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## BASKETBALL EDITION



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# BASKETBALL EDITION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## New faces vying for playing time



MEGAN OSBORNE | THE PARTHENON

Marshall University senior forward James Kelly stands for a moment after during the team’s exhibition win against Bluefield State College Nov. 12.

By **MARQUEZ DAVILA**  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s men’s basketball forward James Kelly, a transfer player, has spent a year waiting for an opportunity to suit up for the Herd.

A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Kelly spent a year at the University of Miami in the ACC, where he averaged nearly 10 points a game.

When he transferred to Marshall, NCAA transfer rules required him to sit out a year. Now, as a senior, he is one of several new faces trying to blend in with the team.

“I’m trying to get the ball rolling early,” Kelly said. “Since we have so many new people, I’m just trying to be on the same page.”

Kelly is also saying the right things and showing the right attitude, such as his praise for head coach Dan D’Antoni and acceptance of his coaching style.

“The stuff D’Antoni’s teaching us is to get us to the next level and to win games,” Kelly said.

However, Kelly is not the only newcomer for the Herd.

D’Antoni said Huntington-native Jacob Kilgore is another player who can help bring success to the team.

During media day in October, D’Antoni said Kilgore has emerged as one of the best shooters on the team.

Kilgore was the West Virginia Player of the Year in his senior season at Spring Valley High School. He averaged 23.5 points and 10 rebounds per game, while shooting 58 percent from the floor and 41 percent from 3-point range.

Kilgore said his shooting will fit in well with D’Antoni’s offensive scheme as he takes on a position change from his high school days.

“I love how I fit in D’Antoni’s system,” Kilgore said. “I am a guard now and not a center, so I can spread the floor and shoot the ball as well.”

Stevie Browning, another West Virginia native, will make his debut season for the Herd after transferring from Fairmont State University, a Division-II school.

The Herd has three returning starters this year and nine newcomers, and D’Antoni said the group is ready for some outside competition.

“These young men have adapted quickly and are ready to play against someone other than themselves,” D’Antoni said.

The Herd will get that first action with outside competition Thursday when it travels to Knoxville, Tennessee to take on the University of Tennessee in its regular season opener.

**Marquez Davila can be contacted at [davila@marshall.edu](mailto:davila@marshall.edu).**

## Duhon’s road to Marshall’s coaching staff



RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

Marshall University assistant coach Chris Duhon takes the court during a game last season.

By **MALCOLM WALTON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

While sitting on the bench next to assistant coach Dan D’Antoni, former New York Knicks’ point guard Chris Duhon would discuss the game of basketball with the Mullins, West Virginia native. Little did both know, seven years down the road, the two would be doing the same in their second season leading Marshall University’s men’s basketball team.

D’Antoni said the more time he spent around his former player, the easier it was to notice his knowledge of basketball and that he had the proper traits to be a successful coach.

“I learned from just talking to him, being in the locker room together, being on planes, eating together, that he has a good demeanor about him,” D’Antoni said. “He’s a positive person and fun to be around. I knew I could enjoy coaching with him. I think he felt the same thing. There was a vibe between us.”

D’Antoni offered Duhon the position as his assistant once he was named Marshall’s head coach in April 2014. D’Antoni messaged Duhon about joining him, and Duhon jokingly texted back, “I’ll be there tomorrow.”

“I guess he thought I was messing with him,” D’Antoni said. “But I was being absolutely serious, and here we are now.”

Before the offer from D’Antoni, Duhon had already been intrigued with the possibility of coaching.

Duhon said being around his former head coaches in the NBA had a lot to do with his interest.

“Just seeing how those guys conducted themselves and led the team and then their different styles and their different take on the game really stuck with me,” Duhon said.

With only being two years removed from the NBA, Duhon, 32, said he cannot help but miss playing the game he has participated in all his life.

“It’s tough,” the nine-year NBA veteran said. “I still feel like I can get out there and play a little bit. I miss it. Seeing our players go out and compete every day, there are times in your head where you’re like ‘I can do this.’ But at the same time, when I get out there and correct them and see that they’re making improvements, it kind of makes me realize that I can have a really big impact on the game of basketball by teaching, coaching and helping these younger guys.”

Duhon, who helped lead Duke University to the 2004 NCAA Championship as a freshman, said he credits his time under legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski for honing his leadership skills on and off the court.

