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## The Parthenon, February 26, 2020

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# THE PARTHENON

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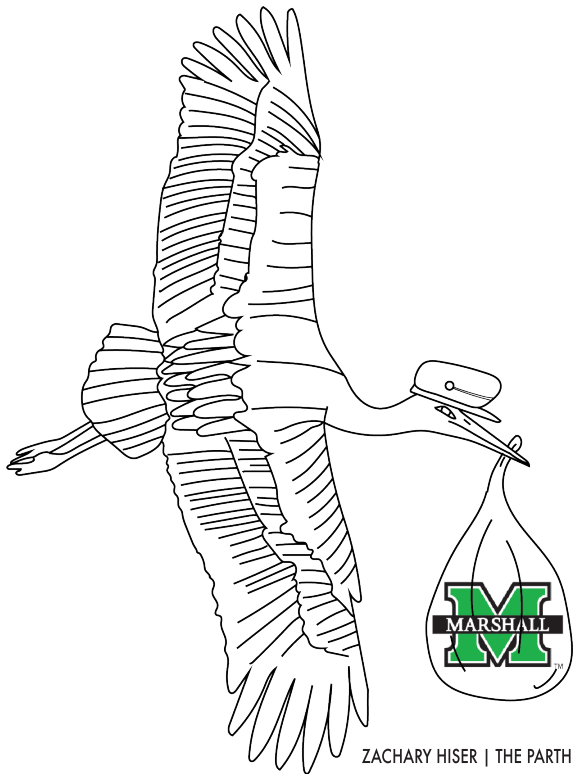
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# Mothers on campus: Resources for parenting students



ZACHARY HISER | THE PARTHENON

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first article in a series detailing the resources for mothers and parenting students on campus.

**By AMANDA LARCH**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

What to expect when you're expecting—as a Marshall University student. With pregnancy and parenthood comes stress, certainly, but when combined with the stresses of college, it may become overwhelming. However, Marshall's Women's and Gender Center partners with campus and community resources and can provide assistance for pregnant women and parents-to-be.

Claire Snyder, program coordinator for the Women's and Gender Center, said the center connects parenting students with childcare facilities and other resources, including Link Child Care, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The center also works with Mountain State Healthy Families, a home visiting family support agency, which is able to refer parents to home support and parental education.

"We're always happy to help pregnant or parenting students to access those resources; we know that it can be overwhelming to have to go through those logistics and all that paperwork, documentation, all of that," Snyder said.

Breastfeeding rooms are located on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center, and Snyder said if students experience any issues, to come to the Women's and Gender Center.

"If there's ever a student that has breastfeeding needs that are not met, maybe there are not breastfeeding rooms convenient to where they have to work or go to class, or

they're worried about having somewhere to store their breast milk, they can talk to us, and we can help them to figure out solutions for that," Snyder said.

Other on campus resources are the Child Development Academy adjacent to campus and the MU Early Education STEAM Center, located in Corbly Hall. Link child Care referral, based on income, can provide waivers of fees and help pay fees that parents would be responsible for otherwise.

"There are so many options for affordable childcare, especially for many students," Snyder said. "They will qualify for Link child Care support, which will help them to pay for childcare while they're working or in school. And so there's no reason why every child shouldn't be able to be in a quality accredited childcare while their parents (are) working or in school."

In some cases, students may have family members or friends who are able to take care of their children while they are at school, but Snyder said even if that is not the case, there are people willing to help.

"We don't ever want someone to feel like just because there's not family close that they're not still going to be able to continue their education," she said.

Though there is no concept of maternity leave for students, Snyder said they can work closely with their professors to work out agreements. The Women's and Gender Center, as well as Student Advocacy and Support, are two organizations willing to help students work out the best plan for them and their needs as a case-by-case basis.

"Any student that feels that they may need to withdraw, they can choose to take a medical withdrawal for that semester," Snyder said. "If students don't feel that they need to withdraw for the whole semester, but maybe they were experiencing nausea or something that kept them from attending classes, we don't want students to feel that they have to drop the classes or that they can't get back on track. We don't want them to just kind of have their grades suffer for no reason.

"Definitely reach out. Professors are very understanding. They want to help students; they want to support students. They're generally very good at working with us to make sure that students can continue to be successful even if there has to be some sort of arrangement made to help them," Snyder said.

If parenting students experience postpartum depression or perinatal depression, Snyder said she recommends they visit Marshall's Counseling Center.

"There are just so many things that if you don't know and you don't have somebody reaching out to you and making you aware of these things, that you might be under some unnecessary stress or facing challenges by yourself that you could be facing with support.

"And so we just want students to know that there is always support and there are always people that can help them understand their options and what path forward is best for them."

Snyder shared her own experiences attending Marshall as an undergraduate, as well as graduate student, while

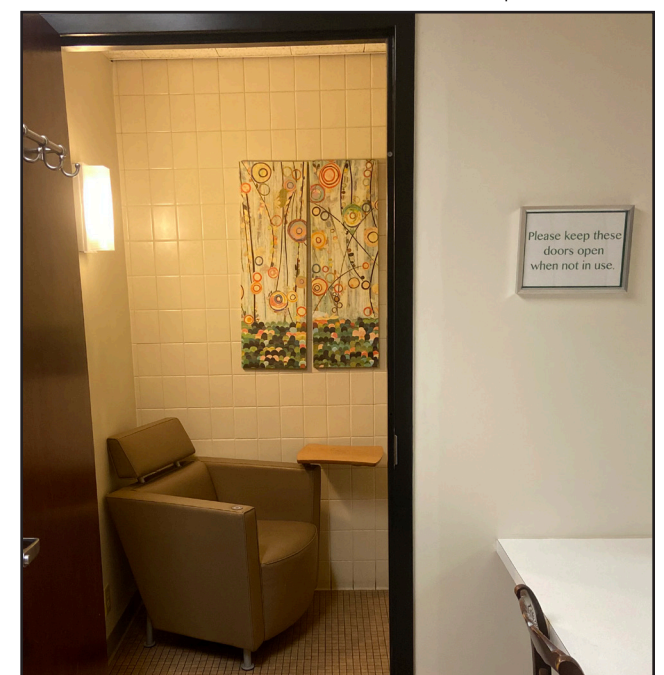
being a parenting student.

