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### The Parthenon, March 27, 2024

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# D'Antoni Out as Head Coach

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

After ten seasons at the helm of Marshall Men's Basketball, the university will be moving on from head coach Dan D'Antoni.

Replacing D'Antoni is Cornelius Jackson, a member of D'Antoni's staff who has served the team since the 2017-2018 season.

The 2018 season was the highlight of the D'Antoni decade. The Herd won a closely contested

matchup to win the Conference USA Championship and gained its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 31 years.

In that tournament, the Herd also garnered its first NCAA Tournament win over the No. 4 seed Wichita State Shockers, led by a 27-point outing by Herd legend Jon Elmore.

Taevion Kinsey, Elmore and many others who have gone down in Herd history were all coached by D'Antoni.

"Coach D'Antoni has always understood the importance of Marshall-based people being involved in our men's basketball program and in Marshall Athletics – those who have given their heart and sweat equity to the university in pursuit of its success," said Christian Spears, the director of athletics.

The 2023-2024 season came filled with ups and downs for the Herd, but they ultimately finished with a losing record of 13-20 and 7-11 in conference play. This stood in stark difference compared to the prior season, which saw the Herd dominate the conference with only five conference losses.

In the 2022-2023 season, D'Antoni led Marshall to a 24-win season, the most wins by the program in over 75 years.

In his time coaching the Herd, D'Antoni accumulated a record of 177-148 and a 95-81 record in conference play.

Spears gave high praise in saying Jackson is well prepared due to years under D'Antoni and has the ability to get the Herd back to championship-level basketball.



Former Marshall Men's Basketball head coach Dan D'Antoni

Courtesy of HerdZone



New head coach Cornelius Jackson

Courtesy of HerdZone

## Top Stories:

**President Smith Reflects,**  
Page Two

**Campus Couples,**  
Page Five

**Amicus Curiae,**  
Page Four

**Holi Celebration,**  
Page Twelve

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# President Smith Reflects on First Two Years

By **EVAN GREEN**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

## A Brief Overview of Smith's Presidency

Over the last two years, Marshall University has undergone major changes to its messaging, enrollment, culture and infrastructure. While countless factors have contributed to these areas, a common denominator has been President Brad D. Smith's arrival on campus and the development and implementation of his co-developed vision for the university's future.

Smith originally took the position of university president in January 2022 after being selected by a Board of Governors search committee in late 2021. Smith, a graduate of Marshall's business program, formerly served as the CEO of the financial software company Intuit. The first 100 days of Smith's presidency focused on the concerns of the Marshall community as he launched his listening tour in early January.

"We had 38 sessions," Smith said. "We had over 1000 people participate across the campus and the community. We generated 1200 ideas, and that gave us our first sense of focus."

The ideas generated from this listening tour helped form the foundation for Marshall For All, Marshall Forever, a campus plan listing out major goals for the university leading up to 2037—including eliminating student debt upon graduation and reaching a 100% job placement rate for graduates by that time.

Since this plan's approval, Smith and his team have focused on working toward those goals through vari-

ous initiatives. In describing some of Marshall's major advancements, Smith mentioned being named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, growth in Marshall's aviation program and increases in university enrollment despite state and national enrollment trends.

Additionally, the construction of new sites on campus, such as the new baseball stadium and business school, and the development of training opportunities in design thinking and other areas have broadened student opportunities since Smith's presidency began.

## President Smith Reflects

Smith highlighted a few of the moments and accomplishments from his first two years in office he considers the most important. The first was developing the Marshall for All, Marshall Forever plan.

"That's a hard thing to develop," Smith said. "If you've ever tried to write a paper with a team, you have everyone trying to change the words. Well, we got there pretty quickly. We got aligned on our strategy, and even though it doesn't declare everything as the most important, people are willing to say, 'I understand how I fit into the bigger picture, but these are the six things we really need to lean into.'"

Next, Smith highlighted the university's aim to become the gold standard in specific areas. One he cited specifically was Title IX. Near the end of Smith's first year in office, USA Today released an article that described Marshall's failings associated with Title IX; the article received an outcry for change from the student body.

In response, Smith spoke with students and worked with them in forming a Title IX task force led by students who researched the best practices in Title IX at other universities and brought a list of recommendations to Smith a few months later.

"We are now arguably the gold standard in higher ed, and that is just by the students themselves," Smith said. "I'm super proud that our students stepped up and helped us see what we weren't seeing, and we put that in place."

The third area Smith described was the tangible milestones that have taken place during his presidency, such as the launch of the new baseball stadium, the new business building and the beginnings of the new cybersecurity building, which is set to be built in the next two years.

On the other hand, Smith said the biggest challenge of his presidency has been the transition from idea to impact.

Now that the Marshall for All plan has been developed, Smith said implementing the plan's ideas at the university has been the largest hurdle. He and his team have tried to combat this challenge by offering design thinking training across campus, which aims to speed up the ability for students, faculty and administration to move from their initial idea into implementation.

When asked if there were anything he would do differently if he started his presidency over again, knowing everything he knows now, Smith only had one change: go faster.

"The world is just moving fast," Smith said. "We can't count the world in semesters. We've got to be able to move in day parts—morn-

ing or afternoon—and that's always going to be a challenge for every organization, and it's going to be ours too."

## University Figures Offer Insights

Different campus community members who have worked with Smith during his presidency and even before provided a variety of perspectives on his leadership style and vision for the university.

One of these figures was Ben Eng, a business professor at Marshall and the assistant provost for academic engagement and innovation, who worked with Smith years before he took on the role of university president.

