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ZACH HISER | PHOTO EDITOR

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College of Business teaches data intelligence

By **NOAH HICKMAN**

Marshall University's Lewis College of Business is educating its students about Business Intelligence and how to analyze, visualize and understand data.

The College of Business offers courses and sessions to educate students on being proficient with data, Assistant Professor of Management, Dr. Jingran Zhang said.

"We do have a couple of quantitative courses," Zhang said. "Before, we were dealing with mathematical stuff but now are including more and more things with data. We also have sessions or courses teaching them how to use some tools to collect data and analytic data."

In today's world, most prominent businesses use Business Intelligence to make data-driven decisions. At one point in time, data was saved to a file but now serves as a necessity for most businesses.

Data has evolved to the point where it is not just asking a question and getting an answer anymore, Associate Dean for Accreditation and Strategic Initiatives and Professor of Accounting, Nancy Lankton said.

"The data can answer questions that you did not

even know to ask," Lankton said. "So we used to just ask the questions, and then it would tell us the answer. But now we are to the point where there might be something in that data we have not been thinking of. So that is kind of where you get more on to the business intelligence side."

When asked about Business Intelligence's future, Dr. Zhang said that it would help businesses more and more with time.

"I will say in general [business intelligence] will help more and more businesses," Zhang said. They will help out [with] more and more decisions...One of the directions we are going to work on is to bring more analytics in part to prepare our students for the skills and the knowledge for business intelligence."

Business Intelligence will continue to play an integral part in the workplace and will become more prominent and advanced in the future.

Marshall University uses a lot of analytics and is something that everybody should have some form of knowledge about, Lankton said.



"Analytics is being used internally by the University, but yeah, everybody should know something," Lankton said. It's like basic algebra; everybody should know analytics.

There is an old saying by W. Edwards Deming in which he said, "In God we trust; all others bring data." In some workplaces, the quote serves as a running joke around the office due to businesses having to provide data at an increased pace.

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Greek chair talks event planning during COVID-19

By **CATHERINE BLANKENSHIP**
EXECUTIVE STAFF

COVID-19 continues to put normalcy on hold while restricting our everyday lives as we know it. Marshall University Greek life continues to find new ways to interact safely amongst themselves and other organization chapters, with pandemic guidelines in mind.

Greek life thrives off of social interaction and unity within their own chapter and other chapters. These events usually take place through a sisterhood or brotherhood.

Delta Zeta sisterhood chair, Rachel Ferrell, takes pride in her chair.

"I love my chair because it's so fun seeing girls get excited to spend time together," Rachel Ferrell said. "Sisterhood chair is very important to create a bond between each individual chapter as well as creating a unity between each chapter on campus." These events are fun and an exciting way to get to know people in your chapter plus others involved in Greek life. Marshall sororities are curating ideas amongst themselves. Anna Preston, Tri Sigma Greek relations chair, discussed her brotherhood and sisterhood plans with her chapter.

"We want to be as safe as possible

during the times we are living in," Anna Preston said. "Many of our events will be virtual or limited to a set capacity of brothers and sisters."

"We hope we will be able to meet face-to-face very soon, but now we need to look at the bigger picture," Anna Preston said. "I am so excited to see all of the fun events we can plan."

For the time being, safety remains a top priority when it comes to planning these events.

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Black History Month Events

4 p.m. Feb. 3 – Presentation by Angela Dodson, a member of Marshall's Journalism Hall of Fame and the first Black journalist to edit a section of The New York Times.

12 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 — BHM Power Hour, Celebrating Black Culture Through Music.

4 p.m. Feb. 10 – "Disparities in Health Care During the Pandemic," with Jill Upson, chair of the West Virginia COVID-19 Advisory Commission on African American Disparities and executive director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs and others.

7 p.m. Feb. 17 — Popcorn and Pajamas Movie Night, presented by the Office of Intercultural Affairs and International Students Office and the Campus Activity Board, in Room BE5 of the Memorial Student Center.

6 p.m. Feb. 26 – Winners of the Annual Black History Month Essay

To find more information on these events visit marshall.edu/blackhistorymonth

Cyber Defense Club wins national championship

By Isabella Robinson
NEWS EDITOR

The Marshall University Collegiate Cyber Defense Club has never placed outside of the top 10 teams in the Nation in the National Cyber League, earning them high honors throughout the past two seasons and leaving their team excited to continue this success.

“The NCL is a competition designed for collegiate competitors to learn and test their skills in disciplines such as Open-Source Intelligence, Enumeration & Exploitation, and Computer Forensics,” Peyton Stevens, former CCDC President, said.

