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## The Parthenon, July 25, 2013

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# THE PARTHENON

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013 | VOL. 116 NO. 138 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

## Grant awarded to researchers to study effects of space travel on bone and muscle loss

By **REBECCA STEPHENS**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Miaozong Wu of the Center for Diagnostic Nanosystems at the Marshall University School of Pharmacy received a \$750,000 grant from NASA to study the effects of space travel on bone and muscle atrophy.

"This is certainly really exciting to me," Wu said. "I think this is really important because at Marshall we really care about the research, but compared to the bigger universities we don't have much resources available."

Wu, who received his doctorate from Virginia Tech in 2007, came to Marshall shortly after

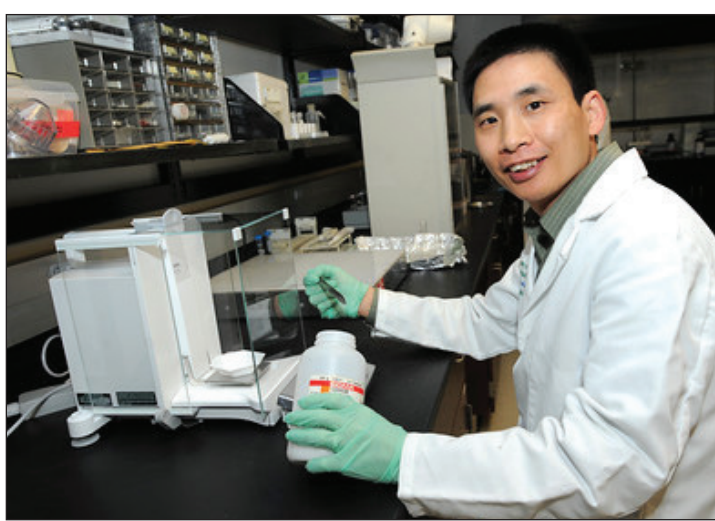
and began studying skeletal muscle atrophy.

Wu said this becomes a serious problem as we age, or suffer from diseases such as cancer or diabetes, but it is also dangerous for astronauts and becomes worse the longer they stay in space.

"They can experience one to two percent of bone loss," Wu said. "If you stay in space for six months, you will lose about five to ten percent of bone. Eventually, you would lose the skeletal muscle function."

Wu will lead a team of researchers with the intent of identifying the causes, as well as treatment.

The team is made up of



RICK HAYE | UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Miaozong Wu of the Marshall University School of Pharmacy is the recipient of a \$750,000 grant from NASA. Wu will lead a team of researchers studying the effects of space travel on bone and muscle atrophy, the causes and possible treatments.

doctors from the School of Pharmacy, the School of Medicine, the Huntington VA Medical Center and colleagues from West Virginia State University, University of Louisville, University of Delaware, Universities Space Research Association and NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Wu said that there will be undergraduate and graduate students involved with the project, and that he anticipates they will work well with the professionals. He also said it is a good opportunity for them to learn about the research process.

The project was one of 14 selected for funding

through NASA's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, said Majid Jaridi, chairman of the NASA West Virginia EPSCoR Committee.

"Marshall University has had a track record of success in winning these grants. The program is quite competitive and this latest award is a great achievement for the team," Jaridi said.

Wu said expects the bulk of the research to begin in September, and wants to continue with the research once the three years have passed.

Rebecca Stephens can be contacted at [stephens107@marshall.edu](mailto:stephens107@marshall.edu).

## Voting now available to choose Marco's new look

### Vote for Marco's New Look

**Current Marco**      **Option 1 Current Marco**      **Option 2 Partial makeover**      **Option 3 Full makeover**      **Classic Marco**

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

### THE PARTHENON

Between now and Aug. 10, Herd fans have the opportunity to choose the new look for Marco, which will debut at 2 p.m. Oct. 5 during Marshall's homecoming game against University of Texas at

San Antonio.

Matt Turner, chief of staff, said the current costume needs to be replaced because it is worn and damaged after five years of use.

"Fans love Marshall," Turner said. Why not listen to them

and see what they think?"

The first option is current Marco, the second is a partial makeover with hooves and fur-covered legs and the third is a complete makeover that more closely resembles the previous Marco.

The votes are cast through Marshall's Facebook page. There can only be one vote per person. The option with the most votes will be announced Monday, Aug. 12.

Turner said the system used through the Facebook

page, Meltwater Promos, has measures in place to assure fair voting.

After the decision has been announced, a winner will be selected from those that voted to receive four tickets to the game against Miami

University on Saturday, Aug. 31, as well as four Marshall sweatshirts.

Turner said that updates will be available as the contest continues so voters can see which option is in the lead.

## New 'Tech Up' program aims to assist nontraditional students with new technology

By **REBECCA STEPHENS**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall University's Office of Student Affairs and Information Technology have joined forces to develop a program with the nontraditional student in mind.

"Tech Up" will help those students navigate Marshall's website and teach them how to use MyMU and MUOnline.