Eng first met Smith in 2017 after hearing about design thinking from a student of his who had gone on to work for Intuit, where Smith served as CEO at the time. The two worked together to develop the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, or iCenter, where Eng is the execu-

tive director.

He described how the iCenter mission has shifted since Smith took on his new position.

"Now, because Brad's at the presidency level, design thinking and innovation can be part of our strategic plan," Eng said. "And what that really means is that we believe that if we can empower our students, our faculty, our staff, our administration, our Board of Governors with the ability to innovate, then they can go take their innovation ability and apply it in whatever their field is."

Some of the major initiatives of the iCenter include spreading design thinking on campus through training sessions with different organizations and helping develop student innovation through the Brad D. Smith Business Incubator. The incubator allows students to develop start-up businesses through the use of design thinking.



University President Brad D. Smith hosted his first press conference, highlighting his first 100 days in office.

Photo by  
Tyler Spence

# Amicus Curiae to Offer Congress Correction



Peter Hanson will speak at the lecture.

Courtesy of Grinnell College

By SARAH DAVIS  
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall's Amicus Curiae  
Lecture Series will continue this

Thursday, March 28, with a discussion on Congress' current condition.

Peter Hanson, American pol-

itics specialist and professor, will bring the topic of his book, "Too Weak to Govern: Majority Party Power and Appropriations in the U.S. Senate," to campus at the lecture. Hanson currently teaches political science courses at Grinnell College in Iowa. He has appeared in many publications, including "The New York Times" and "Los Angeles Times."

Hanson received his doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley in 2010 following his work under Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle from 1996-2002.

The series, which is sponsored by the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democ-

racy, has presented at Marshall throughout the academic year. This lecture will be the fourth of the 2023-2024 school year.

Patricia Proctor, founding director of the Simon Perry Center, said discussing the U.S. legislative branch is both important and well timed.

"Dr. Hanson's lecture could not be more timely or relevant," she said. "The current Congress is the focus of intense scrutiny on a daily basis due to its failure – and often refusal – to pass laws. In the last few days, because of political brinksmanship, the entire country was again facing a crisis, wondering whether we would suffer a government shutdown or the gov-

ernment would be funded. Once again, it barely passed at the very last minute."

She also said Hanson's research has identified solutions to the branch's problem.

"Whether one supports the current state of gridlock or does not, it clearly is related to the polarization affecting our county," Proctor said. "Dr. Hanson's work explores not only whether Congress still has the capacity to solve critical problems, but also how the situation might be improved."

The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall and is open and free to the public.

## Smith Continued

Another professor who's worked closely with Smith is Shawn Schulenberg, a political science professor and the chair of Marshall's Faculty Senate. Schulenberg came into the position of Faculty Senate shortly after Smith became president, and his arrival was a part of the reason Schulenberg took it on in the first place.

"One of the reasons I actually ran for this position is because Brad was president," Schulenberg said. "It was a transformational time, as we were dealing with budget crises for many years. It really seemed like a lot of things were aligning to take us on a new pathway, so I really thought it was important to have an incredibly strong partnership between the faculty and administration as we launch these new endeavors."

Schulenberg pointed toward the clarity, ambition and transparency of the university's strategic plan as one of the highlights of Smith's presidency. Additionally, he said improvements in

enrollment were an exciting change brought about by Smith's plan.

For nearly a decade, Schulenberg said he was used to hearing about budget cut after budget cut, but the changes in enrollment and Smith's strategy have shifted those conversations to look more toward improvements and investments rather than cuts.

"The goal of growing has been here, and it's been here a long time, and it's been in many universities. The plan to do it hasn't necessarily been there," Schulenberg said, regarding Smith's strategy to grow the university out of its deficit rather than making cuts. "It's a plan that seems to be working. Many universities have tried to do something; even Marshall tried to grow for a long time, but it just hasn't been executing."

To show the university's progress, Schulenberg pointed to the fact that Marshall has been growing over the last two years while other universities across the country have been forced to make

cuts or have struggled to grow enrollment.

Schulenberg also spoke about the challenges that have come up in pitching Smith's entrepreneurial approach to innovation to those used to the more traditional approach of academia.

"Higher education can be resistant to change," Schulenberg said. "There are times where I will hear some concerns from faculty, and I will try my best because I understand what the president's goal and purpose and strategy is at the time, and I can try to communicate that."

Shifting from the faculty perspective to that of Marshall students, Student Body President Walker Tatum shared his experience working with Smith. The two started their presidential journeys near the same time, with Smith beginning his presidency just a few months before Tatum was elected as vice president under Isabella Griffiths in 2022.

"It allowed us to bond super

quickly in terms of understanding what Brad's vision was for Marshall," Tatum said. "We kind of just went into it learning from each other. I feel like I learn from Brad daily, but also Brad learns from me and learns from the students daily as well."

According to Tatum, some students were initially concerned about Smith's Silicon Valley background. Still, Smith's emphasis on putting students first has assuaged this concern in many and helped build gratitude and admiration in other students.

"When I spoke at convocation this past year, we all walked, and all the new students were chanting 'Brad,'" Tatum said. "Some students didn't really know what to expect coming into it, but I think they've loved every minute of it."

As Smith's first two years in office come to a close, he provided an overview of his administration's main priorities and a preview of what the next two years might look like under his leadership.

"I hope it's going to be a continuation on our say/do ratio," Smith said. This comes from a Silicon Valley term showing the amount someone says versus what they actually follow through with.