"I think for me, if I would have known better, I would have gone to see someone from the Women's and Gender Center or would have gone to see somebody with a position like Michelle (Biggs), because most of the resources that I accessed, I just kind of figured out along the way," Snyder said. And I think that having someone to sort of help connect you and guide you would make a huge difference."

**Amanda Larch can be contacted at [larch15@marshall.edu](mailto:larch15@marshall.edu).**



AMANDA LARCH | EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Private breastfeeding rooms are located inside the women's restroom on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center.



# STEM majors participate in real-world work experience

By **HUNTER DEEM**  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's First2 Network was founded last year by Coy Smith, Hannah Carreon and Caleb Clark for all Science Technology Engineering and Math majors who want to start working in their fields, including rising freshman.

Smith said First2 Network is an opportunity for STEM majors to get experience in their field of work. The organization also works to improve the enrollment and graduation rate of STEM majors.

"The First2 Network's vision is to let students be co-creators to solutions for the problems they face while in college," Smith said. "At Marshall, First2 has established a

club and an immersion program. The immersion program invites rising freshmen during the summer to participate in a two-week stipend research while also teaching them how to succeed in college.

Smith said First2 Network is all about helping students succeed.

"The club focuses on supporting students in succeeding in their majors and to help them with networking with industry, professors, and fellow students," he said. "The immersion program along with the club is advised by faculty member Dr. Michael Norton"

Smith said he had the opportunity to present his research at the capitol Feb. 7 for Undergraduate Research Day. Smith presented

on Nanosphere Lithography, and part of his research was used at the First2 Network's summer immersion program. Smith said he was also a mentor for the summer program and helped the rising freshmen study and conduct research for his own project.

Marshall University's location means there are now nine First2 Network locations in West Virginia.

If interested in joining the club or looking for more information, students can contact Coy Smith at [smith2493@marshall.edu](mailto:smith2493@marshall.edu) or follow First2 Network on social media.

**Hunter Deem can be contacted at [deem36@marshall.edu](mailto:deem36@marshall.edu).**

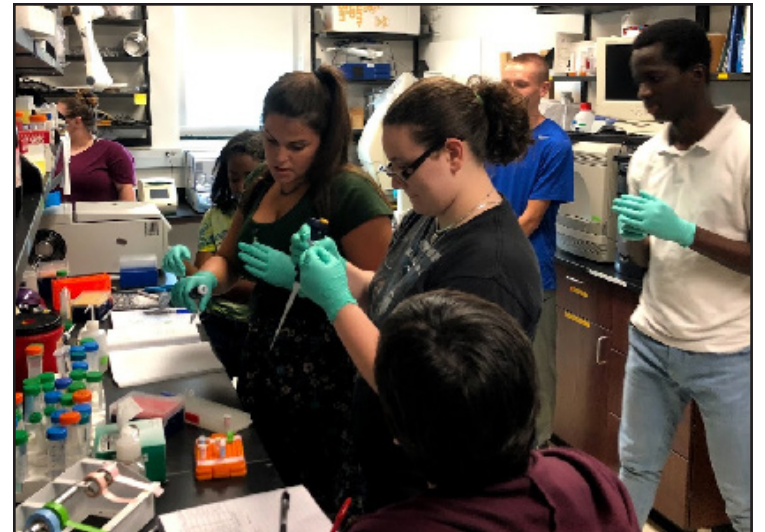


PHOTO COURTESY OF COY SMITH

Members of Marshall's First2 Network gain experience working in their desired fields.

# Trolley tour explores African American history

By **RALPH MAY**  
THE PARTHENON

Important sites of Huntington's African American history, as well as the guide's upbringing and life, were explored by trolley passengers on Wednesday.

Dr. C. C. Barnett created a hospital on Seventh Avenue not only to accept African American's, but to train the new generation of black nurses, said tour guide and former Marshall University professor David Harris.

"He realized that it's nice to have a hospital and treat people, but we need nurses, so he changed this into a hospital and nurse training facility and trained nearly 80 to 90 nurses," Harris said.

Along the tour was the home of influential civil rights activist Memphis Tennessee Garrisons, who assisted in negotiations between African Americans and Steele company as well as approaching teaching of students in a holistic way, Harris said.

"She was an adviser to President (Lyndon B.) Johnson and she's the one who convinced the President Johnson, I'm told, to issue the civil rights bill of 1965," Harris said. "He was going to do it later, but she said 'You need to do that right now Mr. President.'"

Another cite on the tour was Spring Hill Cemetery. The cemetery is important to the community due to its connection to the Marshall University plane crash, but it especially has significance to Harris because of his connection with one of the players, Nate Ruffin, Harris said.

"Nate had gotten hurt the week before, he hurt his shoulder," Harris said. "He is now buried here because he had a problem, but he didn't go on that trip and he was my little brother in fraternity and I talked him out of going, 'Nate

“

Through the tour I was experiencing Huntington and its history through Harris' eyes and it shows how important his and other voices are.”

— *Michelle Biggs*

most didn't have a phone, but when you got home you heard about what you did wrong.”

Michelle Biggs, a passenger on the tour, said it is important to support the African American community by learning about and appreciating their history.

"Through the tour I was experiencing Huntington and its history through Harris' eyes, and it shows how important his and other voices are" Biggs said.

**Ralph May can be contacted at [may178@marshall.edu](mailto:may178@marshall.edu).**



Credit E-WV, The West Virginia Encyclopedia/Ohio University press, publishers of Anella R. Bickley and Lynda Ann Ewen, EDS., "Memphis Tennessee Garrison: The Remarkable Story of a Black Appalachian Woman."

# SGA adviser challenges students to diversify senate

By **KYRA BISCARNER**  
THE PARTHENON

During Tuesday's senate meeting, Student Government Association was given a call to action for more diversity from adviser Matt James. James asked senators to look around and see what they noticed about the group. Some senators replied with "low."