Most recently, in the spring of 2020, the CCDC brought home a National Championship.

“This was accomplished thanks to teaming up with two very skilled individuals,

Samuel Hayden, from Capitol Technology University & Andrew Cayen, from Madison Area Technical College,” Stevens said. “They deserve as much credit as us.”

In addition, the team has also earned the following titles:

9th out of 368 teams in Fall 2018

8th out of 548 teams in Spring

2019

9th out of 689 teams in Fall 2019

9th out of 957 teams in Fall 2020

“Along with success in the National Cyber League, Marshall CCDC competes in the Mid-Atlantic region of the Collegiate Cyber Defense Challenge,” Stevens said.

“Big names in the cybersecurity world such as Raytheon and the National Cyberwatch Center sponsor this event. The Mid Atlantic region of CCDC is considered among many to be the most difficult region

in the nation, producing multiple National Champion teams,” Stevens said.

Marshall’s Spring 2020 Collegiate Cyber Defense Club was the first team in Marshall University’s history to qualify for the Regional Finals in this competition,

“The team placed 4th in the qualifying round and was named as the most difficult team to attack by a group of professional penetration testers,” Stevens said. “Marshall then went on to place 4th in the regional finals.”

The club encourages those interested in joining the Marshall University Collegiate Cyber Defense Club to visit the organization’s page on Herdlink and request access to the group’s discord server.



PHOTO CREDIT PEYTON STEVENS

“There is no prior knowledge required in order to join, so please don’t be intimidated,” Stevens said. “We accept all from beginner to expert.”

see CYBER on pg. 11

A new advising system in an unusual time

By Tyler Spence
OPINION EDITOR



ZACHARY HISER | PHOTO AND GRAPHICS EDITOR

With the move toward mostly virtual classes beginning March of 2020, classes weren’t the only significant aspect of college education that required a dramatic reworking.

Advising for all students, including freshmen, has been mostly free of face-to-face meetings in professors’ offices and has moved to video calls over Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

The process is one in which upper-level students are familiar. Still, the confusion was often felt most palpably among freshman students, including some who have yet to step foot on campus physically.

The College of Education has

moved to a new advising system. Instead of faculty splitting among students, there will be one person who is not a professor to meet with students to answer questions and help generate schedules.

This new system will likely be university-wide, with one or multiple people acting as advisors over an entire college or school. Kandice Rowe is the director of the Student Center of Professional Education Services (SCOPES) program in the COE and has been the advisor for students in the college since it began in the fall of 2020.

“I did a Zoom meeting with every single freshman, which was about

120 meetings over the summer. It’s saying what I would say to a group of students but saying it one on one,” Paula Lucas, a professor in the College of Education, said. “We have one person in the college that does all the advising. We used to all do it - as far as faculty go. Some... were better than others. Some took a lot of time. I know some faculty that spent 15-30 minutes per student who would come in. Others just kinda say ‘that’s what you wanna take’ and then check off.”

It is yet to be determined if students will appreciate the new

see ADVISING on pg. 11

President Gilbert named Volunteer of the Year

By **TYLER SPENCE**
OPINIONS EDITOR

On Friday, Jan. 29, the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce named University President Dr. Jerome Gilbert the 2020 Volunteer of the Year.

“Both through our work at the Chamber and as a member of the Board of Governors, I have seen firsthand Dr. Gilbert’s commitment to this community and those of us who are fortunate to call this region home,” Toney Stroud, the 2021 Chair of the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce, said.

Dr. Gilbert said, when accepting the award, that he felt very, very honored. “I don’t feel I am deserving as many other people. I love Huntington, I love Marshall University, this is quite an honor for me, and I want to thank everyone for doing this.” Leter he added, “So goes Huntington, so goes Marshall.”

“Anyone who knows our community also knows that Marshall University and its success are directly

related to the success of all of us here. We are fortunate enough to call this region our home,” Stroud said.

Dr. Gilbert has spoken about the role that a university plays in developing young people outside of the classroom. This award will be an additional example that students can look to achieve.

“I firmly believe that all of us have a purpose on this earth and my goal or mission is to figure out what I do well as a person and what I can do to contribute,” Dr. Gilbert said.

The volunteer event usually takes place as a luncheon but was conducted virtually this year.

The Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit association of businesses and members promoting area businesses and advocates for regional legislative issues.

Dr. Gilbert is also a member of the chamber’s executive committee board.