Some of the initiatives Smith hopes to continue following through on are enrollment increases, fundraising efforts to reach the \$300 million needed to execute the Marshall for All plan, building the cybersecurity building, working toward pay equity for professors and closing the gap on Marshall's structural deficit.

As Smith continues into his third year as acting president, he and his team have continued working toward their university goals, preparing to soft-launch their new fundraising initiatives within the next few months.

This funding will help move Marshall toward the version of the university laid out in Smith's plan, bringing about new changes and innovations.

# University Releases Fall Registration Schedule

By **MATTHEW SCHAFFER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

As students prepare for midterms, fall registration will be in the back of their mind after Marshall released the scheduling times for the Fall 2024 Semester.

Priority scheduling begins this Thursday and Friday. Scheduling for seniors opening on Monday. Juniors will be given Tuesday and Wednesday, sophomores Thursday, April 4-8, while freshmen will be granted April 9-12 for registration.

*Currently enrolled Graduate students may register beginning April 1.*

SENIORS 90+ hours completed as of 1/8/2023	JUNIORS 60–89 hours completed as of 1/8/2023	SOPHOMORES 30–59 hours completed as of 1/8/2023	FRESHMEN 0–29 hours completed as of 1/8/2023
Monday, April 1	Tuesday, April 2 Wednesday, April 3	Thursday, April 4 Friday, April 5 Monday, April 8	Tuesday, April 9 Wednesday, April 10 Thursday, April 11 Friday, April 12

Courtesy of Marshall University

## Kat Williams Wishes Women's History Farewell

By **BAYLEE PARSONS**  
COPY EDITOR

Putting in effort to make a change as a woman can inspire the women of future generations, a 23-year Marshall history professor said in her last lecture for the university on Monday, March 25.

"It is often the pursuit itself that makes history," Kat Williams said in her lecture titled "Why Women's History?" "Taking the risk to pick up that shovel, to speak up, to call out injustice, to walk onto a baseball diamond, to be different, apply for medical school or run for office is inspiring to those of us who watch you try."

Former students, fellow faculty members and Williams' family and friends filled the Shawkey Dining Room of the Memorial Student Center to show their support for her past and future endeavors.

A former baseball player and

now the CEO of the International Women's Baseball Center, Williams pointed to the women in the movie "A League of Their Own" as a personal inspiration.

"That was life altering," she said in her lecture. "For the first time in my life, I realized I was part of a history."

"I wasn't just weird. I wasn't just this stupid kid. I belonged to something," she added.

Williams carried this sense of belonging over into her teaching, her former student Amanda Shaver said.

"That's the feeling she gives to her students: what you want to study, what you believe and who you are is important," Shaver said.

She went on to say, "Kat definitely taught me that women absolutely have a place in history—that I should do the type of history I want and not be hindered by anyone else's perceptions of what history is,

and that I belong in academic history."

Williams also said she was equally inspired by her students, often gaining new perspectives because of them.

"My students helped me to understand that it's not just me imparting knowledge to them, but it's also about me learning from them," Williams said.

"I wanted them to understand that all perspectives matter, including theirs," she said.

A women's historian, Williams also discussed the importance of studying the topic in her lecture—despite women's history receiving budget cuts and backhanded comments.

"From openly challenging the need for such classes to quietly cutting the budgets that sustain them, from paying the faculty that teach those classes less than those who focus on more significant endeavors, to standing by while students

are openly ridiculed for taking that class or that professor," Williams said, "women's history has been challenged, and the challenge is the why."

History professor Montserrat Miller, who sat on the board responsible for hiring Williams, said it has been essential having Williams' voice on campus.

"I hope this university will pursue the employment of another women's historian," Miller said.

**"Why women's history? Kat has made that case today."**



Williams gave her final lecture in the Shawkey Dining Room on Monday, March 25.

Photo by Baylee Parsons

# Campus Couples: Ed and Ann Bingham

By **KAITLYN FLEMING**  
STUDENT REPORTER

“The Long and Winding Road” by the Beatles encapsulates the relationship of one couple in Marshall’s School of Music with its idea of resilience overpowering challenges, the couple said.

Ed Bingham, professor of saxophone and music studies, and Ann Bingham, professor of clarinet, oboe and music history, met in Knoxville, Tennessee, while Ed was an undergraduate teaching band sections at Ann’s high school.

The pair married in 1979 after Ed’s graduation from The Juilliard School—a day the couple said was extremely memorable.

“We had a flat tire on the way to the wedding,” Ed said. “We were about four blocks from the church, so we just drove on the flat.”

Likewise, their honeymoon also had some unfortunate mishaps, they said. “We were flying to New York, and we sat on the plane for almost three hours because there was a rainstorm,” Ann said. “We were hot, hungry and newly-weds with shiny rings.”

The story of Ed’s proposal to Ann also has a bit of comedic value, Ed said.

“We were going to a nice restaurant in Knoxville,” Ed said. “Well, it was closed, so I suggested we go to another restaurant.”

Despite Ed insisting to Ann they persist in their venture to find another restaurant, Ann stated she was tired and just wanted to forgo eating out at all.

“I was worn out,” Ann said. “I told him I just wanted to go home.”

Ed said he pulled out the ring and

said, “Well, this might make you feel better.”

Their relationship has withstood 43 years, something Ann said takes hard work.

“It takes an effort, especially with two independent-minded people,” Ann said. “It is well worth the effort.”

Both Ed and Ann said a main initiative for them both is to be there for each other in all aspects of life.