"It's low, we're about to have an election. What else do you notice about our membership?" James said. "A lot of you all look like me. That's not a bad thing, but in terms of being a representative group, it can be."

James challenged senators to think of ways they could make SGA more diverse. Senator Isabella Robinson was one of the senators who immediately voiced her ideas for the senate's open forum. Robinson said encouraging anyone to join senate is one of the number one ways they could work harder to diversify.

"I'm part of a lot of organizations," Robinson said. "Some are geared toward diversity; others are not and are made up of primarily white students. My thing about diversifying senate is pushing what I've been told my whole life, that hasn't let me get down, is just encouragement."

Robinson said the encouragement she was given when joining SGA helped her to feel more comfortable.

"It sounds kind of silly because we are all college students, but encouragement goes a long way," Robinson said. "I would be like a ton of other minority students at Marshall, just sitting back and doing my schoolwork because I'm lucky to be here and keeping my mouth shut and not putting my feet out there and not letting my voice be heard."

A problem senators face when expanding senate is some students being intimidated to join SGA. Robinson said this is something she even faced when joining the organization.

"We are student government and we are an important group on Marshall's campus, but it can be intimidating to walk into this room," Robinson said. "I was intimidated at first until I started hanging out in the office and I got to know the senators personally and they got to know me."

Other senate members also made comments after James' call to action. Senate Parliamentarian Jo Tremmel said she wanted senators to know there would be changes being

made to make SGA a more open environment.

"Talking about diversity, there will be some resolutions coming through next week, hopefully to help our diversity in this very room," Tremmel said.

James said he wants SGA to work harder at achieving it. "I want you all to lead by example and help me go out and reach more people who don't look like me to sit in this room," he said. "We can be even more effective."

**Kyra Biscarner can be contacted at [biscarner@marshall.edu](mailto:biscarner@marshall.edu).**



## Drugmaker Mallinckrodt reaches \$1.6B opioid settlement

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL**  
AP NEWS

The generic drugmaker Mallinckrodt has a tentative \$1.6 billion deal to settle lawsuits over its role in the U.S. opioid crisis, it announced Tuesday.

The deal is intended to end hundreds of lawsuits faced by the company over opioids.

The company said that it had an agreement with a key committee of lawyers representing thousands of local governments suing various drug industry players over opioids — and that the deal has the support of the attorneys general of 47 states and territories.

The company, based in Staines-Upon-Thames, England, was one of the highest-volume opioid producers in the U.S. at the height of the nation's prescription drug crisis, shipping 2.3 billion pills from 2006 to 2014, according to federal data.

In 2010 alone, Mallinckrodt's SpecGX subsidiary, shipped 210 million doses of oxycodone to Florida, then the epicenter of the black market opioid trade. The company's potent 30 milligram pills were especially sought after by people with addiction.

Documents gathered as the company prepared for trial showed that a Mallinckrodt sales manager told a distributor in 2009 of the pills: "Just like Doritos; keep eating, we'll make more." A company spokesman later called the statement "outrageously callous."

The company argued in court filings that unlike makers of brand-name drugs, it did not promote opioids to doctors or understate the addiction risks. But plaintiffs

in the cases said Mallinckrodt continued to ship suspicious orders without making sure the drugs weren't going to be diverted to the black market.

Under its agreement, Mallinckrodt is filing for bankruptcy. The plan calls for it to make payments for eight years after the company emerges from the protections. That route is similar to one OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma is taking to settle opioid claims against it.

For Mallinckrodt, there are business concerns, beyond the potential liability in opioid cases, that contributed to its seeking bankruptcy protection.

"Reaching this agreement in principle for a global opioid resolution and the associated debt refinancing activities announced today are important steps toward resolving the uncertainties in our business," Mark Trudeau, president and CEO of the company, said in a statement.

Joe Rice, a lawyer on the executive committee of plaintiffs suing in federal court over opioids, said in an interview Tuesday that some details of the Mallinckrodt agreement still remain to be ironed out.

Most of the money contributed by Mallinckrodt would go to a trust to pay for addiction treatment and other costs related to an opioid crisis that has been linked to more than 430,000 deaths in the U.S. since 2000. Additionally, the trust would be able to buy Mallinckrodt stock at a fixed price; it could be sold to help the cause.

**See OPIOID on pg. 10**

## Police Blotter

By **SARAH INGRAM**  
COPY EDITOR

The following information was provided by the Marshall University Police Department records.

### Destruction of Property

The Marshall University Police Department received notice Feb. 16 that a Jeep in a student parking lot had a shattered rear window. The incident was reported at 1:55 a.m. but is suspected that the destruction occurred at approximately 3:30 a.m. on Feb. 15. The case is closed until further evidence becomes available.

### Destruction of Property

Officers discovered inappropriate writing in a bathroom stall in Harris Hall Feb. 19. The writing was reportedly of sexual content, and the case is closed.

### Destruction of Property

MUPD officers discovered writing on a men's bathroom stall in Corbly Hall Feb. 20. The writing was reportedly of sexual content, and the case is closed.

### Larceny

A student reported the license plate of their vehicle had been stolen on Feb. 20. MUPD entered the license plate number into the National Crime Information Center, and the case is closed until further information is available.

**Sarah Ingram can be contacted at [ingram51@marshall.edu](mailto:ingram51@marshall.edu).**





# Marshall celebrates new on-campus internship facility

By **BRITTANY HIVELY**  
ONLINE EDITOR

Marshall University and N3 celebrated an official ribbon cutting ceremony for their new on-campus internship facility located in Holderby Hall on Monday.

"This is a great example of Marshall's intent to make internships available to our students and also to assist local and regional businesses," Marshall President Jerry Gilbert said. "We're opening a center here in Holderby Hall where our students will work for N3 as paid interns."

There are two spaces in the lobby area that will be dedicated to the program.

"N3 is an outsourced Inside Sales firm," according to their website.

Students will have the opportunity to work part-time for the company with a paid internship. The program offers 10-20 hours per week working around class schedules.

