' I'm 'Mistie with Lily.'"

Bibbee took steps to implement the program after finishing her doctoral dissertation, which focused on the utilization of therapy dogs on a college campus.

With the help of six students, Bibbee conducted a month-long study during which the students spent 30 minutes per week with a therapy dog in order to examine the effects of this on individual stress and connection to the university.

With the results showing that students were more likely to attend events and engage on campus when therapy dogs were present, Bibbee began looking for volunteers to regularly visit the residence halls.

While some volunteers, like Bibbee and Thompson, are staff members of the university, others are community members. All of the dog handlers, Bibbee said, participate in the program "out of the goodness of their hearts."

The dogs chosen for Paws in the Halls – Chloe, Lily, Isabella and Howie

– are all members of the MU Paws program. In order to join this program, the dogs have to have completed their therapy dog certification, during which they are evaluated on their interactions with different people.

"When Chloe got certified, we did a prep class," Thompson said. "They take you around the different hospital equipment you may encounter, different situations, and, then, she had three supervised visits to nursing homes and hospitals."

A seasoned therapy dog, Chloe has been actively assisting others for eight years, Thompson said.

Bibbee hopes for Chloe and the gang to continue their service in the coming semesters.

After recalling a lack of visibility for the dogs last semester, Bibbee said,

"This semester, we're getting them back out there, and, so, our hope is to continue to grow and build the program."

Students can find Chloe in the First Year Residence Halls from 11 a.m.-noon on Wednesdays, Lily in Gibson Hall from 1-1:45 p.m. and Buskirk Hall from 2-2:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Isabella in Holderby Hall from 10-11 a.m. on Fridays.

Howie can be found in Twin Towers from noon-1 p.m. or in the Wellness Center from 1-2 p.m. on Fridays.



Marshall therapy dog Lily poses for a picture before visiting students.

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