“I learned so much from Coach K,” Duhon said. “He’s the best coach in college basketball for a reason. At that time, I was really focusing on getting to the next level of competition basketball-wise. Coaching was something always in my head, but it wasn’t clear-cut at that point.”

Krzyzewski, however, said he could tell Duhon could one day have a career in coaching if it was something he wanted to pursue.

“He was a pass-first point guard,” Krzyzewski said through a Duke public relations official. “And he was really one of the two or three guys that I coached here in over three decades that never got tired. He could pressure the ball, move the ball up the court and it didn’t really matter if he scored as long as his team won. To me, I always thought his understanding of the game could translate into him being an outstanding coach.”

Krzyzewski said when he found out Duhon had accepted his first coaching position, he was not the least bit surprised.

“Well, he already earned the assistant coaching position at Marshall because their head coach knew him well, having coached him in the pros,” Krzyzewski said. “And I just gave my endorsement and my support. It was a no-brainer for him to get that job.”

Despite leaving the university more than 10 years ago, Duhon said he still stays in touch with his Blue Devil family.

“Coach K does a great job of making us a family program,” Duhon said. “I talk to all the guys all the time. He does a great job of bringing us back together, no matter what generation, just so we can feel that tight niche family that most people would want to have. I’ll always be associated with Duke and that’s what most people remember me for.”

While many coaches who serve as assistants eventually become head coaches, D’Antoni said he would like to see Duhon take his head coaching position someday.

“I hope we can keep him,” D’Antoni said. “I hope he takes my job when I leave Marshall. It’d be great for Marshall. He represents the university the way it should be represented.”

Duhon said while he would like to become a head coach one day, he is focused on excelling in his current role now.

“I’m young,” Duhon said. “I’m still in the learning stages and there’s a lot I have to learn. So, now, I’m just kind of soaking things up. Like a player, whenever you can grasp something from somebody, kind of write it down, remember it, and whenever you get that opportunity, be prepared to pounce on it.”

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## D’Antoni’s offense enters year two



MEGAN OSBORNE | THE PARTHENON

Junior forward Ryan Taylor takes a shot at the free throw line during the team’s exhibition win against Bluefield State College Nov. 12.

By **TRACE JOHNSON**  
THE PARTHENON

Head coach Dan D’Antoni is looking for better offensive production in his second year at the helm of an offensive system he brought with him to Marshall University.

In year one, with a system D’Antoni describes, as “organized chaos,” Marshall finished 11-21 overall and 7-11 in Conference USA play, while finishing seventh in C-USA by averaging 66.8 points per game.

With an influx of new players and returning players with more experience, the Herd expects its number of wins to increase.

D’Antoni said his style of play is chaotic because his players have freedom of movement and freedom of range.

“But it’s organized because they

have principles that guide them through it,” D’Antoni said. “It designs things to try to get you a layup, free throw or 3-point shot.”

The Herd finished second in C-USA in 3-point field goals made last season with 249 on the season and averaged 7.8 made 3-point field goals per game.

Junior guard Austin Loop was second in C-USA with 84 made 3-point field goals on the season.

D’Antoni said this year’s team has more speed and is better equipped to run his system.

“Any time you have chaos, it usually has speed involved in it,” D’Antoni said. “This year’s team has more people with speed that can run.”

“We had a lot of people that practiced with us last year that’s playing this year and I feel like they’ve adjusted well, and the

new players are catching on well,” junior forward Ryan Taylor said.

Taylor led the Herd in points per game and rebounds per game last season with 14.1 and 8.6, respectively. His 14.1 points per game were good for 13th in C-USA, and his 8.6 rebounds per game were good for second in C-USA.

Taylor said the offensive system in place brings out the best in him as a player.

“A lot of schools, with me being my height, wouldn’t let me do what I do or play how I play here,” Taylor said. “But with coach D’Antoni and his offensive system, I feel like it shows every aspect of my game and what I can do.”

D’Antoni said Taylor has changed his entire style of play from being what was basically catch-and-finish to handling

the ball and creating shots for other players, as well as shooting three’s and playing the whole floor.

“[His] turnovers went from seven or eight a game to two or three and that was just improvement of learning the system and how he fits in,” D’Antoni said.

Taylor said he believes the system can lead to the goals Marshall hopes to accomplish.