"We think it will be good for N3, good for Marshall and also good for our students," Gilbert said. "Marshall is definitely committed to economic development in our region and in our state, and we believe that higher education should be a partner with industry and business and that we should service as an economic engine for the economy."

N3's headquarters is located in Georgia with offices around the world, including Charleston, W.Va.

Ken Boggs, vice president of strategy and operations at N3, said the idea to bring N3 to Marshall started around November 2019.

"There was a phone call in November perhaps," Boggs said. "I called Sara (Payne Scarbro) as I was between meetings and said, 'Hey, we really ought to look at starting an internship right on your campus,' and that was all I said."

Boggs credited Scarbro, who is the associate vice president for external engagement at Marshall, and the team that put everything together after hearing his idea. He also spoke of the reason behind bringing the internship to campus.

"It's not a secret, I hope it's not, why N3 would partner with Marshall and come onto campus and start an internship," Boggs said. "Some of you, most of you perhaps, had the privilege last week to be at the CEO panel down at the Keith Albee Theater. I believe it was Brad Smith himself that said or at least one of the distinguished members that said, 'Companies go where the talent is.'"

And if you're in West Virginia and you're trying to scale a business much like we are, recruiting is an everyday challenge and there is a lot of tremendous talent that exists on this campus that we are keenly interested in employing in the future and the best way for us to reach them and stay in contact and be a name that everyone recognizes is to be right here among you."

Marshall students interested in the internship can find more information and apply through JobTrax.

"It is distinctly our honor to be here and we look forward to this partnership," Boggs said. "Many thanks to all that made this happen."

**Brittany Hively can be contacted at [hayes100@marshall.edu](mailto:hayes100@marshall.edu).**



BRITTANY HIVELY | ONLINE EDITOR

President Jerry Gilbert attended the official ribbon cutting ceremony, celebrating Marshall's new partnership with N3.

# MU teacher prep program recognized on national level

By **CARSON MCKINNEY**  
FOR THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's elementary teacher preparation program is one of 15 undergraduate programs to earn an A+ for exemplary coursework by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ).

Faculty said they are pleased with this news as they have been working diligently towards a better program for all of its students.

Melinda Backus, one of Marshall's elementary education professors, said this program has come a long way over the past couple years.

"For elementary reading, we have a four-course series in which we greatly focus on," Backus said. "We have a really great scope and sequence here in our program and I think this is why we are so successful."

Marshall's elementary education program focuses on the National Reading Panel, as well as the Five Pillars of Reading Instruction, Backus said.

"These standards are what we really emphasize within our program," Backus said. "One of our main goals is to work closely along the same scope and sequence throughout the entirety of the program."

Backus said looking at what previous teachers have taught students helps with the repetitive sequences.

"We know what has been taught in previous classes, no matter who was teaching it. That is all referenced back to the sequence," she said. "That way, when the students

graduate, they have been accustomed to the same things no matter who was teaching them."

Backus said elementary education students at Marshall gain their experience through assigned clinical placements. Students are placed within a classroom setting to capture the real-life scenario of life as a teacher.

**"These standards are what we really emphasize within our program. One of our main goals is to work closely along the same scope and sequence throughout the entirety of the program."**

**—Melinda Backus**

"Elementary candidates have a lot of clinical experience that they must complete," Backus said. "While it is mostly reading experience in the classroom, we are working towards adding more math and science."

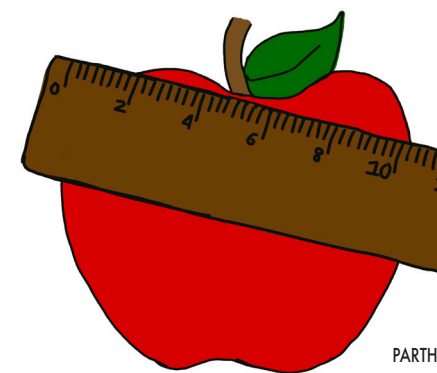
Backus said she owes the program's successes to their four-course series.

"The two sections in the middle are taught in a shorter time period, even though they are full courses," Backus said. "They are all about the five pillars of reading instruction, which we use to differentiate reading levels, according to the grade that is being taught."

Marshall's elementary education program also matches each clinical placement to a different grade levels to better prepare students.

"It is important that all students gain experience in each grade level, both primary and intermediate," Backus said. "Even though we are still teaching the same content, the clinicals we assign match much better compared to recent years. This is another reason why I think we are so successful."

**Carson McKinney can be contacted at [mckinney129@marshall.edu](mailto:mckinney129@marshall.edu).**



PARTHENON FILE



# Herd women's basketball prepares for North Texas at home



ZACHARY HISER | THE PARTHENON

Junior forward Taylor Pearson attempted a layup during game day warmups.

**By GRANT GOODRICH**  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In its final home game of the season, the Marshall University women's basketball team will face off against the University of North Texas on Saturday, Feb. 29 with a chance to improve to 7-9 in conference.

As it stands right now, Marshall is on the bottom end of a three-way tie for eighth place in the Conference USA standings. If the conference tournament were to begin today, the Herd would be slotted as a 10 seed, so the final three games will be vital in attaining a better position for tournament.

Looking at the standings and previous results, Marshall has an opportunity to move up in the standings. The Mean Green are tenth in the conference with a 4-11 record, and Marshall already

beat North Texas this season by nine points in Texas.

However, diving deeper into the stats, North Texas holds a statistical advantage over Marshall in many categories including scoring offense and defense, field goal percentage, three-point percentage and rebounding.

An important category where the Herd does hold an advantage is assist-turnover ratio, although it is still a negative margin.

Only losing by double digits three times in conference play, North Texas has fell in several close contests this season. The team has lost four one-possession games in conference play while also playing in two overtime games.

Nevertheless, most recently, the Mean Green are coming off its biggest conference win of the season in a 94-55 romp of UTSA, who

Marshall also rolled over by 13.

Leading the way for North Texas is senior post-player Anisha George. She is averaging 14.0 points per game as well as 8.6 rebounds.