“We really support each other any way we can,” Ed said. “We are there for each other, borrow equipment, come to each other for problems or questions we have.”

Likewise, Ann said Ed serves all of her instrument repairman needs.

“If one of my students has a broken instrument, I just send them upstairs to his office for him to fix it,” Ann said. “He’s just excellent at it.”

The couple said beyond instrument repairs and the occasional meeting, they do not cross paths at work very often.

“We both have very hectic schedules,” Ann said. “Sometimes, we meet for lunch, or sometimes we have

to bring two separate cars—but we make it work.”

Beyond work responsibilities, both Ed and Ann enjoy traveling and enjoying each other’s company.

“We took an Amtrak to Glacier National Park,” Ed said. “We also visit friends in San Antonio, Texas, and just like to travel whenever we can.”

Currently, the duo is looking forward to retirement, Ed said. Future travel destinations are on the agenda as well, Ann said.

“We would like to go to Iceland, Northern Canada or New Zealand,” Ann said.

Serving as each other’s travel partners wouldn’t work without their fondness of each other’s company, they said.

“I love his weird, wonderful sense of humor,” Ann said. “Also, I love his really high level of intelligence.”

Likewise, Ed said he admires Ann’s people skills.

“Her ability to relate to people is great,” Ed said. “All of her students love her.”



Ed and Ann Bingham

Photo Courtesy Ed Bingham

# Toney Stroud: From Student to Admin

By **NOLAN DUNCAN**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Toney Stroud, Marshall’s chief legal officer, said it is important for people to give back to those who invested in them.

“I think if you’ve had an organization or a person who’s been instrumental to you in your life,” Stroud said, “you need to pay that forward, and you need to give back.”

Stroud graduated from Marshall before getting his law degree from West Virginia University in 1988.

“What I have found at Marshall University is a strong commitment from those who attended Marshall,” said Charlotte Weber, the vice president for government relations at Marshall. “They have a love for all things green and white, and it’s important to bring their expertise after they graduate.” Growing up in a rural area in West Virginia, Stroud was the first in his family to go to college. He said his parents decided to help him succeed.

“My parents were very instrumental in just helping guide me and direct me and making sure that I had that pathway,” Stroud said, “and then Marshall University being there in my backyard was that pathway.”

Stroud said the biggest skills his parents taught him were work ethic and being a man of integrity.

Weber said Stroud is an individual who is always looking toward the future—always looking at where the university and students will be in the future. She said having individuals who look toward the future allows an organization to stay relevant and continue to leave an impact in the region it exists.

Stroud served one term on Marshall’s Board of Governors before being offered the position of chief legal officer.

“I was very humbled that I was selected by the governor and appointed to serve my alma mater; that meant so much and had such an impact on my life,” he said.

Stroud also said Marshall represents a place where anyone can come regardless of their background.

“Marshall University started me on the pathway, started me on the road to allow me to have a very successful career throughout my life,” he said.

Weber said Stroud gives more to the university by speaking to the on-campus pre-law club about his experiences as a lawyer and by teaching them about the field of law.

“Tony goes, and he speaks about his legal experiences,” Weber said. “He shares those experiences with the goal of trying to help others grow, and, maybe, they might have an interest in that field that they didn’t know about.”

Stroud said being able to give back is important to him because it gives him a sense of making a difference. Viewing himself as an underdog, he said he was driven by the motivation to prove to himself and others he could succeed.

“When we’ve had people who have influenced us and have given us opportunities,” Stroud said, “I think we owe that to others to make sure they have that same opportunity with those same opportunities.”

# Herd Senior Tramples Competition



Evan White won the 1500-meter run on day two.

Courtesy of HerdZone



Abby Herring finished second in the women's 1500-meter run.

Courtesy of HerdZone

## By WADE SULLIVAN STUDENT REPORTER

In the second outdoor competition of the season, Marshall senior Evan White won the men's 1500-meter run on day two of the FSU Relays with a time of 3 minutes and 55.62 seconds in Tallahassee, Florida, on Friday, March 22.

Going into the FSU Relays, Keith Roberts, coach and director of Track and Field and Cross Country, saw some progress being made.

"Last week, we had some breakout performances which has given us some good momentum going into the outdoor season," he said. "We have some stellar competition- all outdoor, and the FSU Relays will provide us with great competition to prepare for conference."

At the end of the race, White edged past fellow senior Ronnie

Saunders at the finish line to win the race. Saunders finished second in the event with a time of 3 minutes and 55.78 seconds.

After the first outdoor competition for Marshall at the Charlotte 49er Classic on March 15 and 16, Roberts liked the progress he was seeing.

Senior Kylee Mastin set a new school record in the women's 800-meter run, setting a time of 2 minutes and 09.81 seconds en route to a second place finish behind Florida State's Suus Altorf. She broke her own record of 2 minutes and 10.62 seconds, which was set last outdoor season.

On the first day of the meet, junior thrower Rebecca Merritt set Marshall's second-best mark in school history in the women's hammer throw with a toss of 58.14 meters (190-9) on her first throw of the competition.

Along with Merritt, senior Josie Moore and sophomore Markayla Moore placed fourth and fifth in the women's hammer throw. Josie and Markayla had throws of 52.94 meters (173-8) and 50.59 meters (165-11), respectively.

Junior John Purvis placed fourth in the men's hammer throw, setting a mark of 50 meters (164-0) on his second throw.

In the women's high jump, Australian sophomore Lara Check tied for second with a personal best jump of 1.64 meters (5-4 1/2).