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JEROME GILBERT @MARSHALLUPRES | INSTAGRAM

President Gilbert presents his 2020 Chamber Volunteer of the Year award.

Carter G. Woodson Lyceum unveils new Woodson Portrait

By **MIRANDA VALLES**
REPORTER

To celebrate the start of Black History Month at Marshall, the Carter G. Woodson Lyceum unveiled a new portrait of the honorable Dr. Carter G. Woodson through a virtual event that took place on Monday, Feb. 1.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, to which both the new portrait and the Lyceum commemorate, is often referred to as the “Father of Black History.” Woodson’s dedication to the preservation of Black history and culture is what gave birth to the “Negro History Week,” which would later evolve into Black History Month thanks to the efforts of Woodson and his followers.

Woodson would also go on to find what we know today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

While Woodson’s contributions do not go unnoticed, his ties to Huntington indeed do. It is lesser known that Woodson was, in fact, a Huntington native who spent the early years of his life as a coalminer. He also spent a good part of his early life at Douglass High School for

schooling, which he would later return to as the principal.

Sassa Wilkes, the portrait artist and Marshall alumna, said that even she had no prior knowledge of Woodson. It wasn’t until her son had done his own extensive research that she found out about Woodson’s impact and legacy. Despite her surprise, Wilkes felt grateful.

“I just finished up a giant project called 100 Badass Women, and so these past couple of months for me have been going back and appreciating the contributions of people throughout history, and his were just enormous,” Wilkes said. “It’s just amazing that I get to be a part of that.”

Multiple individuals, such as former alum and Huntington Quarterly publisher, Jack Houvouras, Executive Director of ASLAH Sylvia Cyrus, Dr. Wendell Dobbs, Director of the West Virginia State Archives and History Joe Grieger and many more shared their own reactions to the portrait.

Professor Burnis R. Morris, Director of The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum, said that he was pleased with the portrait and that the portrait’s importance lies with the

accuracy of its depiction.

“The study of Black history begins with him. I think because scholars and students who conduct research are often looking for additional photographs,” Morris said. “There are so few, you see the same ones over and over, so this one will probably catch their eye because it will be a new addition.”

Other speakers commended Wilkes on how the portrait brought out the qualities of Woodson despite working from a simple photograph.

“The most moving thing about a portrait isn’t the likeness,” Wilkes said. “That’s something that takes skill and practice. It’s crucial, but to me, it’s not at all the most important. To me, beyond the likeness, I really want to capture the spirit of someone.”

Huntington Mayor, Steve Williams, ended the unveiling ceremony with a proclamation to honor Woodson’s legacy by naming Feb. 1 as Dr. Carter G. Woodson Day in the city of Huntington.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Local Huntington artist honors Carter G. Woodson

By CAMERON COLLINS
REPORTER

Carter G. Woodson, Huntington native and founder of Black history month, was honored Monday with a portrait painting by artist and Marshall alumnus Sassa Wilkes.

Jack Houvouras, publisher of Huntington Quarterly, reached out to Wilkes and the university in hopes of getting a commissioned portrait of Carter G. Woodson to be donated to Marshall University, and used for the cover of this month's edition of Huntington Quarterly.

Wilkes is an artist located in Huntington and recently caught the locals attention with the release of her portraits of 100 influential women in 100 days.

"I wasn't sure I was ever going to paint a man ever again after all the interesting women there were to paint, but he is definitely a deserving person to be painted, and I absolutely loved this whole process," Wilkes said

Wilkes made clear at the ceremony she lacked any knowledge of Carter G.

Woodson before painting this portrait.

"I feel a compulsion to learn everything I can about them [people she paints] because I feel like that comes through in the paintings," Wilkes said.

Wilkes spent the entire process of creating the portrait of Carter G. Woodson learning more about him and his relevance and importance to Huntington and Black history.

see LOCAL ARTIST on pg. 11



Courtesy of Sassa Wilkes

Portrait of Dr. Carter G. Woodson by Marshall University alumnus Sassa Wilkes was unveiled Monday, Feb. 1 as part of Marshall's Carter G. Woodson Lyceum's Black History Month celebration.

Marshall signs plastic-free pledge

By XENA BUNTON
FEATURES EDITOR

In order to eliminate all single-use, disposable plastics on campus, Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert signed the 'Break Free from Plastic Campus Pledge.'

"Reducing our dependence on disposable plastic is another step forward in our sustainability efforts at Marshall," Gilbert said. "This is a project the entire Marshall family can rally around and help our community reduce its overall waste products."