“Our goal is to always win the last game, which is the NCAA title,” D’Antoni said. “We can get to be the best in the country and if we win the last game, we’re the best in the country.”

The Herd’s regular season tips off at 7 p.m. Thursday against the University of Tennessee.

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# BASKETBALL EDITION

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## Daniel taking women's program to new heights

By **TRACE JOHNSON**  
THE PARTHENON

Matt Daniel has reinvigorated the Marshall University women's basketball program since becoming the head coach.

Before Daniel's arrival in May 2012, the program had just six winning seasons since 2001. The Herd has seen a steady increase in wins since his arrival and last season, the team took an even bigger step with the program's first post-season win in the NCAA era with a first-round victory over Northern Kentucky University in the Women's Basketball Invitational.

Daniel said last season's success is a step in the right direction, but he has bigger goals for his team.

"I think it shows real progress and strong momentum," Daniel said. "But that was also yesterday. And in my profession, it's not what you're measured on. You're measured on today rather than yesterday."

"I think it makes Marshall look really good," senior forward Leah Scott said. "Not even just in athletics, but in academics and other stuff like that. It's still a growing process and everybody has spots to grow in, so I think Marshall is doing a really good job in expanding."

Daniel is no stranger to building a program. He inherited a losing program when he became the head coach at the University of Central Arkansas, but quickly turned it into a winner during his stint as head coach from 2008-2012.

In his debut season, Daniel's team finished with a 6-23 overall record. However, the team went 21-8 in his second season as head coach. In year three, the team posted a 21-12 overall record and made an appearance in the Women's Basketball Invitational.

In his final season at Central Arkansas, the team finished 24-7 overall and won the Southland Conference regular season championship while clinching a berth in the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

Daniel helped guide the Central Arkansas women's basketball program from Division II to Division I during that stretch and he was named the Southland Conference Coach of the Year in 2010



PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

Marshall women's basketball head coach Matt Daniel directs his players from the sidelines in the Charleston Capital Classic last season.

and 2012.

Daniel's ties to Marshall go back to when Billy Donovan was the head coach of the Herd men's basketball team from 1994-1996.

"I was recruited to play at Marshall," Daniel said. "I was Billy Donovan's first scholarship offer as a head coach. I turned it down and he ended up taking Jason (Williams), but that was kind of my tie here."

During his first season as head coach of the Herd, the women's team posted a 9-21 overall record. His second season at Marshall saw a slight increase in wins as the team finished 11-20 overall.

However, in year three last season the Herd saw even more improvement as it finished 17-15 overall and earned a berth in the Women's Basketball Invitational, where the team defeated Northern Kentucky 81-79 in the first round.

Daniel said his previous coaching experiences have helped prepare him for the task of turning around the Marshall women's basketball program.

"I've seen basketball at a lot of different levels being a coach's

kid," Daniel said. "I was a head coach before I got here and I was ready to be challenged and take a step up."

Scott said the building process was tough at first, but the team has taken steps in the right direction.

"It was kind of rough at first, but we've grown," Scott said. "You just take different steps to different goals and it's still growing as I'm here."

Despite graduate losses from last season's team, the Herd adds 10 new faces to this year's team and hopes to continue the building process.

"We're really young," Daniel said. "Ten new faces that didn't play Division-I basketball last year so that's always the hope. We have to handle whatever comes our way."

The Herd is 2-0 this season, having defeated Morehead State University and Brescia University in the Morehead State Classic. The team's next game is 6 p.m. Wednesday against the University of Rhode Island at the Cam Henderson Center.

**Trace Johnson can be contacted at [johnson940@marshall.edu](mailto:johnson940@marshall.edu).**

## Schedule keeps young group close to home in season's first two months

By **MARQUEZ DAVILA**  
THE PARTHENON

The secret to the Marshall University women's basketball team's early-season success this season could be its schedule. The Herd will play eight of its first 10 games at home and its two road contests are at nearby sites.

Head coach Matt Daniel said the favorable schedule is the most convenient he's ever had during his coaching career.

"I thought it was important for this young team to be at home where the Herd fans can get to know them," Daniel said.

Marshall's two games away from Huntington in its first 10 off short road trips. The Herd defeated Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky 104-101 in its opener Friday crossing off one of the two road trips in its first 10 games. The other is a short trek to Charleston as the Herd play West Virginia University in the annual Charleston Capital Classic Dec. 13.