Freshman forward Destinee McDowell was an important cog in the offense averaging 11.1 points per game, but she has not played since the matchup with Marshall back in early January.

In that matchup, Marshall ended a three-game North Texas winning streak and began a four-game losing streak.

Both teams have had a week off to get ready for this re-match, which is set to commence at the Cam Henderson Center on Saturday, Feb. 29 at 1 p.m.

**Grant Goodrich can be contacted at [goodrich24@marshall.edu](mailto:goodrich24@marshall.edu).**

# Marshall men's basketball to travel to UAB for conference bonus play



RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

Junior guard Jarrod West and sophomore guard Taevion Kinsey huddled together to call a play during a game.

**By TAYLOR HUDDLESTON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Marshall University men's basketball team will go on the road once again this season to Birmingham, Alabama to face the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers as a part of Conference USA's bonus play schedule.

The Herd (14-14, 8-7 C-USA) is coming off a 74-66 win at home against the Old Dominion University Monarchs this past Saturday.

The Blazers come in with a record of 16-12 (7-8 C-USA) and lost to the Florida Atlantic University Owls on Feb. 22 with a final score of 65-58.

The last time the two teams met was Jan. 11 at Bartow Arena, where the Herd fell 60-51.

Sophomore guard Taevion Kinsey leads the Herd in scoring, averaging 15.9 points and 4.9 rebounds per game. Junior guard Jarrod West follows behind with 14.5 points and 4.0 rebounds per contest and redshirt sophomore forward Iran Bennett contributes 9.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. Redshirt freshman guard Andrew Taylor earned his way into the starting lineup and is averaging 9.4 points and 4.3 rebounds per contest.

For the Blazers, Tavin Lovan is averaging 12.7 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. Jalen Benjamin also has 12.7 points and 3.0 rebounds per contest. Tyreek Scott-Grayson has accumulated 9.3 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. Will Butler enters the

contest, averaging 8.5 points and 4.1 rebounds, and Zack Bryant has 8.3 points and 1.5 rebounds per game.

Tipoff is set for 8 p.m. EST/ 7 p.m. CST at Bartow Arena.

**Taylor Huddleston can be contacted at [huddleston16@marshall.edu](mailto:huddleston16@marshall.edu).**





## Herd Tennis' Stefancic and Van Hansewyck boost the start of spring season



PHOTO COURTESY OF HERDZONE.COM

Liz Stefancic

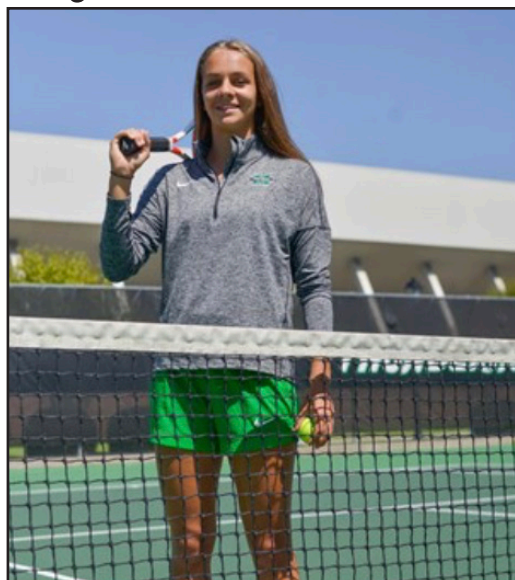


PHOTO COURTESY OF HERDZONE.COM

Jutte Van Hansewyck

**By STORMY RANDAZZO**  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's women's tennis players sophomore Liz Stefancic and freshman Jutte Van Hansewyck received Conference USA's Student Athletes of the Week after defeating Yale's nationally ranked number three doubles team on Feb. 14.

"I think it was really cool to be recognized," Stefancic said. "We have a lot of good tennis teams in our conference that are highly ranked and win Conference Player of the Week. I think it put an added element of pressure and we felt expected to win the match versus before we were more so the underdogs."

Since Stefancic and Van Hansewyck defeated Yale's doubles team, sophomore Jessie Gong and junior Samantha Martinelli, the Herd doubles team is now ranked 39th in the country.

Stefancic and Van Hansewyck have been partners since the Herd went up against Furman on Feb. 9. With less than a month competing together as partners, they have won three of their five matches together.

"We have a lot of work to do," Van Hansewyck said. "People expect you to constantly be playing on the same level and that puts pressure on you."

More recently, Marshall began Conference USA play began by defeating the University of North Texas 4-3 on Feb. 21.

In doubles matches, Stefancic and Van Hansewyck defeated senior Alexandra Heczey and freshman Hala Khaled Badwy 7-5. Following, graduate student Madison Riley and sophomore Madi Ballow defeated freshman Kexuan Zhou and freshman Sophia Hummel 6-2.

In singles matches, Stefancic, Riley and junior Anna Smith were all victorious.

Stefancic defeated Zhou, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. Followed by Riley who defeated Hummel, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6 and Smith defeated Heczey, 6-3, 6-0.

"I think the most difficult parts about tennis is losing or winning a hard match and then the next weekend getting to do it all again," Stefancic said. "We are getting ready to work and have been put in tough situations over and over again."

In their next match on Feb. 23, the Herd competed against Florida International University and lost 4-0.

"I think it was the first match that we really lost 4-0," Van Hansewyck said.

"I think we have to reset and shake it off to be mentally ready. We need to learn from the experience and maybe work on the important points in order to have good game plans again."

The Herd did not win in doubles matches, but in singles matches, Smith, Riley and Ballow won against FIU.

Smith defeated sophomore Kamilla Umarova 6-3, 5-6. Ballow defeated junior Mariana Alcaide 7-5, 6-2, 3-1 and Riley defeated freshman Francisca Vergara 6-1, 3-0.

"Our games matched up very well against UNT and then still matched up well against FIU," Stefancic said. "We are not always going to play 100% every day and that is one of many difficult things about tennis. I think there was a lot of factors of why we beat North Texas on Friday versus why we lost to FIU on Sunday."

The next match is set for 4 p.m. Friday Feb. 28 against Winthrop University.