Steve Hensley, dean of student affairs, said he received a letter in February from a student voicing concerns over their struggle to adapt to the new technology after a long hiatus from school.

"What (they) said had immediate merit," Hensley said. "I knew it in my heart that it was something we needed to do."

Hensley said that nearly 1,000 of Marshall's current applicants were born before 1990, making them nontraditional students. "Tech Up" will target its efforts to those in this group.

"It's not necessarily age related," said Monica Brooks, assistant vice president for Information Technology, online learning and libraries. "It can just be the fact that the person has not been exposed to the technology, maybe didn't have the luxury of having internet at home, maybe they could only

get on at their public library or their school. We're sympathetic to that."

Brooks said the staff in IT often does similar training for new faculty members and adjunct professors.

"We were thrilled to have an opportunity to kind of tailor it for nontraditional students," Brooks said.

Brooks said the most critical aspect of the sessions will be to stress the importance of the MUNET ID, as it is the login to the portal for MyMU.

"That is the university's gateway to share information with all the students," Brooks said.

Brooks also said the sessions

will focus on MUOnline and the most commonly used tools within that service as many professors use it for online and traditional classes.

The first "Tech Up" session is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, and from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29, in Drinko Library rooms 138 and 349.

Hensley said depending on the need, more sessions may be planned in the future.

To reserve a space, students may call the Office of Student Affairs at 304-696-6422 or email [studentaffairs@marshall.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@marshall.edu).

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# NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## Unemployment among recent veterans drops sharply

By ALAN ZAREMBO  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Unemployment among recent veterans has fallen sharply and now is the same as for the rest of the U.S. population, hovering just above 7 percent, new federal statistics show.

The figures suggest that a vexing and stubborn trend of higher joblessness among veterans who left the military after September 2001 has been reversed. It now appears that veterans are being hired at a faster rate than non-veterans.

Advocates credited a variety of public and private efforts, including major U.S. corporations beginning to make good on pledges to hire hundreds of thousands of veterans, federal tax incentives for employers and allowances for veterans to receive professional licenses based on their military training.

In the second quarter of this year, average unemployment

among post-9/11 veterans was 7.4 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That is not statistically different from the rate of 7.2 percent for non-veterans.

Until recently, the jobless rate among those veterans remained stuck in double digits, even as U.S. unemployment peaked in early 2010 and began to decline.

The labor bureau's monthly employment surveys had been pointing toward a narrowing since April. But the monthly data are considered far less reliable than quarterly figures, which were released without fanfare earlier this month.

Government economists are cautiously optimistic about the decline. James Walker of the labor bureau called the improvement impressive but said there was no guarantee that the trend would continue.

About 2.8 million veterans have served in the military since the 2001 terrorist attacks. Their current employment picture looks better when their demographics are taken into account. The largest share more than 40 percent are men between 25 and 34. Their unemployment rate was lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts: 6.6 percent compared to 7.3 percent.

Still, nobody is declaring victory.

"The labor force statistics are pointing in the right direction," said Gary Shaheen, director of employment policy at Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families. "But we still have a lot of work to do."

He and other advocates said they remain especially concerned about the high rate of unemployment among the very youngest veterans, as well

as the range of challenges confronting women leaving the military.

More fundamentally, they said, simply matching the employment rates of non-veterans should not be the benchmark for success.

"The veterans have done something for their country," said Derek Bennett, chief of staff for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "The country has a moral obligation to ensure they are working and productive citizens."

In 2011, the average unemployment rate was 12.1 percent for post-9/11 veterans and 8.7 percent for non-veterans.

Joblessness fell across the board in 2012, but a disparity in unemployment rates remained: 9.9 percent versus 7.9 percent. Those numbers held relatively steady until the second quarter of this year, when the gap disappeared.

Perhaps the most surprising statistic in the new quarterly data is the unemployment rate among female veterans of 7.1 percent, which is on par with male veterans and female non-veterans.

Until now, female veterans have consistently fared worse than those groups. Military sexual abuse, single parenthood and other challenges they face have spurred a variety of recent efforts to improve their employment prospects. They make up 19 percent of all post-9/11 veterans.

Experts cautioned that the job situation of female veterans has never been clear, owing to their relatively small numbers in the labor bureau's monthly surveys. Of the 100,000 or so people surveyed each month, no more than a few hundred are female veterans. The statistics have large margins of error.

The data on the youngest veterans those 18 to 24, who account for slightly more than 7 percent of post-9/11 veterans have similar limitations. Their unemployment rate was 18.5 percent, which economists said was not statistically different from the 15.2 percent rate among non-veterans in that age group.

Elevated rates of joblessness among recent veterans have been widely blamed on a failure of civilian employers to recognize the value of military training and experience. With fewer than 1 percent of Americans having served over the last decade, the military in some sense has been cut off from much of society.

The stigma surrounding post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological wounds of war is also thought to have hurt hiring.