Junior Quay Harrison placed eighth in the men's high jump, making a jump of 1.85 meters (6-0 3/4).

Markayla Moore and Check placed sixth and eighth in the women's shot put with throws of 12.90 meters (42-4) and 11.30 meters (37-1), respectively.

In the men's long jump, freshman Grant Swider placed sixth with a jump of 6.49 meters (21-3 1/2) in the fourth attempt.

Junior Tyra Thomas placed third in the women's 100-meter hurdles, running a time of 13.86 seconds.

Purvis placed fourth in the men's shot put with a throw of 15.51 meters (50-10 3/4). Freshman Anthony Dunbar placed fifth in the event with a throw of 14.52 meters (47-7 3/4).

The women's 4x100-meter team of Thomas, Marlee Porter, Dezire Gee and Kennedy Pedro placed third with a time of 47.32 seconds. The men's 4x100-meter team of Ethan Bowens, Emihl White, Joshua Roush and Isaiah Valentine placed second with a time of 42.85 seconds.

Freshman Nyah Harrison placed eighth in the women's 400-meter dash with a time of 57.26 seconds.

Merritt placed seventh in the women's discus throw with a toss of 47.86 meters (157-0) on her third attempt of the competition.

Purvis placed fourth in the men's discus throw with a toss of 48.75 meters (159-11) on his fifth attempt of the competition.

In the men's 400-meter hurdles, freshman Peter Oliveira placed eighth with a time of 58.59 seconds. Sophomore Carson Casto placed ninth, just shy of Oliveira with a time of 58.78 seconds.

Grad student Abby Herring placed second in the women's 1500-meter run with a time of 4 minutes and 26.75 seconds. Sophomore Hannah Wyler placed sixth with a time of 4 minutes and 39.19 seconds.

Marshall Track and Field competes next at the Raleigh Relays in Raleigh, North Carolina, on March 28 and 29.



## Hokies Hurdle the Herd



Beeman was the only player with over 10 points for the Herd. Courtesy of HerdZone

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall Women's Basketball's historic season came to an abrupt end on Friday, March 22, losing 92-49 to the Virginia Tech Hokies in Blacksburg, Virginia.

"I appreciate every Marshall fan that tuned in. I appreciate every Marshall fan that was here in green," head coach Kim Caldwell said. "It was great to see our fans come out and show out in a hostile environment. We appreciate you, and we're sorry we didn't give you a better show."

The Hokies dominated the Herd in their home stadium, Cassell Coliseum, where the team had a perfect record.

Marshall finished the season with a record of 26-7, the most wins in a single season in program history, along with the team clinching its first tournament appearance since 1997.

"You have to take a second and reflect on the entire year as a whole, not just the last few hours," Caldwell said. "There's going to

be some time where we – hopefully, quickly – can look back and celebrate our season."

The Herd kept the contest close for the first 10 minutes, going into the second quarter down 18-12. From that point, Virginia Tech stopped the often-efficient Herd offense in its tracks. Going into halftime, the Hokies pushed the once minimal difference to a 17-point lead 24-13.

"It was a big momentum changer because we were only down seven, and we had 1:30 left, and they went on a 10-0 run, and we were down 17 at half," Marshall guard Abby Beeman said.

In the third quarter, Marshall's defense came apart, allowing 36 points from the Hokies and only scoring nine. Throughout the game, the Herd couldn't find its groove offensively, shooting only six of 41 from beyond the arc, considerably low compared to the team's season averages.

In her final game, Beeman was the only Marshall player who finished the game in double-digits, scoring 12 points.

## Baseball Falls in Nailbiter



The Herd is still searching for its first road win as they head to Blacksburg.

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **BEN COWER**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall Baseball failed to seal the deal for a series sweep on Sunday, March 24, falling to the Arkansas State Red Wolves at Jack Cook Field in 14 innings, 6-4.

Two wins across two contests on Friday and Saturday had already clinched the Herd the series over the Red Wolves. Sunday's contest was the first to enter extra innings.

"Tough loss today," Marshall head coach Greg Beals said. "We went a long time and asked a lot of Nick Weyrich."

Weyrich, the Herd's top reliever this season, entered the matchup in the seventh inning and proceeded to pitch 7.2 innings, earning nine strikeouts. Marshall starting pitcher Carter Lyles only pitched 3.2 innings, and Griffin Miller and Alex McKay combined for 2.1 innings of pitching. Peyton Schofield relieved Weyrich in the top of the fourteenth inning to finish the final third of the frame.

Weyrich, a right-handed closer, pitched the most innings of any bullpen-birthed player in the contest.

"Weyrich pitched his tail off and

just kind of ran out of gas there at the end," Beals said. "It was his game, and he wanted the ball, so we kept the ball in his hands."

After a busy yet scoreless first inning, two errors in the top of the second combined with effective batting for the Red Wolves allowed Arkansas to claw its way into an early 2-0 lead. Calin Smith then scored for Marshall from second base in the bottom of the third inning after Arkansas State's shortstop Austen Jaslove committed a throwing error.

All was quiet once again until the top of the seventh inning, as a then-cold Weyrich entered the contest for Marshall and proceeded to surrender two runs in the top of the frame, struggling early. The Herd refused to quit, rallying back in the bottom of the ninth frame.

"We had a heck of a ninth inning," Beals said. "We rallied and put three singles on the board to load the bases. We were able to score in that inning."

Erratic pitching from 0.00-ERA Red Wolves pitcher Hudson Ross enabled hot Herd bats to load the bases and rally, tying the contest 4-4 in the bottom of the ninth.