**Stormy Randazzo can be contacted at [randazzo2@marshall.edu](mailto:randazzo2@marshall.edu).**



## Athlete of the Week: Safiyah Mitchell Women's Track and Field

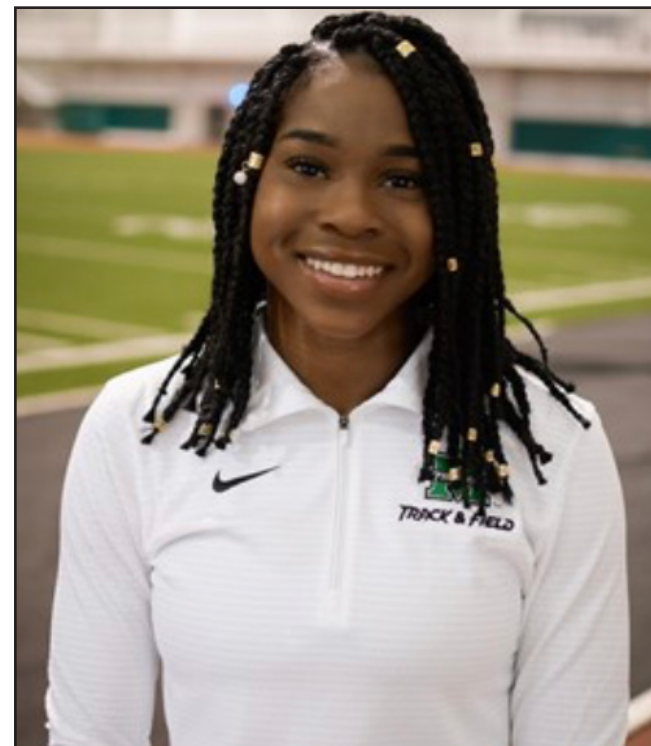


PHOTO COURTESY OF HERDZONE.COM

### ABOUT SIFIYYAH MITCHELL:

Class: Senior

Position: Sprinter/Hurdler

Hometown: Huntington, West Virginia



### RESULTS OVER THE PAST WEEK:

(At the C-USA Indoor Championships):

Second place in 60-meter hurdles

Second place in 4x400 meter relay

Ten overall individual points scored (Marshall record)

After setting records at the Conference USA Indoor Championships over the weekend, senior sprinter/hurdler Safiyah Mitchell has earned athlete of the week honors.

Running the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8:53, Mitchell came in second place, making it four years in a row that she has achieved that exact distinction. She was also a part of the four-woman team that placed second in the 4x400 relay.

Gaining eight points from the 60m hurdles and two points from the 4x400 relay, she tallied a total of 10 points, which is the highest amount of individual points scored at the Conference USA Indoor Championships by a player in Marshall history.

With her 10 points in this year's indoor championships, she has scored a total of 35.75 points in her career at the meet. That mark sets yet another Marshall record, breaking the 28.25 career points mark set by Vanessa Jules.

On the season, Mitchell has six first place finishes in the 60-meter hurdles.

## THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. 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."

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.

## EDITORIAL

## W.Va.'s prison problem



ROGELIO V. SOLIS | ASSOCIATED PRESS

A protest about prison conditions outside the Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi, on Jan. 7.

A quotation widely attributed to Mahatma Gandhi reads, "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."

Following the logic of the legendary, massively influential proponent of peaceful sociopolitical activism, the state of West Virginia, where prisoners will soon be charged money for every minute they spend reading otherwise free books, ought to be ashamed of itself.

Per a report from Reason Magazine, a contract from last year between the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Global Tel Link states that inmates in the state will be charged 3 to 5 cents per minute reading a book.

Prisoners in West Virginia—who are among the most poor and powerless individuals in the state—have for so long been treated so poorly without hope for substantial change for the better that most residents may not even understand the shocking reality that is the collective state of the state's penitentiaries. It is difficult to imagine that such a regressive policy may serve any other purpose than to worsen these already-apalling conditions.

And reading, while a unique, special, intimate and seemingly almost magically powerful act for those who choose to indulge, is just one of countless basic staples of life that inmates in the Mountain State are regularly deprived of. Among the others are basic necessities such as adequate numbers of supervisors and staff, blankets, pillows, toothbrushes, safe and clean places to sleep and to bathe and, for far too many, life itself.

Among the ten regional jails in West Virginia, the two-year span from the beginning of 2018 to the

end of 2019 saw more than twenty inmates lose their lives while locked up.

Per a West Virginia News article from last year, Zach Dyer, a defense attorney in Clarksburg, said instances of such blatant and substantial inadequacies in local prisons are all but uncommon.

"A lot of my clients have told me they sleep on the floor on cement; some of them don't get blankets (and) some of them don't have pillows," Dyer said. "Every once in a while, they will get to shower. Sometimes if they get in trouble or written up, they get their hygiene taken away from them—so their toothbrushes, shampoo and soaps."

Such conditions seem all the more despicable and unrighteous considering the damning realities revealed by a broader look at prisons across the United States, which citizens of countries across the modern world view as a hub of mass incarceration.

According to the Appalachian Prison Book Project, more than 2 million people are currently incarcerated across the country, and the U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration of any place in the world. In the U.S., nearly 700 of every 100,000 people are incarcerated. The deeply immoral practice of prison labor is still used regularly in different states across the U.S. as well, including in Oklahoma, where at least two state prisons recently used the practice to make phone calls on behalf of Democratic presidential candidate and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's presidential campaign.

see PRISON on pg. 10



# COLUMN: Women's Day—100 years later and we've still got a lot of work to DO

By Delegates Sammi Brown, Amanda Estep-Burton, Barbara Fleischauer, Cindy Lavender-Bowe, Linda Longstreth, Margaret Staggers, Danielle Walker and Lisa Zukoff

We come from different parts of this great state, from different life and professional experiences, some of us have served before and some of us are in our second year of service, but we are all working together to improve the lives of West Virginia women and families through legislation, advocacy and awareness. When we put West Virginia women first, we put our state on a path to greater opportunity.