## Royal baby named Prince George of Cambridge



STEPHEN LOCK | MCT

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge with their new baby boy stand outside the Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital in London, England.

By HENRY CHU  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

By George, the royal baby has a name.

Prince William and his wife, Catherine, announced Wednesday that their new baby, the third in line to the British throne, will be named George Alexander Louis.

The announcement puts to rest the final major mystery surrounding the infant, who was born Monday. The formal title of the son of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, as the prince and his wife are known, is His Royal Highness Prince

George of Cambridge.

The name George has been the front-runner for days with British bookmakers. Alexander, his second name, was also in the running, along with James and Henry.

There have already been six British kings with the name George. The BBC reported that Alexander is a favorite name of the baby's mother. Louis is apparently in tribute to Louis Mountbatten, a royal relation who was killed by an Irish Republican Army bomb.

There is no guarantee,

however, that the boy will be known as King George VII when he finally ascends to the throne, as British monarchs can pick their so-called regnal names.

The previous King George, George VI, the present queen's father, had the first name Albert and was known as Bertie among the family, as seen in the movie "The King's Speech." George was one of his middle names, but he chose it as his regnal name in honor of his father, George V.

Likewise, Queen Victoria's given name was actually Alexandrina Victoria.

## Obama steers the nations attention back to the economy

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY and  
CHRISTI PARSONS  
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

President Barack Obama tried to steer the nation's attention back to his stewardship of an improving economy with a high-profile speech that took credit for a comeback but warned against persistent "inequality of opportunity" and fights over the federal budget that could undo progress.

Speaking from a college gymnasium in this beleaguered town in western Illinois, Obama issued his sunniest description yet of the state of the economy and praised Americans' "resilience" in the face of diminished income, a sluggish job market and a widening gap between rich and poor.

After years of being careful not to prematurely celebrate a recovery, Obama seemed ready to mark a moment.

"Today, five years after the start of that Great Recession, America has fought its way back," Obama said. "As a country, we've recovered faster and gone further than most other advanced nations in the world."

Economists agree the U.S. is gaining ground with resilient job growth and growing investor confidence. But a large share of the new jobs this year have come in lower-paying businesses, and analysts question whether the economy can sustain the rate of growth as the year wears on.

The speech to be followed by another later Wednesday offered broad, familiar themes, only

hinting at specific policy actions to come. Obama said he would outline details in future remarks this week and vowed to use his executive authority whenever possible to override the Republican opposition that has thwarted much of his economic agenda for the last two years.

"With an endless parade of distractions, political posturing and phony scandals, Washington has taken its eye off the ball. And I am here to say this needs to stop," Obama said. "Short-term thinking and stale debates are not what this moment requires."

The speech was an attempt to revive a populist economic message that helped propel Obama to re-election but has recently faded from view, crowded out by months of unexpected and unwelcome news on other fronts. Controversial leak investigations, wariness about the economy, a stalled immigration bill and general public surliness directed at Washington have taken a toll on the president's approval rating and blunted his brief post-election momentum.

An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released Wednesday put Obama's approval rating at 45 percent. The figure was Obama's lowest in the survey since the dog days of August 2011, when Congress and Obama flirted with default in a showdown over raising the debt ceiling.

A replay of that fight may be on the horizon, and Obama's two-day economy tour is, in part,

aimed at positioning the White House for the next go-around with Republicans on Capitol Hill. Congress will have to raise the debt limit this fall to allow the nation to pay its bills, and funding will need to be approved to keep the government running after Sept. 30. Obama is pushing lawmakers to restore money automatically cut from the budget after he and lawmakers could not agree on a deficit-reduction deal.

The White House says Obama will not negotiate with lawmakers over the debt ceiling again. And Obama's remarks were laden with harsh attacks on a "faction" of Republicans in the House, while praising some Republican senators, his most-likely first targets for outreach.

On the House floor Wednesday morning, Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, said Obama should move the economic conversation along in part by agreeing to delay implementation of the 2010 health care law.

"If the president wants to help, he ought to approve the Keystone pipeline that has bipartisan support here in the House," Boehner said. "He also ought to work with us in the bipartisan majority to delay the health care bill, to give the American people and their families and individuals the same break that he wants to give big businesses."

"It's a hollow shell," he said of the Obama plan. "It's an Easter egg with no candy in it."

## Senate passes plan to restore lower student loan rates

By MICHAEL MEMOLI  
Tribune Washington Bureau

A plan to restore lower interest rates on most college loans won Senate approval Wednesday, despite objections from a block of Democrats who warned it could ultimately increase the cost of a degree for many students.

The legislation, which is supported by President Barack Obama and is expected to swiftly pass the House, would reinstate a market-based approach for calculating rates, tying them to the 10-year Treasury note. The new rate for undergraduate Stafford loans would be about 3.8 percent this year, slightly above the rate that expired July 1.

The final vote was 81-18. Sixteen Democrats, joined by Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., voted no.