Weyrich and a slew of Red Wolves pitchers sliced through the next through innings before Marshall loaded the bases in the bottom of the 13th, but couldn't capitalize. Two runs from Arkansas State from a then-sputtering Weyrich, who was over 120 pitches on the day, earned the Red Wolves the game-winning lead runs in the top of the fourteenth inning.

"We had opportunities offensively to finish that ballgame," Beals said. "We just weren't able to get that key hit we had in the first two days of the series. We had key hits when we needed them and didn't today."

Marshall falls to an 8-15 overall record and a 2-4 record in Sun Belt Conference play. The Herd's next contest is Tuesday, March 26, at Blacksburg, Virginia, dueling the Virginia Tech Hokies. First pitch for the contest will be at 6 p.m.

"I'm proud of my guys," Beals said. "I told them after the game that today was a great fight. We just have to play cleaner to win these big games."

# It's Okay to 'Press Pause' Give Yourself Credit

By SARAH DAVIS  
NEWS EDITOR

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce's Women's Leadership Summit on behalf of The Parthenon and Marshall University.

The annual conference, which takes place at The Greenbrier resort, features an array of speakers who focus on empowering women in their chosen careers. This year's gathering featured Jeannette Walls, author of the New York Times bestseller "The Glass Castle," a memoir about Walls' childhood living in poverty, as well as other successful women running businesses, embracing motherhood and

striving for their very best.

I enjoyed every speaker, and I took away something from each woman on the stage. There was one topic, however, that hit me particularly close to home. Licensed counselor Joelle Moray talked about how we continuously put our bodies under a lot of stress, causing us to be overwhelmed and burnt out in our careers, which can ultimately lead to underperformance at work. This is why it's increasingly important, she said, to "press pause."

I had never really thought about taking a step back until she spoke about it. At first, I thought to myself, "How is that efficient?" What about the tasks at work?" I felt as if "press-

ing pause" would mean I became less valuable to my trade.

I quickly understood, though, I was flawed in my thinking. Instead of allowing stress to consume me, I saw a need to take a deep breath and remember who I am and what I want my life to be.

Moray's words of encouragement stuck with me because I am notorious for overworking myself. As a working college student, juggling classes, work, extracurriculars and myself can be hard and overwhelming. Unfortunately, the responsibility overload has often led me to put everything else over myself and my physical/mental wellbeing. However, Moray's method of "pressing pause" gave me a deep understanding of how to balance work and life while still performing your best at work. As she said, "We perform as well as we rest."

Whether it's leaving my laptop at home when I go on vacation or simply devoting time each day to calm down, taking those few moments is important to leading a successful life, both personally and in my career field.

The Chamber's Women's Leadership Summit taught me many things over the course of three days: the importance of understanding your strengths, what it takes to run your own business and even the science behind brain surgery. But, my most important takeaway was one that intends to go beyond how many stories I write, what interviews I conduct and how many reporters I manage.

I learned it's okay to take the mental health day, and it's okay to step out of the stress, even for a few seconds. I learned it's okay to "press pause."



Courtesy of Sarah Davis

Sarah Davis (left) and Victoria Ware (right) in front of the Greenbrier resort at the Women's Leadership Summit.

By VICTORIA WARE  
OPINIONS & CULTURE EDITOR

The 2024 Women's Leadership Summit was a rejuvenating experience that provided me with new fervor and insight into my perception of my goals and my strengths.

I was honored to be able to attend the event and hear an array of engaging speakers that left me inspired and taught me something new.

Although each speaker was unique and touted a different set of accomplishments and tenets to share with us, there were several underlying themes that could be gleaned from the various women. I was able to find something in each speech that left an impact on me. There isn't one moment in particular that stands out; however, one overarching message does stick with me. Several of the women mentioned the need to celebrate your individual accomplishments and give yourself credit. This sentiment—which isn't a new one—resonated with me on a new level.

The women explained how difficult it is sometimes for women to tout

their skills and accomplishments. Oftentimes, we give the spotlight to those around us and brush off the good qualities that we possess. Some of us actively undersell ourselves and succumb to self-doubt and self-criticism, no matter how much we accomplish. As someone who deals with these tendencies, the discussions surrounding Imposter Syndrome and feelings like it hit close to home.

Being able to see these accomplished and driven women openly discuss their own insecurities and reservations when it comes to acknowledging their strengths and abilities was lovely to witness.

The act of acknowledging my own skills and accomplishments is unnatural to me, and so often I do the exact opposite. This is ultimately a harmful practice that contributes to negative self-talk. I highly value humility, but I should give myself credit for how far I've come and for the strides I've made professionally and personally. So often women shrink themselves in fear of being perceived negatively, but there is a lot of power in recognizing the good we have done.

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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## 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.

# HerdCon Cultivates Community, Organizers Say

By SARAH DAVIS  
NEWS EDITOR

HerdCon is all about bringing alike interests and their people together, the event's co-chairman said.

"My biggest thing is how many students I've talked to who are really big on saying, 'I didn't know I fit in until I went to HerdCon,'" said Michelle Alford, library information systems technologist and organizer of the convention. "People are like, 'They're people like me who do those things and like those things.'"

That found community is one that enabled her daughter, Alford said, to find peers who enjoyed her hobby of Minecraft as much as she did; a community that ceased to exist in her daughter's mind until she found it at HerdCon.

HerdCon will return to campus this upcoming Friday and Saturday, March 29-30, for its sixth year; although, hosting conventions at Marshall traces its roots back to the 1980s.