The pledge, created by the Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN), works to guide campuses towards a

long-term elimination of single-use disposable plastics and work towards waste elimination. Single-use disposable plastics include utensils, straws, to-go containers, polystyrene (Styrofoam), plastic-wrapped condiments, plastic shopping bags and more.

The Sustainability Department Manager, Amy Parsons-White, said the pledge would allow Marshall University to reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill.

"Plastic can be around for thousands of years, and since less than 30% of plastic sent to recycling facilities actually gets recycled, that adds up to a lot of waste with no place to go,"

Parsons-White said. "It ends up in the oceans, in the ground, and microplastics have been found in our drinking water. This can pose a health risk to people and animals."

Marshall's Sustainability Club organized involvement with the single-use proposal, which was founded by Baleigh Epperly, club President, and Abi Taylor, club Co-leader, in early 2019.

The club gathered data on campus and provided a petition of nearly 1,000 signatures to request Marshall University and the food service operation, Sodexo, to observe the demand for a plastic and Styrofoam-free campus.

see PLASTICS on pg. 10



MARSHALL'S SUSTAINABILITY CLUB IS COMMITTED TO REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.

Huff to announce coaching staff on national signing day

By **GRANT GOODRICH**
SPORTS EDITOR

At a press conference set for 5 pm Wednesday, Marshall head football coach Charles Huff will officially announce his assistant coaching staff in confluence with a discussion on national signing day.

Assembling a staff is one of the most important jobs for a new head coach at the start of his regime, and most of the time, it is a staff full of new hires.

Holdover assistant coaches from a previous staff is a rarity. The reason for that is not always because the old coaches are incapable; often times, it is a matter of

the old coaches not meshing with the specific culture being established by the new coach.

When it comes to the new Marshall football staff constructed by head coach Charles Huff, there will be one holdover and nine new coaches.

Based on Huff's comments at his introductory press conference two weeks ago, he gave the impression that all of Holliday's former staff had a fair shot of earning a spot on his staff.

"There are good coaches on this staff," Huff said. "I think it is my job to recruit the current players and recruit the current coaches,

because you don't have the success that you've had here at this university without really good coaches."

Whether Huff decided to move on from each coach after individual interviews or after something else transpired, nine of ten assistant coaches have parted ways with the program.

Tim Cramsey, the 2018-2020 offensive coordinator/quarterback coach, will be the lone coach who remained from Doc Holliday's 2020 staff.

Brad Lambert, the 2019-2020 defensive coordinator, took the Purdue DC job before he could even be considered for the 2021 staff, but after finishing behind Huff for the head coach opening, it would have been unlikely for him to return as defensive coordinator.

With the retaining of Cramsey and the departure of Lambert, that begs the question: who are the offensive and defensive coordinators going to be?

It appears Cramsey will continue his offensive coordinator role, while the defensive coordinator spot will go to Lance Guidry. Guidry was the safeties coach at FAU in 2020. Before that, he was the head coach at McNeese State from 2016 to 2018 and the defensive coordinator at Western Kentucky from 2011 to 2012.

The special teams coordinator will be Jeremy Springer, who spent the last three years as Arizona's special teams coordinator.

The rest of the new assistant coaches provides a balance of new faces and old faces recognizable to many Herd fans.

The first recognizable name is Bill Legg, who served as Marshall's offensive coordinator from 2010 to 2017. He will be the team's tight end coach and associate head coach.

Two other well-known names will helm the Herd's front-seven: former Marshall defensive lineman Ralph Street as defensive line coach and former Marshall safety Shannon Morrison as the linebacker coach.

Morrison formerly coached the linebacker position for two years and the safety position for two years at his alma mater from 2005 to 2008.

Rounding out the defensive coaching staff, former Austin Peay co-defensive coordinator Dominique Bowman will coach in the secondary. It is unclear if he will coach the entire defensive backfield or just corners while Guidry coaches the safeties.

On offense, a familiar name to that state of West Virginia but not Marshall in particular is Clint Trickett, who played quarterback at WVU from 2013 to 2014. Trickett was the co-offensive coordinator and quarterback coach at FAU in 2020, but he was let go as a part of an Owl staff shakeup.

At running back, Telly Lockette will assume coaching duties. Lockette has spent time at Florida State and Miami recently.