A market-based system had

been in place until 2006, when the rate was fixed at 6.8 percent. It was later gradually reduced to 3.4 percent.

Democrats successfully mounted an election-year campaign in 2012 to extend that lower rate for an additional year. As rates were set to return to 6.8 percent this year, congressional Democrats pushed for another temporary extension. But they found their position weakened by a White House budget plan that supported a return to a market-based plan.

The Republicans who lead the House passed legislation in May that they said mirrored the administration's approach, putting pressure on the Democratic-controlled Senate to prevent rates from doubling. Twice, Democrats in the Senate failed to overcome a filibuster to advance their

favored approach, setting the stage for talks that resulted in the compromise plan that passed Wednesday.

As the economy improved and deficit concerns persisted, the issue sparked a debate over whether student loan programs should be a money-maker for the federal government. The negotiations sought to set rates in a way that would result in minimal profits \$715 million over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., who helped mediate talks between Republicans, Democrats and the White House, called it the best solution for students and taxpayers. He also said lawmakers will have another opportunity to find ways to lower college costs when the Senate considers the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act next year.

"We understand that it's more than the interest rate that's causing a problem," he said. "Let's give the students and families the help they need today, but let's not stop on the issue."

But Democrats opposed to the plan noted that while rates would be lower in the short term, they would rise to an estimated 7.25 percent by 2018 as bond rates increase in an improving economy. The plan includes a cap of 8.25 percent on undergraduate loans to protect against increases beyond those forecast.

Despite a late effort by the White House to push the plan over the finish line, signs of disunity remained until the end. Sens. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., offered an amendment to set the interest cap at 6.8 percent, but it failed. Any

increase to the deficit from the lower cap would have been offset by a tax surcharge on incomes of more than \$1 million.

"For the first time in the history of the student loan program, we're actually sort of reversing the subsidy," Reed said. "Education is so important to the future of America that we're no longer going to invest in it as a nation, we're going to let students pay."

Another amendment from Sanders, which would have forced lawmakers to revisit

the issue in two years, also failed.

"This bill makes a bad situation worse, not better," Sanders said. "We have got to get out of the business of making profits off of struggling families who want nothing better than to be able to send their kids to college."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said it was about time Senate Democrats joined Republicans and the president in "enacting real, permanent reform for students."

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# \*Life!

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## Downtown Huntington summer



PHOTOS BY DWIGHT JORGE | THE PARTHENON

## Marshall medical students publish literary and art review

By **CODI MOHR**  
LIFE! EDITOR

Marshall University medical students explore the balance between their scientific and artistic talents and passions. Published by students of Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, "Aenigma Medicorum" is a review including selections of poetry, photography, short essays and other pieces of literature and art.

Roughly translated from Latin, "Aenigma Medicorum" means "the puzzle of doctors," referencing the effects of life experiences, cultures and stories on interpreting lab results or making a diagnosis.

Dr. Matthew Q. Christiansen, graduate of the JCESOM and first-year resident in the department of family medicine, serves as the book's executive editor.

He and other members of the editorial staff recognize medicine for its artistic nature along with its scientific qualities.

"Woven into the day-to-day practice of medicine are stories of sickness and accidents, birth and family, struggle and prosperity," Christiansen says at the begging of the book. "These experiences inform health care providers as well as their patients."

Many students featured within the review have passions for the arts as powerful as those they have to grow as physicians. Yassar Etman is a pulmonary medicine fellow at JCESOM and has had a passion for art since childhood.

"After starting medical school, I found myself forced to sacrifice making art to be able to succeed in a medical career," Etman

said of the difficulties of balancing passions. "After I had completed my medical training, I was able to rediscover my talent in making art and to self-educate myself to be able to satisfy my lifelong desire to make good art."

According to Christiansen, experiences and backgrounds contribute to an understanding between physician and patient allowing for the improvement of the human condition throughout the community. In producing the review, Christiansen and his peers hope to further explore that understanding.

The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs within the Marshall University Medical Center can provide copies of the inaugural 2013 edition.

**Codi Mohr can be contacted at [mohr13@live.marshall.edu](mailto:mohr13@live.marshall.edu).**

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# OPINION

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

### THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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### Online Polls

## YOU CAN BE HERD

Which Marco would you like to see in the upcoming semester?

Current Marco  
Marco with a partial makeover  
Marco with a full makeover

How are you paying for your college tuition?

Scholarships or grants	55%
Student loans	24%
Parents	21%

Voice your opinion. It is your right. Answer our poll at [www.marshallparthenon.com](http://www.marshallparthenon.com) or tweet us your answer at @MUParthenon.

### EDITORIAL

## Detroit: The future of America?

The city of Detroit set an alarming precedent last Thursday by becoming the largest municipality in United States history to file for chapter nine bankruptcy.

The struggling city has lost substantial amounts of tax revenue due to a rapid decrease in population, and is unable to pay off \$11.5 billion in pension benefits, retiree health care and unsecured debt held by investors.