Sponsored by University Libraries, HerdCon provides an array of activities and participatory events surrounding pop culture. All programming will take place in the Memorial Student Center and Drinko Library areas.

Monica Brooks, dean of University Libraries, also serves on the HerdCon team. She agreed that HerdCon provides a welcoming environment for students and the local community.

"What makes it worth it for me is just seeing everybody's faces," Brooks said. "You can tell that there's a little niche for people to express themselves and to get excited about the things that they like."



Brooks (left) and Alford (right) pose with a HerdCon 2024 prop wearing their shirts from the university's first HerdCon.

Photo by Sarah Davis

This year's HerdCon will feature vendors, interactive workshops, a cosplay contest, panel discussions, food trucks and more. All activities are intended to channel one's interests in fandom and pop culture, which is a mission point for the organizing team.

"We're excited about that because some local scholars and people who are into the genre will be presenting some very interesting topics," Brooks said. "The panels look really amazing this year."

One new aspect of this year's edition of HerdCon is a live recording of the event's podcast, the "HerdCon Pop-cast." Hosts Heather Lauer, Meghan Sexton-Harness and Alford have been talking about all things pop culture on the platform since 2022.

"We just started building a studio

here in the library," Alford said. "The iCenter is gifting us some of their old equipment."

The event also advocates for collaboration across campus. The team said graphic design students have helped them during the planning process. In fact, this year's t-shirt design was constructed by a Marshall student.

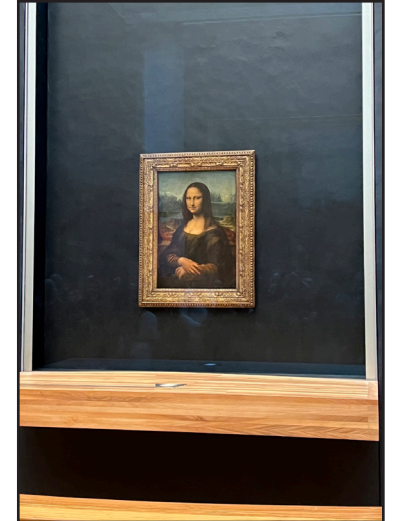
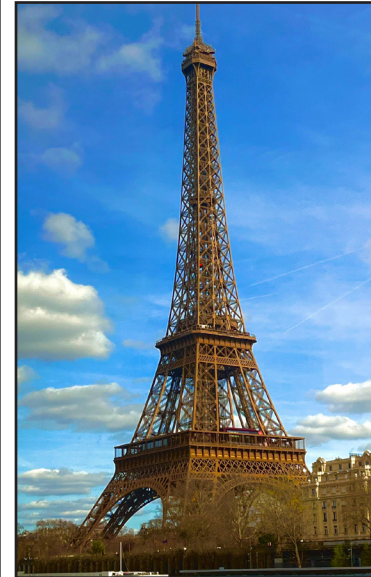
"It's a great way to give people an outlet for showing off what they're doing in class," Alford said.

Others have the opportunity to volunteer online for assisting with all operations during the event.

HerdCon 2024 begins at 10 a.m. on Friday and will continue through Saturday, beginning again at 10 a.m. Admission is free for all who wish to attend and is open to the public.

# Chamber Choir Travels to Paris

By NOLAN DUNCAN  
STUDENT REPORTER



"For some, it was the first time even to fly in an airplane," David Castleberry, director of the chamber choir said. "Their support for each other and inclusion of everyone just made it a real joy for me."

The Marshall University Chamber Choir took a 10 day trip to France to participate in four performances.



"We gave performances at some of the most amazing venues in the world: the cathedral in Chartres, the cathedral in Rouen, the church Saint Eustache in Paris, and the cathedral Saint Croix Armenian in Paris," Castleberry said.

Photos by Nolan Duncan

Read the rest of the story online.

# BeyondMU: Indiana Signs Law Threatening Professors' Tenure over 'Academic Diversity'



By **MATTHEW SCHAFER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

A new law signed by Indiana Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb forces college and university professors to promote “intellectual diversity” in their classrooms or risk losing tenure.

The law, signed on March 13, was created with the intent to force higher education institutions to be more accepting of conservative ideas amongst students in the classroom; however, the law has faced fierce backlash from many professors and faculty who fear repercussions over what they include in their curriculum.

According to Ben Robinson, associate professor of Germanic Studies at Indiana University, the new law marks the end of tenure as it is currently known in the state.

The law “allows faculty the freedom to pursue their inquiries and their teaching without reprisal,” he said when speaking to NPR.

This fear by Robinson is echoed by many professors within the state who fear the law will open the door for

interference from university boards of trustees, who could now determine a professor's tenure.

However, the determining factor does not lie solely with the board of trustees, as the law also creates a system for complaints by students and faculty, in which those complaints can be reviewed when considering a professor's tenure.

The law does feature some protections for faculty, including protections for professors engaging in public commentary or criticizing the university; however, many opponents of the legislation feel it is only an attempt to limit academic freedom and will ultimately hurt the quality of education in the long run.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Sen. Spencer Deery, who was previously chief of staff at Purdue University, said the sole intention of the law is to create a more comfortable environment for conservative students on campuses state-wide.

Michael Berghoff, the Purdue University Board of Trustees chair, claimed the bill does not change much, especially in the university's approach to maintaining freedom of speech on campus, despite the Purdue University Senate passing a resolution denouncing the bill.