The final piece is new offensive line coach Eddy Morrissey, who coached at Austin Peay the past two years. He also spent a year at Mississippi State with Huff in 2018 as the offensive quality

2021 Football Staff

Offensive Coordinator
Tim Cramsey

Defensive Coordinator
Lance Guidry

Special Teams Coordinator
Jeremy Springer

Wide Receivers
Clint Trickett

Tight Ends
Bill Legg

Running Backs
Telly Lockette

Offensive Line
Eddy Morrissey

Defensive Line
Ralph Street

Linebackers
Shane Morrison

Secondary
Dominique Brown

control coach and assistant offensive line coach.

All ten assistant coaches are already working hard on the recruiting front, and although national signing day is Wednesday, most of their focus is already on the 2022 class. Still, Wednesday is an important day for the program.

The February national signing day – once the marquee day in college football recruiting – is no longer the day it once was, paling in comparison to the early signing day in December.

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AUSTIN O'CONNOR | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

Charles Huff speaks to the media at his introductory press conference on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Marshall men's basketball to face ODU

By Noah Hickman
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall men's basketball team plans to travel to Norfolk, Virginia to take on the Old Dominion Monarchs for a two-game series on Feb 5-6 at Chartway Arena.

Both teams have had a substantial amount of rest due to program pauses due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Assuming the schedule holds up, Feb. 5 will be the Herd's first game since Jan. 23 and the Monarchs first since Jan. 16.

"We're just glad that – hopefully – this week we can get back to playing," junior guard Taevion Kinsey said.

Because of the volatility of this season, head coach Dan D'Antoni said that he will not be excited about actually playing a game this weekend until he sees the ball thrown up for tip-off.

Speaking to his team's hopeful opponent this weekend, D'Antoni said that in order to understand ODU, one has to understand its program.

"They have a big time setting," D'Antoni said. "So, anytime that you're going to play ODU, they are equipped to be a very competitive team that always has a chance to win Conference USA."

With a limited amount of recent film to go off of, Kinsey said experience and free flowing play will be keys to coming away with a victory.

"(We'll take) whatever type of help we can get from the film," Kinsey said, "but if we don't have any, then it's just got to be a basketball game – who wants it more?"

ODU (8-4, 4-2) is currently in second place in the Conference USA East division while Marshall (9-4, 3-3) sits in fourth place in its



division. This two-game series is integral to the Conference USA standings.

The Monarchs are led by senior guard Malik Curry who averages 16.5 points, 3.9 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.1 steals per game. The next leading scorer on the team is junior forward Kalu Ezikpe who averages 10.3 points to go with 6.7 rebounds and 1.4 blocks per game.

Guards Taevion Kinsey, senior Jarrod West and redshirt sophomore Andrew Taylor lead the Thundering Herd.

This season Taylor is averaging 10 points, 6.7 rebounds and 3.7 assists per game, but over the past four games has been averaging 15.5 points, 6.3 rebounds and 4 assists per game while shooting 64.3% from the field.

Kinsey, on the other hand, leads all of Conference USA in points per game, averaging 19.8 points. He also averages 6.8 rebounds and 3.8 assists per game while shooting 53.4% from the field.

Marshall will face Old Dominion on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m and on Feb 6 at 7 p.m. Both games will air on ESPN+.

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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.

OPINION

Making progress, together.

By Tyler Spence
OPINION EDITOR

During the democratic primaries and debates, nominees frequently claimed there was more common ground between Americans than we might think. Now President Joe Biden, with senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, made claims that there was plenty of common ground between these two different Americas, despite the fact that the parties themselves are far apart in their policy positions.

I was skeptical that this was accurate. The two different Americas presented by both parties are starkly different, and it is difficult to find where the extremists begin and what normal people actually believe.

Then, on Nov. 3, Florida was confirmed as a victory for former President Trump and simultaneously voted to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. An idea that was considered radical by many just a few short years ago may not only be the new federal standard in the years to come, but was enacted by the will of the people in a state that went red in the 2020 Presidential Election.

What started as a protest outside of a McDonald's in New York City in 2012, which was promoted by Senator Sanders in his race for President in 2016, moved the needle for the issue in the minds of voters.

Although the gears of progress may be slow in the United States, they don't ever stop completely. When these gears move rapidly it is with the unanimous will of the voters, not an agreement between political parties.

As citizens we must award cooperation in our

government. For too long elected officials have only been scrutinized for reaching across the aisle, and we reward partisan hacks who are incapable of getting anything done. We are rewarding the wrong behavior in Washington. Most all Americans are looking for the same things -

Most all Americans are looking for the same things - higher wages, better healthcare, lower drug costs, affordable education, the regulation of major tech companies and to put an end to the pandemic. Our representatives should not only work together on these things but enthusiastically support something the vast majority of Americans are asking for.