Redshirt junior Talequia Hamilton, a Huntington native, said she recognizes the benefits of playing at or close to home in the season's early going.

"For me to be able to play a lot of my college ball close to home is special," Hamilton said. "And since we have so many new players they will be able to adapt and get comfortable playing in a good environment."

With the Herd not playing conference games until January, Daniel said the schedule in the opening month of the season will present an early challenge.

"There are some tests on our schedule, but we're playing back-to-back really early in the season, so that's preparing us for later on," Daniel said.

Experience and team cohesiveness could also be hurdles for the Herd with just six players on the roster having played a game for Marshall, however, Daniel played down these potential issues.

"All things considered, the team has a pretty good bond and will continue to grow with the more ball they play together," Daniel said.

The Herd's next game is 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Cam Henderson Center against the University of Rhode Island.

**Marquez Davila can be contacted at [davila@marshall.edu](mailto:davila@marshall.edu).**

## Herd off to quick 2-0 start after weekend

By **BRITANNIE FOWLER**  
THE PARTHENON

Despite adding 10 new faces to its roster this season, the Marshall University women's basketball team got off to a fast start with a pair of wins over the weekend to begin the regular season.

The Herd defeated Morehead State University 104-101 in its season opener Friday and followed up the performance with a 92-40 victory over Brescia University Sunday in the team's home debut.

Freshman Shayna Gore led the Herd with 27 points on 10-14 shooting in the team's victory against Morehead State and added 13 points, four assists and four steals against Brescia. The weekend performance earned Gore Conference USA Freshman of the Week honors.

Gore wasn't the only Herd newcomer, however, who

contributed the successful opening weekend. Redshirt sophomore Taylor Porter scored 15 points against Morehead State, canning three of her six 3-pointers and also collected four assists and four steals. Porter produced in front of the home crowd Sunday as well, totaling nine points, five rebounds and three assists in the win.

The offensive production by Porter and Gore goes to show how well the new players have adapted to the system and their teammates. However, before its first game, senior forward Leah Scott said the team wasn't fully confident in how well the young players were going to adjust to the new atmosphere of collegiate basketball.

"College basketball is so different than high school basketball, so we're just trying to get them in and get them going with the program," Scott said. "Since we have so many new freshmen were trying to put versatile players out there to make it harder

for other teams to adapt to what we're doing."

Assistant coach Tony Kemper said the team is unique with how it is split as far as experience goes. He said half the team is upper classman who have played a lot of minutes and gone through the trials of college basketball, while the other half is still experiencing its first practices with little to no experience at this level.

Despite the vast differences in playing experience, the Herd collected two wins over the weekend while getting key contributions from its more youthful players and its veteran leaders.

The Herd will attempt to move its record to 3-0 Wednesday at 6 p.m. when it takes on the University of Rhode Island at the Cam Henderson Center.

**Brittanie Fowler can be contacted at [fowler85@marshall.edu](mailto:fowler85@marshall.edu).**



PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

Forward Leah Scott attempts to score in a game last season.



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## THE PARTHENON

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## Homegrown West Virginia Talent



MEGAN OSBORNE | THE PARTHENON

Sophomore C.J. Burks of Martinsburg, West Virginia prepares to shoot a free throw during the men's basketball exhibition game Nov. 12.

By **ALEC HILDEBEIDEL**  
FOR THE PARTHENON

Of the 16 players on the Marshall University's men's basketball roster, six are from the state of West Virginia.

The Mountain State natives are Jacob Kilgore, Stevie Browning, Brett Bowling, C.J. Burks, Jon Elmore and Noah Frampton.

Kilgore was the all-time leading scorer at Spring Valley averaging 23.5 points per game and 10 rebounds per game. However, the style of play that he is accustomed to while playing at Spring Valley is not the style Marshall utilizes in its scoring offense.

"The styles are complete opposites," Kilgore said. "We're going to run the floor here. Take the shots when they're there and try to score 90 points a game. Last year, it was to try to score 60 and try to hold the other team to less than 60."