While women make up 50 percent of our state's population, our voice in the statehouse has been soft or non-existent. On the 100th year of the Suffrage Movement and white, married women in our country gaining the right to vote, together as the Democratic Women's Caucus, we pledge to continue to uplift our collective voice to support all women and families by supporting economic security, protecting women's health care,



PERRY BENNETT | WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates Democratic Women's Caucus pose for group photo.

promoting equal pay for equal work, preventing sexual assault and domestic violence and encouraging more women in government.

When we put West Virginia women first, we put their ability to earn equal pay for equal work in reach; we ensure affordable, quality childcare so women

and men have shared opportunities to pursue professional careers; we enact paid family medical leave so no mother is forced to choose between caring for a family member or earning morning to help support a household; and we put money in the pockets of working West Virginia families by enacting a state-level

Earned Income Tax Credit.

These policies elevate women and children from poverty, preserve basic needs to support families, close the gender wage-gap and support family-friendly workplaces.

West Virginia has the fourth largest gender pay gap in the nation, with women earning 71 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn. In 2018, median annual earnings for men in West Virginia were \$46,346 compared to \$32,778 for women. The pay gap is even wider for women of color. Not addressing this disparity sends a signal to young women in West Virginia that their work is not of equal value and their professional ambitions are best suited outside of our great state. We have an opportunity to change that by passing the Katherine A. Johnson Equal Pay Act.

Another policy that would increase economic security and keep more of our young women and families in West Virginia would be to enact a state-level Earned Income Tax Cut. More than

**see WOMEN on pg. 10**

## A MOMENT WITH MEG: Love isn't selfish

**This week's submission:** "Hey pal. My girlfriend and I have been talking about moving out west to Oregon, and I'm excited...but I am super nervous as well. I have some older grandparents and I would hate to not be here when their time comes, and I also don't want to leave the two friends I have here in Huntington. Sadly, I feel as though there is nothing here for me and I need to leave. I am very conflicted. Thoughts?"

Hi friend. I think feeling this way is very understandable and it sounds as though you have weighed the pros and cons for yourself, so I won't waste your time with suggesting that. Good for you for being proactive and self-aware. With that being said, remember that this is YOUR life. Your life will continue in whatever direction

you take it in based on your decisions. If you feel as though Huntington has nothing left to offer you and you crave new scenery and direction, I think it would be wise to take that leap of faith and leave. The discoveries and opportunities that await you could change your life and guide you to what you are searching for. Huntington will always be here for you and so will your friends and family as long as they're here too. If your friends are true and worth your energy and effort, I think they will understand all aspects of your decision and encourage you to pursue the happiness you deserve, regardless of what it takes to get there. Your family loves you too and I'm certain they will support your pursuit as well.

Love is not selfish. Those who love you will thrive seeing you do the same. It is also okay

to give yourself the love you deserve too. It isn't selfish to take care of you. It isn't wrong for you to do what it takes to give yourself what you need in life. Having the love and support you need given to you by the people who love you most, and the confidence in yourself to succeed based on your own self-care, you will be okay no matter the outcome if you do move.

Remember that you deserve nice things. Remember to be good to yourself and take chances to capitalize on opportunities when they present themselves to you. You will manage and you will succeed knowing your worth and valuing yourself.

- xoxo Meg

**Meg Keller can be contacted at [keller61@marshall.edu](mailto:keller61@marshall.edu).**

## Parthe-Pet



This is Donald the Duck. Some of his favorite activities include waddling to the pond with his sister Daisy and swimming, of course. He loves to eat carrots and is best friends with a Sheltie named Anna.

**Interested in featuring your pet in the paper? Use #ParthePet on social media or contact [harding26@marshall.edu](mailto:harding26@marshall.edu) with photos and a short bio.**

**PRISON cont. from 8**

Furthermore, the Innocence Project estimates that between 2.5% and 5% of all prisoners in the U.S. are not actually guilty of the crime for which they are incarcerated. That means as many as 120,000 innocent people may currently be serving time, deprived of the most basic and valuable necessities of human life.

The reality is that the U.S. is home to the largest

prison state in the modern world, and states across the country are struggling to cope with the demands of throwing significantly more people—many of them innocent—behind bars. And those who are suffering the dire consequences are precisely those already suffering the brunt of rampant pain and demoralization plaguing such states, including here at

home in West Virginia.

All people should be free from cruel and unusual punishment. As a state, and as residents of this state, we must stand up and demand better for the sake of those who have been rendered incapable of standing up and fighting for themselves.

**WOMEN cont. from 9**

400,000 West Virginians would qualify for the credit and be able to put that money right back in our local economies.

Ensuring that our state has family-friendly work policies helps us attract and retain talented individuals. No family member should face the decision of earning money or caring for a loved one. That's why we are supporting paid family medical leave that improves employee retention, morale and productivity.

In West Virginia, unpaid leave under the Federal Medical Leave Act is inaccessible to 61 percent of workers, either because they are not eligible for FMLA or cannot afford to take unpaid time off. There's a nine-percentage point gap in labor force participation between men and women in our state, in part because we lack family-friendly policies.

Additionally, West Virginia must prioritize and protect women's health care and access to it. This means moving forward not backward on accessibility to affordable, preventive care, to affordable family planning and birth control and routine, life-saving screenings.

Putting West Virginia women first means listening to women. It means prioritizing the safety of all women in this state, and when their safety and rights have been violated, taking steps

toward justice and recovery in a timely manner. Our state has failed women – and all victims – with its backlog of sexual assault kits. We must expedite the processing and testing of these kits. We can do that by passing House Bill 4476. These victims deserve our attention and their justice

To move these issues forward we have to encourage women to run for office on every level. Our state's representation is better served when it is reflective of our state's population. The issues that everyday West Virginians face are better brought to light when people just like them serve. West Virginia ranks 50th for women in the state legislature. When young women see women lead in government they don't wonder if one day they could serve their communities but know they can and should.