The passage of this law marks the third of its kind



*The entrance to Indiana University, one of the state's higher ed. institution that will be affected by the new law*

*Courtesy of AdobeStock/Susan Vineyard*

in the nation created to reconstruct higher education curricula to favor conservative discussion in classrooms.

Previously, both Texas and Florida have passed similar legislation that reviews tenure, with Nebraska introducing a bill this year that would eliminate tenure entirely.

However, these pieces of legislation have caused unforeseen repercussions, with a survey by the American Association of University Professors finding many professors are seeking employment in other states due to the passage of these laws.

The survey found two-thirds of the 4,250 professors interviewed across Texas, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina would not recommend their state for academic work.

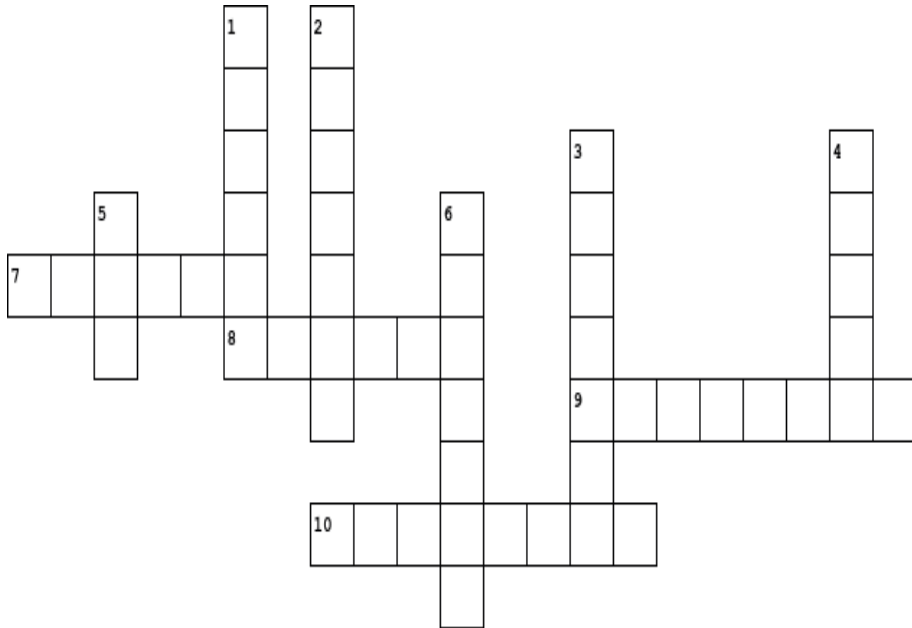
Meanwhile, last year's AAUP Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession found real wages for professors had dropped 2.4% for the third year in a row.

Combining these factors with declining college enrollment and university programs ending, which has recently occurred at West Virginia University, or closing institutions down entirely, such as the case

for Notre Dame College in Cleveland, Ohio, there is an air of uncertainty surrounding academic professions.

Tenure used to mean stability amongst educators, with it providing indefinite job security for those who qualify, with tenured professors being granted extra protections to conduct research or teaching on controversial topics without the fear of repercussions. With new laws being passed and legislation being considered, tenure may not be the incentive many educators once strived for.

# Parthenon Puzzle: Crossword #18



### Down

- The women's historic basketball season came to an end to the team represented by this mascot
- Scheduling for this class begins Monday, April 1
- Marshall's pop culture festival setoff this weekend
- The last name of the author who wrote "The Glass Castle"
- The first name of a history professor who gave her final speech on Monday week
- This state passed a law threatening tenured professors

### Across

- Marshall's Chamber Choir visited this European nation over break
- The last name of Marshall's chief legal officer
- The next Amicus Curiae is set to discuss this U.S. institution
- The most recent men's basketball coach (includes an apostrophe)

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

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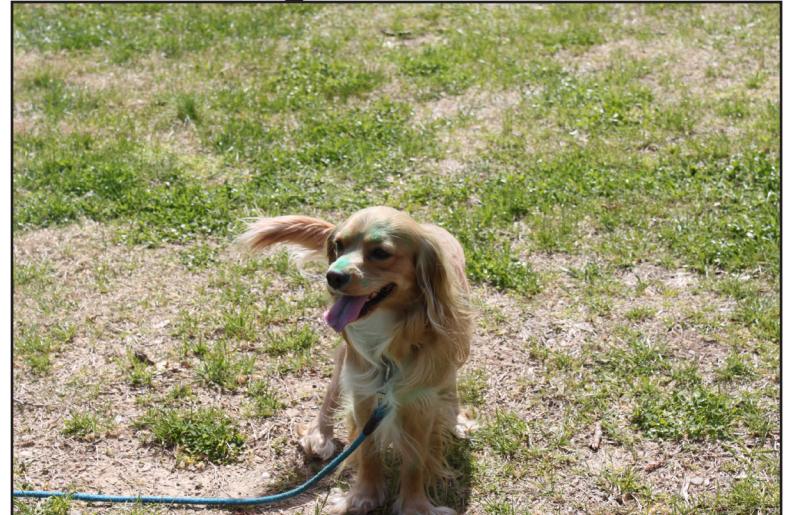
Sunday Mass: 11:00a.m.  
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Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday  
Confession by appointment

Father Shaji Thomas

HD-486764

HD-508572

# Holi Celebrated on Campus



Holi, a Hindu festival, was celebrated on March 25 at an event hosted by the Office of Intercultural Students. Dogs weren't spared from the celebration, as seen with this furry friend.

Photos by Abigail Cutlip

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