Browning transferred to Marshall from Fairmont State University and played his high school basketball at Logan High School. Even though this season will be his first with the Herd, Browning is accustomed to head coach Dan D'Antoni's playing style because it is similar to the style he played at

Logan High.  
"If you felt like you could make the shot, you take it," Browning said. "It doesn't matter where you are on the floor; it doesn't matter what time is left. Of course, given the situation, you may need to change, but it's all about confidence."

Each of these players have impressed some of the players who have been with the Herd for a while, like senior guard Justin Edmunds.

"Pretty much all of them have been playing well," Edmunds said. "Jon, Stevie, C.J., James (Kelly), they're going to shock some people."

D'Antoni said each player will be expected to step up. "Ready or not, they'll probably have to do a little bit to help," head coach Dan D'Antoni said in his media day press conference. "They've got a little chip on their shoulder with a 'Let me show you' type of air about them, which I like."

The West Virginia natives, as well as the rest of the Herd squad, begin their regular season against the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee Thursday.

**Alec Hildebeidel can be contacted at hildebeidel@marshall.edu.**

# THE HERD REMEMBERS



# THE 75

PHOTOS BY RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON



Richard Crank | The Parthenon



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Richard Crank | The Parthenon



# Marshall community packs plaza for 45th Annual Fountain Ceremony

By **ROB ENGLE**  
THE PARTHENON

People packed the Student Center Plaza Saturday morning for the annual Memorial Fountain Ceremony commemorating the 75 people who lost their lives in the 1970 plane crash.

This year's ceremony took place on the day of a home football game, which was the sixth time the Herd has played a game on the Nov. 14th anniversary.

Doc Holliday, Marshall head football coach, said the players would carry on a tradition started two years ago by wearing a "75" decal on their helmets to represent the lives lost in the crash.

"I told them this morning at our meeting that when that '75' goes on that helmet you play harder," Holliday said. "Understand that when they step on that field, they're playing for more than just their teammate and themselves. They're

playing for a community, a fan base and for the relatives and friends of those who died that night."

Mike Hamrick, Marshall athletic director, reminded the crowd Marshall football is much bigger than the game that gets played at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

"Nov. 14 is the day that will always be the most important chapter in the single greatest sports story about perseverance and community," Hamrick said. "As we honor the 75 individuals who lost their loves on Southern Flight 932, it's imperative we recognize the magnitude of this great sacrifice. Those individuals on that particular day gave Marshall University and the passionate community that supports it a story that's brought us a sense of togetherness that is not found anywhere else."

This year's keynote speaker was Stephen Ward,

who was 5 years old when his father, Parker Ward, owner of Hez War Buick in Huntington, died in the crash along with 74 others.

Ward, who lives with his wife, Shari, and two children in Louisville, Kentucky, spoke about how he still feels connected to the university, despite not attending school here.

"There are so many families who are affected by the tragedy on Nov. 14th. We lost brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and I lost my dad," Ward said.

Ward told a story about bringing his friends from Purdue University to the first home game of the 2015 football season.

"As we left the stadium, they were wearing their Purdue black and gold," Ward said. "I could barely get them out of the stadium because so many Marshall fans stopped them and thanked them for coming. They said to me that night,

'We've traveled all across the county, and there's nowhere in the world like Huntington and Marshall University:'"

In attendance was recently selected president of Marshall, Jerome Gilbert, who traveled from Mississippi to experience the ceremony.

"My first impression was that I was overwhelmed with emotion," Gilbert said. "I almost wept at the ceremony because of the sense of loss and what this means to the university."

Gilbert said the resilience of the Marshall community to rise above tragedy is a personal lesson he took away from the ceremony, a lesson he said he would apply as president.

The Memorial Fountain was turned off during the ceremony and 75 white roses were laid along it to commemorate each of the who died.

**Rob Engle can be contacted at [engle17@marshall.edu](mailto:engle17@marshall.edu).**



TOP LEFT: Marshall head football coach, Doc Holliday, spoke about the impact of the crash. "I told the player, when that '75' goes on that helmet, they play harder, because they're playing for more than themselves," Holliday said.

TOP RIGHT: Each rose laid on the fountain represents one of the 75 people who died in the crash.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A woman lays one of 75 roses on the Memorial Fountain.

BOTTOM LEFT: Autumn Tyree (left) and Carly Gandee (right) participate in the annually laying of roses.