By filing for bankruptcy, city officials moved to consolidate debt and return the city to some sort of normalcy.

Not so fast. The people who are owed the money — retirees and pension funds among others — claim Detroit violated Michigan's state constitution and have sued to block the filing.

For a city that has seen the worst of economic recession, it seems it is about to get a whole lot worse for Detroit.

Once the fifth largest city by population in 1950, Detroit has suffered the brunt of the auto industry crisis of the late 2000s. Since the '50s, more than one million citizens have moved out

of city limits and into suburban areas.

With such a drastic population change, much of Detroit lies vacant. The city cannot collect property taxes on vacant and unused land.

This harsh reality is seen in many American cities as people opt to save money by living outside city limits.

As people move away, cities with infrastructure for populations sometimes twice the current size struggle to even pay for operating costs.

The U.S. government bailed out Detroit once before — in the auto industry bailout in 2008 — what is stopping them from doing it again?

A bailout is unlikely to happen, but a federal judge helped Detroit's case by blocking the challenges and putting a decision off until a later date.

Until then, Detroit is in limbo.

Sadly, many U.S. cities are only an unlucky day away from being in a similar situation.

### COLUMN

## Snowden affair highlights gap between media and public

By EDWARD WASSERMAN  
THE MIAMI HERALD

It is unwise to put too much weight on polls, but a recent survey on the Edward Snowden affair suggests better judgment among the general public than our usual opinion leaders have been able to muster.

The national survey of U.S. voters by Quinnipiac University found that 55 percent of respondents considered Snowden to be a whistleblower, not a traitor.

In what the pollsters called a massive shift in attitudes, voters also said the government was going too far in its anti-terrorism program.

Not all polls agree. A Pew and Washington Post survey conducted in June found 56 percent of respondents thought routinely tracking hundreds of millions of phone records was acceptable. But Pew also found weaker support for Internet monitoring. By 52-45, respondents rejected allowing the government to monitor everyone's email and other online activities if officials say this might prevent future terrorist attacks.

Apparently the Snowden affair sits atop a fault line in public opinion, with a substantial number of people disgruntled and suspicious about the sweeping surveillance he revealed.

Coverage of that rumbling has until recently been muted, largely because the protest has lacked the kind of high-profile champions that reassure the media that a cause is respectable and legitimate. Last week's hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee may signal a change, with lawmakers from both parties clearly piqued and warning administration representatives that they must scale back their more intrusive practices.

Still, that criticism has not affected the overall flavor of Snowden coverage, which keys off unremittingly harsh comments, with House Speaker John Boehner calling him a traitor.

Even those who denounce the surveillance are loath to express support for Snowden.

In a posting on "journalists against journalism," Salon's

David Sirota targeted The Washington Post for special attention. The Post ran a remarkable editorial about the vital importance of keeping "this naive hacker" from leaking any more NSA secrets. Since The Post was one of two of Snowden's main media outlets, the paper was hence "publicly reprimanding their own source and their own newsroom..." Sirota noted.

Admittedly, the Snowden affair puts established media in a quandary. Not only has he broken the law, he defiantly insists he was right to do so.

It is hard to think of anybody in recent memory who has been such a profound embarrassment to both this country's pretensions and its powers.