It is yet to be seen how the new administration and Republicans in Congress will behave with one another, and how effectively the Democrats can maintain their slim majority in the senate. But if the opposition cannot cooperate with a President as moderate as Joe Biden, then each party will simply rule unchecked on a rotating basis.

The United States needs a well functioning conservative party to check their progressive counterparts. The keywords are well functioning. If Republicans in Congress are as interested in legislating as they were obstructing during the Obama administration, we will see a government that is efficient and working toward common goals.

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The unknown impact of living a virtual life

By Brittany Hively
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

It has been almost a year since we had to start adapting life to work around a global pandemic. Since then, many jobs have become available remotely, and schools have switched to either a virtual or take-home-packet based model.

While this has been great in keeping ourselves and others safe, what is the long-term impact of these changes?

With the recent snow and ice blowing through the tri-state, we have seen several counties declare Non-traditional Instruction or NTI days. This means students have either a snow packet that was sent home earlier in the year with worksheets to complete or where they log on to the school's online system to complete work. Essentially, we have erased snow days.

With several employers making remote work an option these days, are we setting up to never have a sick day again? When you can work from home, will employers expect employees to do just that when they call in? This also erases possible "mental health" days that some While the remote option is ideal for keeping citizens safe, I worry about what it means for the future, ideally to mental health.

We currently live in a culture that is "on-demand" with an instant gratification attitude. We expect things to be done right away. We have articles

and studies showing the damage to mental health with the prevalence of smartphones and work never stops.

We are constantly checking emails, talking to clients via text and call, keeping up with business accounts on social media. We are available almost 24/7. Will the increase in remote availability make this worse?

According to the CDC, 40% of adults in the United States reported struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse due to the stress factors of COVID-19. 13% of those surveyed started or increased substance use, and 11% seriously considered suicide.

These are alarming numbers in a world that already struggles with mental health.

It is the opinion of this writer that snow days are good for the child's soul. Not only do they get a break from school, but they have the opportunity to make childhood memories that will last a lifetime.

I also believe mental health days are good for the adult's soul. Sometimes life just weighs us down, and we need a moment to sit on the couch in our pajamas all day, binging Netflix and eating ice cream.

In a world that never sleeps, I think it is important that we slow down sometimes and give ourselves grace when we need a break, both mentally and physically.

While I have no idea what the future holds in terms of a global pandemic, virtual schooling and remote work, I do hope we bring back the snow days and enjoy the occasional mental health day because those things are just as important to ensuring we are the best and kindest people we can be.

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The Parthenon is committed to publishing a wide variety of opinions and perspectives. If you wish to submit a guest column or a letter to the editor, email parthenon@marshall.edu or email the opinion editor, Tyler Spence at spence83@marshall.edu.

CYBER cont. from 3

“Our club is a place where we get to compete in national cyber defense competitions free of charge,” Ethan Endres, current President of the Marshall University Collegiate Cyber Defense Club, said. “It’s a really good opportunity to either get your name out there or learn how to do better in the cybersecurity field.”

The group learns a variety of concepts and skills, Stevens said. “... from basic computer networking skills to cryptography.”

Endres said the club is currently meeting weekly online. “It isn’t as close as it was when we were meeting in person for obvious reasons, but I am trying to make sure that the club is still consistently talking with each other with the weekly meetings so we can still make the bonds you get from in-person clubs,” said Endres.

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ADVISING cont. from 3

It is yet to be determined if students will appreciate the new system after the university and its current advisors implement it.

Professor Lucas still receives emails from former advisees asking her questions or for general advice in particular classes. If the university moved to this kind of system, advisors might need to be specific in their role as such.

If that’s the way the university is going to go, there needs to be a specific person within each college who really knows the ins and outs,” Lucas said.

Combining a new system with the new format in a meeting has undoubtedly changed the potential landscape for how students will do advising, at least in the near future.

“If students come to me and ask me what it’s like to teach second grade, I’ve not taught second grade, but if you talk to a faculty mentor who used to be a teacher in the real world, they can kind of explain that to them,” said Kandace Rowe.

Despite these changes, the university and faculty hope that the new system will be one of consistency but still provide the same benefits as the old advising system, if only over a video call instead of a physical meeting until the time of normalcy returns.

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PLASTICS cont. from pg. 2

During the fall semester of 2020, Parsons-White and 13 club members orchestrated a brand audit to provide data by gathering plastic products from residence halls. The club reported that after five hours of sorting from two buildings, they collected 195 plastic items that could be recycled and 829 plastic items that could not be—adding up to 1,024 total plastic products.