PHOTOS BY ROB ENGLE | THE PARTHENON

# Locals speak out to support organ donation

By **KALYN BORDMAN**  
THE PARTHENON

Every year, two weeks before Thanksgiving, members of the organ donation community gather together in places of worship to celebrate those who have given and received life through organ donation.

According to Donate Life America, the National Donor Sabbath is a way to encourage members throughout the year to give hope and save lives by registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

The topic of organ donation and Donor Sabbath are controversial topics for some, but for others there is a much different response.

"I personally believe Donor Sabbath is amazing. It brings everyone together to help

get more organ donors in the world," said Beth Zirkle, volunteer for the Center of Organ Recovery and Education.

Zirkle has worked with C.O.R.E for about four years now and said she has learned more than she ever could have imagined. Zirkle said West Virginia is the third lowest state in organ donation rates in the country.

"I hope to one day not only go statewide but nationwide as well, and I plan on getting West Virginia to the highest rate," said Zirkle.

Zirkle got involved with organ donation following the death of her best friend. She said when her friend was ten years old, she told her parents that if anything ever happened to her, then she wanted to help

people by becoming an organ donor. Zirkle said her friend died in November of 2011 and went into the donation process. Her friend saved a total of 14 lives.

Zirkle said the Donor Sabbath is a great thing to have, and it helps clear up a lot of myths.

"People believe a lot of myths, a big one being that their religion does not support organ donation. However, all major religions support organ donation," said Zirkle.

Zirkle said she believes people should talk about organ donation in order to bust the myths. She said most religions view organ donation as a final act of kindness, and she thinks this fact should be celebrated throughout the entire year and

not just during November.

According to [www.life-source.org](http://www.life-source.org), 22 people die each day in the United States due to the organ shortage, and the site also said a single donor can save and heal up to 60 people.

"I have a friend who is a veteran and needs a kidney transplant. He has been waiting for a long time," said Michelle Knapp, local advocate for organ donation.

According to [www.donorrecovery.org](http://www.donorrecovery.org), there was no cost to participate in the Donor Sabbath, and it is supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as well as the service administrations on national, state and local donor levels.

**Contact Kalyn Bordman at [bordman3@marshall.edu](mailto:bordman3@marshall.edu).**

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# International Festival promotes the sharing of cultures, traditions



Participants of the International Festival pose for a picture.

MICHAEL BROWN | THE PARTHENON

**By MICHAEL BROWN**  
THE PARTHENON

Cultures from around the world were represented Sunday at the International Festival at the Big Sandy Arena.

The event, held by the Marshall University Center for International Programs, was free to the public and gave people in attendance the opportunity to take a look at cultures and countries from all over.

Twenty different countries and organizations had booths set up where they were answering questions, displaying art, giving out food samples and more.

"I was really interested about the diversity and to see how every country or culture would come out and represent themselves today," said recent graduate, Claudine Dalberiste. "Everyone is an ingredient to this atmosphere, I feel like everyone brings a new tradition and new culture to this melting pot here in Huntington."

"I came out today to perform with the Indian Student Association," said senior public health major Meena Elango. "Today is a great example of how cultures are able to represent themselves in Huntington. If you weren't able to come today you missed out on some great food and the opportunity to learn about many different cultures."

For \$5, attendees could purchase food tickets in packs of 10.

Ten restaurants were in attendance, including Julian's Market, Fratelli's Italian Restaurant, Casa Grande, New China Garden Buffet, Black Sheep Burrito And Brews, Chateau D'Italia, La Famiglia, Hibachi Japanese Steakhouse, Chipotle Mexican Grill and Sodexo.

Kay Kamtui, senior biology major, attended to represent Thailand.

"We wanted to show people our heritage," Kamtui said. "We are giving a little info, showing our language,

our temples and the alphabet. I don't think people realize that both the United States and Thailand have been such big allies for such a long time."

Not only were attendees able to look at booths set up by organizations, they were able to witness groups display native dances and watch a world fashion show.

Fans had the chance to see Batman and the Batmobile outside of the Big Sandy Arena before the event.

"This is our fourth time participating in this event today," Saudi Arabia Student Association president Abdullah Asiri said. Now we've come out today with the biggest section in the entire event today. We've invited the Mayor to come out with us to cut a cake as we celebrate our fourth anniversary here today. It's an honor to be able to here and exchange cultures and knowledge with everyone."

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