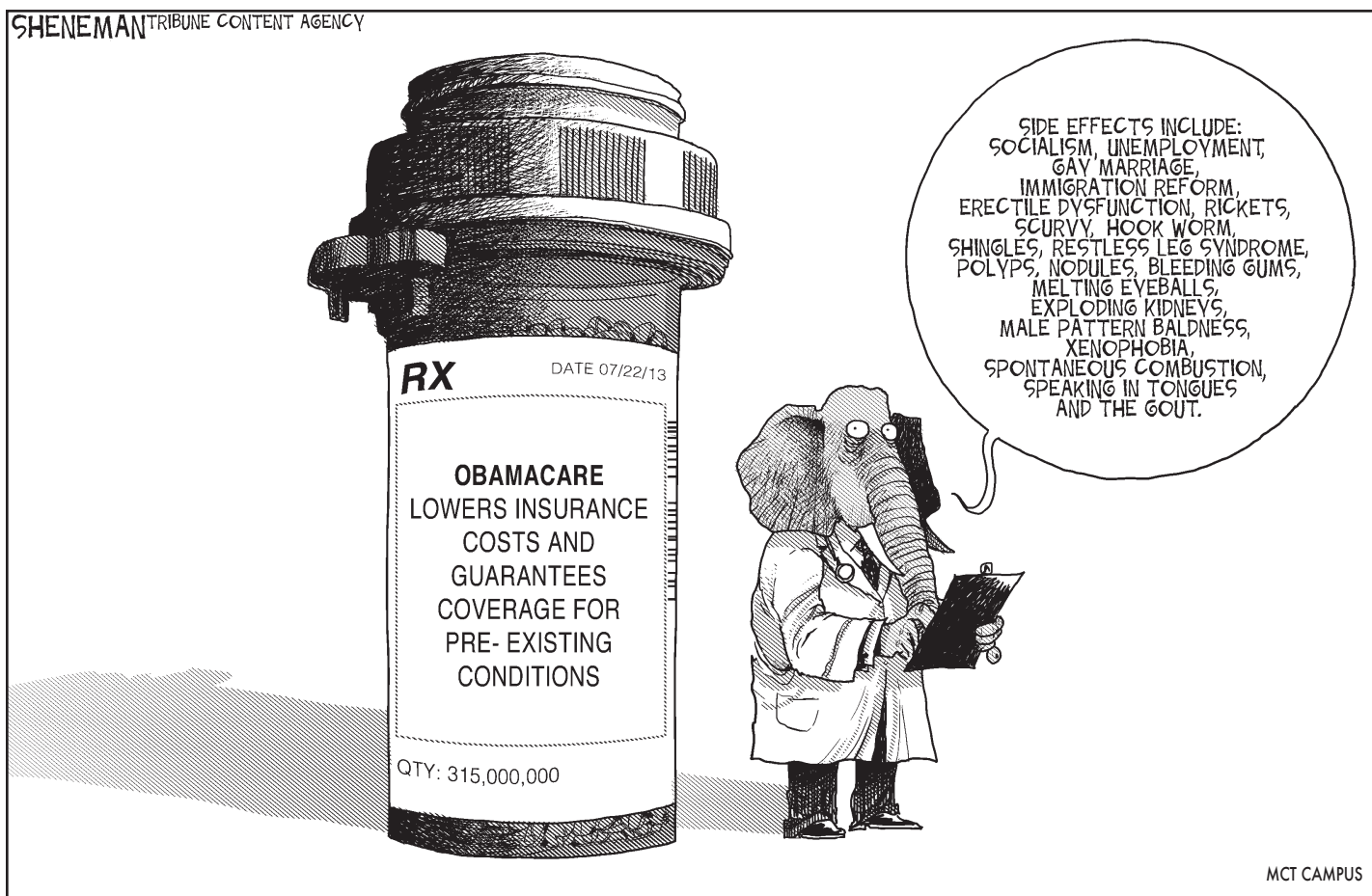
So, the news media, which are systematically dependent on those same powers for their informational privilege and cultural might, are in a bind.

Cheering him would be awkward, and yet what did he do? He furnished media with extraordinary material exposing a shadowy and legally borderline program of government snooping that was unimaginably bigger than had been acknowledged, and which annihilated years of lies about how restrained the U.S. data-gulp actually is.

A final perspective on the media's dilemma comes from another poll, this one a Pew survey gauging public perceptions about the contributions different occupations make to society. Overall rankings had soldiers at the top and lawyers at the bottom.

The occupation that fell most sharply in public esteem was journalism. The percentage of respondents who said journalists contribute a lot to society fell from 38 to 28, with almost the same proportion saying journalists contribute little or nothing.

The survey was conducted before the Snowden affair. What it may reflect, however, is the sense of drift and disconnect from democratic values that the affair illuminates. It is a moment that demands that journalists consider what they stand for. If not official accountability and personal freedom from needless intrusion, what?



### COLUMN

## US should avoid joining Syrian conflict

By HENRY CULVYHOUSE  
COLUMNIST

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey released an open letter to Congress Monday outlining five options for intervention in the Syrian civil war.

The five options summarized the level of involvement for U.S. forces along with the price tag. Dempsey wrote the United States could advise and arm the rebels, establish a no-fly zone, conduct missile strikes against key regime infrastructure such as air fields, establish safe havens for the rebels along the Turkish or Jordanian borders or take out the regime's chemical weapons stock pile through a combination of special force deployments and air strikes.

The general estimated the first option to cost about \$500 million a year and the remaining four around \$1 billion a month.

After stating the options, Dempsey wrote, "it is not enough to simply alter the balance of military power without consideration of what is necessary in order to preserve a functioning state ... we must anticipate the unintended consequences of our actions."

Dempsey warned that if America became more involved in the conflict, it would create a sequel to Iraq, or make it easier for terrorists to take over Syria or unleash Syria's chemical weapons on the world at large.

While there is no denying the Syrian

Civil War is a humanitarian crisis — with 90,000 dead and 1.7 million refugees by U.N. estimates — I think Dempsey was right on the money with that last statement.

Since the end of World War II, American foreign policy has been reckless with little thought for potential consequences, particularly in the Middle East.

Let us look at Iran. Ever wonder why those "crazy" Iranians have a bone to pick with Americans? Maybe it is because the United States and Britain decided to overthrow their democratically elected government in 1953 because it was nationalizing oil, then imposing the brutal dictatorship of the Shah. When he was overthrown in 1979, is it a surprise the government that took over after him were anti-American?

The same goes for Osama Bin Laden. Back in the 1980s, America decided to train him, along with thousands of other radical Islamists, to fight those Commie Soviets in Afghanistan. Once the U.S.S.R. fell and America became the only remaining superpower on the globe (don't worry, China's catching up), is it a surprise that the madman would turn his ire and training on the United States?