“To me, the most personally impactful aspect of the petitioning process was talking to students face-to-face, prior to the pandemic, about the plastic pollution crisis,” Epperly said. “So many people had no idea that 91% of the plastic does not get recycled. Seeing people’s reactions when they understood the gravity of plastic’s negative impact on our communities, particularly the most vulnerable, was worth the hours of petitioning.”

During the first week of the 2021 spring semester, the university received the final piece of equipment needed for its commercial composting facility to be fully operational by March 2021. Marshall University will have the first commercial composting facility in the state of West Virginia and the second-largest university composting facility in the eastern United States.

“Marshall’s new compost facility will be able to handle all of this waste and turn it into a usable, sellable product, leaving a net-zero cost to transition to compostable, vegetable-based plastics,” Parsons-White said. “Reducing single-use plastics on campus and increasing the use of compostables will change the way that we, as a community, think and behave when it comes to plastics. It will allow our students, staff, and faculty to be exposed to the

issues surrounding plastic waste while offering plastic alternatives that they will be able to incorporate into their daily lives.”

The sustainability club’s next goal is to inform people of the increasing number of petrochemical facilities in Ohio, West Virginia and one specific facility, a storage and trading hub for natural gas liquids, proposed to be built across the river from the Marshall campus.

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**STAFF cont. from 6**

Nine Marshall commits signed their national letters of intent on Dec. 16; the two commits who did not sign in December have since de-committed. All that remains to sign from the commitment list is Charles Huff’s first commitment as head coach, Caleb Coombs.

Coombs, a four-star recruit on Rivals, is a wide receiver from Washington, D.C. who was recruited by Huff at Alabama.

Coombs is Marshall’s highest rated Rivals recruit since Jaquan Yulee in the class of 2016, and the highest ranked receiver commit since Deontay McManus in 2013.

Adding Coombs, Marshall has a 10-man class, making it one of the smallest in the country.

However, there are other avenues Marshall will use to fill out the spots left open by the 2021 class. Those avenues are the transfer portal and the JUCO

market. Already, Marshall has one transfer lined up, Billy Ross from the University of North Carolina. Ross is originally from Huntington, playing high school football at Huntington High.

The press conference Wednesday at 5 pm will be live streamed on Facebook for everyone to watch.

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LOCAL ARTIST cont. from pg. 2

"I feel really grateful that I even had the opportunity to help educate people about a man that I didn't even know existed prior. I think that's amazing," Wilkes said in an interview after the event. "I think people need to talk about their collective prior ignorance because that's not my fault that I didn't know about him...it really points to such a deficit in our educational system, in our culture, in our environment."

Wilkes made evident her hopes to aid the education of the citizens of Huntington through her portrait of Carter G. Woodson.

"Huntington is doing a stellar job of identifying and filling in those deficits

for sure, but I think we need to talk about that. People don't need to just educate themselves on it then move on."

After speaking of her transition from her 100 influential women project to the portrait of Carter G. Woodson, she said, "It sort of seems seamless, because I feel like with what I have done recently and what I've been doing there's obviously a very strong educational element where I really enjoy sharing the information, I'm learning to you [the audience]."

She spoke about her goal of educating her audiences through her artwork and encouraging them to see things from a new perspective.

"The whole presentation...it just made me enormously proud to be from here," Wilkes said.

Huntington mayor, Steve Williams, closed out the ceremony and said, "I encourage all businesses, people, organizations, and institutions to join in honoring this distinguished individual," and declared a proclamation naming Feb. 1 Dr. Carter G. Woodson day in the city of Huntington.

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12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

Confessions

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Saturday 4:00 pm-4:25 pm
Tuesday 5:00 pm-5:25 pm
or by appointment

Marshall Alumni: Where are we now? Todd Cameron

By **BRITTANY HIVELY**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Growing up in a small town and state that he loved, Todd Cameron never planned to leave West Virginia. So, when an opportunity arose to expand not only his career, but also his side gig, it was hard for Cameron to say no.

"I've been with Pepsi going on 14 years now," Cameron said. "I am a district manager for them right now and [practice] music, so I live a double life."

Cameron was performing shows across West Virginia between 2010-2012 when his human resources manager from Pepsi came to a performance and encouraged him to branch out.

He said his manager put things into a perspective he had never thought about before.