After 100 years of having a voice in government, it is evident there remains a lot more work to do. We need to act on these proven policies that uplift West Virginia women and families and encourage others to do the same. That's why we are calling on Congress to extend the deadline to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, guaranteeing equal legal rights to all American citizens, regardless of sex. It is never too late to do right by our mothers, daughters and sisters.

**OPIOID cont. from 4**

State attorneys general praised the deal.

"My focus is on not only accountability, but also obtaining the resources we need to get victims of this epidemic the help they deserve," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said in a written statement. "This agreement is a significant step in the right direction."

Mallinckrodt's announcement comes weeks before a trial on the toll of opioids is scheduled to start in Central Islip, New York. The looming trial has been a factor

in a ramped-up push for other drugmakers and distributors to settle, as well.

There have been increasingly public tensions between attorneys general and the private lawyers for local governments over the biggest of the proposed settlements, which would involve at least the three biggest U.S. drug distribution companies. States have also been divided on whether to accept the deal, under which the distributors would pay a total of \$18 billion over 18 years.

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# Countdown to Commencement aims to prepare students for upcoming graduation

By **KYRA BISCARNER**  
THE PARTHENON

With graduation a little over two months away, Marshall University has multiple events aimed at seniors to help them prepare for the big day.

"Sometimes we have issues where students get to graduation without realizing that there was a parking ticket they didn't pay, or they didn't know where they were supposed to get their cap and gown. Before you know it, it's too late to do any of these things," said Michael Circle, Parent and Family Services specialist at Marshall.

Circle said this week's Countdown to Commencement event is one of those events seniors can use to make sure they are ready.

"This is an opportunity for students who are graduating, both undergraduate and graduate students, to make sure they have all their ducks in a row, and they have everything taken care of," Circle said.

The event provides students with services like the Bursar's Office to ensure there are no student holds that would prevent them from graduating, as well as the Alumni Association encouraging students to join.

Christian Corrado, a senior attending the event, said the

event was beneficial for everyone.

"We're just going around trying to get the information for graduation and make sure everything is correct and that we're ready to payback our loans," Corrado said.

Other information relating to graduate degrees was provided by the Office of Career Education. Jennifer Brown, assistant director for Student Engagement and Marketing, said her biggest piece of advice for graduating seniors would be to take advantage of the resources on campus, particularly the Office of Career Education.

"It's important to come and see us," Brown said. "That's the biggest thing. Get in here, utilize JobTrax to see what positions are available."

The Office of Career Education will have a number of events during March. Brown said these events can help students at any level prepare for their post-graduation career. Some of these events include the Job-A-Palooza on March 10 and the Career Expo on March 31.

Brown said although graduating seniors are the students actively looking for jobs, the Office of Career Education has resources for all students, including freshmen.

"Sometimes we have issues where students get to graduation without realizing that there was a parking ticket they didn't pay, or they didn't know where they were supposed to get their cap and gown. Before you know it, it's too late to do any of these things."

- Michael Circle

"If you want to get some experience, we have a job-shadowing program," she said. "That's an excellent way to get some hands-on experience and confirm you're in the right major and seeing what other options are available."

**Kyra Biscarner can be contacted at [biscarner@marshall.edu](mailto:biscarner@marshall.edu).**

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Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

**Confessions**  
Saturday 8:00 am-8:25 am  
Saturday 4:00 pm-4:25 pm  
Tuesday 5:00 pm-5:25 pm  
or by appointment





SARAH INGRAM | COPY EDITOR

## "The Laramie Project" provides opportunities for theater students

"The Laramie Project" was a Marshall University School of Theatre project which told the story of Matthew Shepard, a gay man who was murdered in Laramie, Wyo.

By **EMILY HAYSLETT**  
THE PARTHENON

Being a stage manager for a production from the Marshall University School of Theatre means working as a middleman between the actors, crew members and the director, in and out of rehearsal. Kendra Williams did all of that as the stage manager of "The Laramie Project" while in her first year in college.

"I am the conduit of information, that's what everyone called me," Williams said. "If the director has questions or concerns for the actors, or the actors had questions

**"[The program] is very all-encompassing, you're not just learning how to act. You are also learning basic sewing skills in costuming. You are learning wood shop and basic electricity in shop class. I feel like when you leave the theater department, even if you don't stick in the line of theater, you have a lot more skills than people actually think are here."**

- Kendra Williams

for the director, or the design team needed something from someone else, everything had to go through me."

Williams, who had originally auditioned to be one of the 10 actors in the play, said that when she didn't get cast, she asked if she could act as an assistant to the stage manager because freshmen are not usually allowed to be a stage manager.

Williams said that once she got back from Christmas break, she found out she would be stage managing her first show.

"Normally you have to be assistant stage manager three times before you are allowed to stage manage on your own," Williams said. "They also don't usually allow freshmen to even assistant stage manage because the way you have to have taken the two technical classes and I had only been through one."

With the show "The Laramie Project," each of the 10 actors on stage play multiple different characters through the two acts, with one actor playing up to seven characters in the show.

"Part of my job was helping Fulton (Burns, director) keep track of who was playing who and also having an opinion on if the characters felt like real people when being portrayed," Williams said.

During the performances this past week, Williams job was something she called "calling the show."

"Every single light cue or sound cue or video cue the

audience saw, I was the one saying 'Okay, it's time for this to happen now,'" Williams said.

Williams said it was not always her plan to be in the world of theater, and she originally came to Marshall to double major in biology and chemistry, along with a minor in physics. Her plan was to become an ophthalmologist, but she said something in her head made her change that plan.

"Why do I want this science degree? I was telling myself it was to help people, but I really was just thinking about the money," Williams said. "I decided that wasn't a good way to live."

When she made the switch to theater, Williams said it was because she wanted to still help people, enjoy her career and be challenged.

"Theater? Perfect," Williams said.

Williams says that Marshall Program in particular does a great job of giving its students a well-rounded experience.

"[The program] is very all-encompassing, you're not just learning how to act," she said. "You are also learning basic sewing skills in costuming. You are learning wood shop and basic electricity in shop class. I feel like when you leave the theater department, even if you don't stick in the line of theater, you have a lot more skills than people actually think are here."

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