In the letter, Dempsey asked Americans to look at Iraq. On paper, it made total sense that throwing out a despot like Saddam Hussein would be quick and decisive and that the people of Iraq would welcome us as liberators. In

reality, the three principle ethnic and religious groups in Iraq, the Shia, Sunni and Kurds, get along about as well as Democrats and Republicans in Congress, except they use bullets instead of filibusters. We removed the devil only to unleash hell.

What Dempsey is asking Congress and President Barack Obama to consider is what will happen down the road.

If the United States arm the Syrian rebels today, what will happen to the guns when the government falls? Will a new government work to de-arm the rebels, or will the guns fall into the hands of extremists elsewhere, like in post-Gaddafi Libya? Will the government that emerges be lasting and democratic, or will it experience turmoil like Egypt? If we put boots on the ground and establish safe havens along the Turkish border for the rebels, will we have to play nanny for the next 10 years because they think blowing each other up is the sane, rational way to resolve their differences?

While the loss of life is horrifying to me, I say America needs to sit this one out. Our country has been in perpetual war for the past 12 years, and we are about a year away from pulling out of Afghanistan. If the people of Syria want their freedom, that is their choice. Nobody said revolutions were a bed of roses.

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## Award watches aplenty for Marshall Football



CATO

## Rakeem Cato, QB

2012 stats: 4,201 passing yards, 69.5 completion %, 37 TDs, 11 INTs

Walter Camp Award watch list  
Maxwell Award watch list  
Davy O'Brien Award watch list  
College Football Performance Awards watch list  
C-USA Preseason Offensive POY  
C-USA 1st team (conference vote)  
C-USA 1st team by seven websites

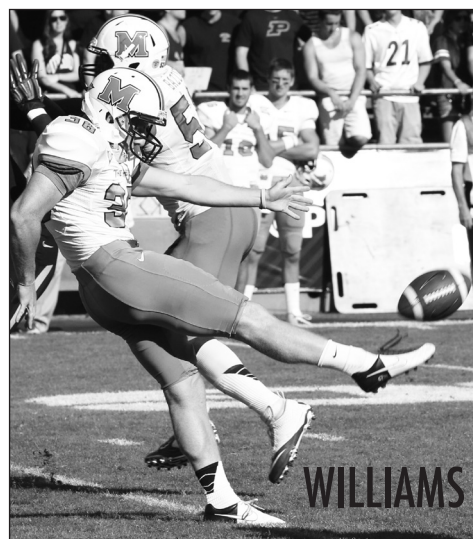


HOSKINS

## Gator Hoskins, TE

2012 stats: 35 receptions, 374 receiving yards, 10 TDs

John Mackey Award watch list  
College Football Performance Awards watch list  
C-USA 1st Team (conference vote)  
C-USA 1st team by seven websites



## Tyler Williams, P

43 punts, 45.2 yard avg.,  
4 touchbacks, 16 inside the 20,  
13 50+ yards.

Ray Guy Award watch list  
C-USA 1st team (conference vote)  
C-USA 1st team by four websites

## Other notable preseason all-conference members

## CHRIS JASPERS, C

C-USA 1st team by three websites  
C-USA 3rd team by one website

## ALEX BAZZIE, DE

C-USA 1st team by one website  
C-USA 2nd team by one website  
C-USA 3rd team by one website

## JERMAINE HOLMES, LB

C-USA 2nd team by three websites  
C-USA 3rd team by one website



SHULER

## Tommy Shuler, WR

2012 stats: 110 receptions,  
1,138 receiving yards, 6 TDs

Biletnikoff Award watch list  
College Football Performance Awards watch list  
C-USA 1st Team (conference vote)  
C-USA 1st Team by four websites  
C-USA 2nd Team by two websites

## Marshall Football talks offensive power, defensive improvement at C-USA Media Day

By BRAXTON CRISP  
THE PARTHENON

When Head Coach Doc Holliday and senior defensive end Jeremiah Taylor fielded questions on the Conference USA Digital Network during the conference's annual media day on Wednesday in Dallas, almost all of the questions focused on the offense picking right back up where it left off last season and the defense needing to improve in leaps and bounds over last season. What Holliday and Taylor said in response should be a good indicator of the confidence the Thundering Herd carries into fall camp, which begins in just 11 days.

Holliday talked highly about how quarterback Rakeem Cato changed from his freshman year to last year, and continues to change before this upcoming season.

"Rakeem got thrown into the fire early as a true freshman," Holliday said. "It's hard to play at this level when you are a true freshman, and he was able to win seven games. He grew up somewhat as a player — as a person — and continued that growth a year ago. Now as a true junior, he's developed the intangibles that he needs to lead us, and also he's become more physical. When he got there, he was a 150-pound freshman who couldn't lift the bar. Now he's a 190-pound guy who's become stronger, more physical and he has a total understanding of what we're trying to get done offensively."