"He told me, what you're passionate about is your music, and in order to have a work-life balance, you've gotta be in a place where you can pursue your hobbies and the things that keep you interested and keep you excited," Cameron recalled. "That's how you stay motivated, and that reflects back in a normal career and work as well. If you feel stuck, you're going to kinda deteriorate at both ends."

Cameron said he had never thought about Nashville or even leaving West Virginia, but with the encouragement of his manager, he applied for a position in Nashville. Two weeks after the conversations with his manager, he was offered a job he wanted, and a month later, he was in Nashville.

"It was a great career step for me with Pepsi, but also set me up to really pursue the music a lot better and get in the environment I need to be in," Cameron said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TODD CAMERON

Cameron has been in Nashville for nine years working with Pepsi and his music career. He said they were to the point they were playing over 100 shows a year.

With the busy schedule Cameron was keeping, he was starting to feel burned out. Coronavirus gave him a much-needed break.

"It felt like I was losing a lot of creativity. It wasn't really giving me that rush, that satisfaction on stage," Cameron said. "So, when corona hit and canceled all the shows anyway. I took it as a time to step back and honestly to focus more on writing, producing and putting out music."

Cameron said he never imagined he would be touring to the extent he was before COVID-19.

"I took this year really to write. I've been in the studio a lot, and it's kind of nice," Cameron said. "I'm grateful and thankful for the time to be able to catch up with some friends and family and do normal things because when you're touring as much as we were and working a normal job, you barely have time to breathe. It's nice for me, and I think it's resulted in a lot better and some new songs that I'm excited to put out."

One of the things Cameron loves most about performing is getting the crowd hyped up and excited. He also loves to write and co-write all of his songs.

"That's something that's always been important to me. I feel like, ya know, to be believable and to get people behind you as an artist," Cameron said. "You've got to be able to come from personal experience or be able to say, 'hey, this is why I am an artist.' There are a lot of artists that cut other folks' songs, and that's totally fine, but I think just starting out, I've maintained that I would write every song that I put out."

Looking across Cameron's social media, viewers will notice one common thing, his pride in West Virginia roots.

"I love West Virginia. It will always be home to me. I call Nashville my temporary home. Every song that you hear, the idea started from something that happened in West Virginia," Cameron said. "It's not that I've even really meant to keep it that way. It's just been that way because everything that I write about, everything that I've mainly experienced, and some of the hardest lessons I've learned that turn into some of these songs have been West Virginia related at some point. Be it a relationship, a moment, a memory, anything family involved, friends, whatever. Some of the best years, days of my life. It's just one big, small town. That's what the whole state is, and that's what I love about it. That's something that I always plan to continue to do in the future, too," Cameron said.

While Cameron never forgets the people who encourage him, he hopes he can be an encouragement to others,

especially those from West Virginia who oftentimes feel stuck.

"That's the people that believed in me to get started at, and that's the people I respect the most," Cameron said. "And I hope it inspires other people. I don't know if it's a mentality; I've just seen it. I've heard it a lot, kids just feeling stuck, and I know I did. I felt that way at some point, too, and to be where I am now, just super blessed. Super thankful and just grateful for every fan and everything. I hope that inspires other people to chase their dreams too."

Cameron says he does not face the small-town West Virginia stigma often but always keeps a positive attitude when it does come up because he says every state has those small towns, and great things come from them.

"If there's an opportunity for something you want to pursue that seems unrealistic, but you know other people have done it, just think they probably came from a small town too, so go do it," Cameron said.

Cameron received his bachelor's degree from Concord University and his MBA from Marshall University. These set him up for not only his career with Pepsi but also his music career.

"A lot of people don't realize it, but being in the entertainment/music world, specifically here, is probably 30% about actually being a creative artist and 70% business," Cameron said. "So, for the LCOB, really getting my MBA and furthering that education in regard to anything business-related."

Cameron also said the group work from the MBA program has helped him in both aspects of life.

"The MBA was really kinda group focused, and I loved that about that program. That you really learn to work in groups because it teaches you to work alongside personalities," Cameron said. "Managing personalities is something I do more than manage employees with Pepsi. It's the same thing with band members. When you're given a set of goals, you're working with people who come from different backgrounds, who come from different mentalities about things. Even as a leader, you've got to be able to motivate. This is in the entertainment world and also in the Pepsi world."

No matter where Pepsi or the music world takes him, Cameron says West Virginia will always be home, and he encourages everyone to give his music a listen and to check out his stories from the music world.

"If people want to check out the music, I'm on Instagram, Todd Cameron Music," Cameron said. "I'm even on TikTok. I got on TikTok as a joke, and it's the fastest social I got."

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