Cato has a lot to live up to during the 2013 campaign. His 4,201 passing yards, 37 touchdowns, and 69.5 percent completion

rating were all among the best in the Football Bowl Subdivision a year ago. Add in that Cato did all of that, while orchestrating an offense that snapped the ball 90 times per game. For reference, Oregon, which is regarded as one of the fastest paced offenses in the country, only got 83.4 plays off per game.

Cato will not have to shoulder the load by himself to carry the team. Holliday said the offensive line will be as strong as ever in 2013.

"This is the first year since I've been here that I liked that offensive line," Holliday said. "Last year, I started liking them a little bit, but the first two years I didn't like anything about them. They weren't very tough; they didn't like football. But now, I think for the first time, probably the strength of our offense is not our quarterback, is not our wide receivers, it's our offensive line."

Defensively, Marshall gave up 43.1 points per game, and many point the finger at that glaring statistic as the reason why the Herd only won five games. Holliday has since brought in defensive coordinator Chuck Heater from Temple, and Taylor said things started looking up for the defense in spring practice.

"He's pretty much changed the attitude of the defense," Taylor said. "He has that 'Go get it' attitude. He's changed up the scheme a little bit. It's made it easier on us, but it also gives offenses problems. We've been able to play with our offense and compete with them, so I think we'll be good come August."

Not only is the defensive coordinator new, some familiar names are in different positions in the defense. Most notably, DJ Hunter has moved back to his natural safety spot after spending 2012 at linebacker due to a slew of injuries. In addition to Hunter moving back to the secondary, highly-touted defensive back AJ Leggett is now healthy following shoulder surgery and subsequently being redshirted in 2012. Expectations are high for the secondary as well, but Holliday and Taylor both said successful defense begins with the defensive line and linebackers creating pressure for the quarterback.

"With the D-line, we've got to put more pressure on the quarterback and make him throw it quicker so our DB's and linebackers can go out there and make those plays," Taylor said.

"You've got to be able to get to the quarterback with a four-down look, you've got to be very athletic in your second level and you've got to be able to play more than just four DB's to be able to match up versus the spread sets," Holliday said. "I think Chuck has brought tremendous confidence to our defense. He's a coach who is well respected throughout the country. He's been very successful wherever he's been and not only is he a great coach, he's a great teacher."

The media has picked the Herd second in the Conference USA East Division behind East Carolina. The team opens fall camp with two-a-day practices starting August 5.

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Column

## Most recent transfer Chris Thomas should boost Herd

By BRAXTON CRISP  
THE PARTHENON

Thundering Herd Basketball fans should familiarize themselves with the name Chris Thomas. The one-time five star recruit and former number one overall junior college player will join the roster this fall and be immediately eligible with three years of eligibility left to play at Marshall. He played last season at Chipola College in Florida where he averaged just 9.9 points per game in 26 games on a team that went 26-5.

Bringing in a talented guard after the departures of DeAndre Kane and D. D. Scarver this spring sounds like a grand plan for Head Coach Tom Herrion. The only returning players from the back court are DeVince Boykins and Tamron Manning, who did not yield hardly any offensive production — both averaged fewer than two points per game, to be exact. Add in that the Herd lost 73.8 percent of the offensive production from last season, adding a scorer to the roster is a no-brainer.

Until the rest of the story behind Thomas is told, that is.

Thomas attended high schools in his native Colorado, as well as in Arizona, Maryland and Connecticut. And despite all those stops along the way to Chipola, he failed to earn his diploma — he completed his GED while at Chipola. That gives reason to be concerned about his academic habits. Yes, he is immediately eligible, but while here at Marshall he must maintain a 2.0 GPA in each semester to remain eligible to compete. Because basketball bridges across both fall and spring semesters, should he fall below 2.0 in a semester, it could render him ineligible

for part of the season. This is similar to the situation of former Herd point guards Kelvin Amayo and Damier Pitts, who at one point or another in their careers, had to sit out until grades for the fall semester were released.

In addition to his frequent flyer miles, Thomas also gained a reputation for being a bit of a hothead and having some run-ins with the law. Last winter, Thomas was charged with driving on a suspended license, and driving an unregistered vehicle in Florida, according to the Jackson County Floridian. He was later forced to miss the Florida State Junior College Tournament because he violated the terms of his conditional release from jail by testing positive for marijuana.

It has also been noted that if technical fouls and vocal outbursts were recorded as statistics during his final season of summer Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) ball, he would have led the country in both. That final tidbit of information brings back memories of a young Kane, who registered seven technical fouls in each of his first two seasons with the Herd, although he cleaned it up last season and picked up just one technical.

So here is the question that will constantly be asked as long as Chris Thomas is with the Herd: Does his talent on the court outweigh his legal and attitude issues? Herrion and his staff believe so. Now it is time to see which past Thomas lives up to. He has the potential to be a big time player, but he also has the potential to be a big time headache for Herrion.

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