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## The Parthenon, February 10, 2021

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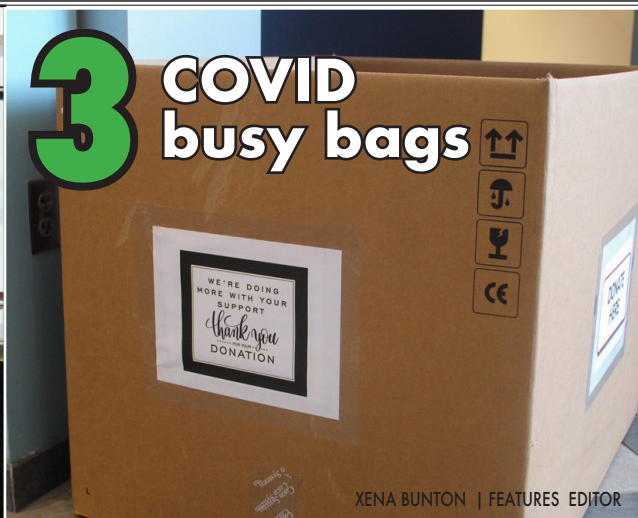
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**Authors**

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# THE PARTHENON

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PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY BRITTANY HIVELY | HAYES100@MARSHALL.EDU

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# Good Time Management Skills Important to Success

By Noah Hickman  
REPORTER

Marshall University held a roundtable discussion on the topic of time management Feb. 4 on Microsoft Teams.

The event was led and set up by Graduate Assistant Darrioun Webb. Its goal was to talk about time management components and then have an engaging conversation about real-world difficulties that people in the group struggle with, in terms of time management.

“Having good time management is crucial if students are going to have a good semester,” Webb said.

“I was motivated about this topic because I believe that it is a crucial component of a successful academic year, especially for early-career students who are learning to operate within a completely new structure,” Webb said.

Students took the time to discuss how they could grow in the area of time management and talked about obstacles and personal issues they have to overcome to be successful in their semester.

“Finding balance requires some self-reflection, from my perspective at least,” Webb said. “The balance between social life, academics, and mental health can be achieved by proper planning; allowing adequate time for each domain to

feel fulfilling.”

Even for students who did not attend the meeting, time management still weighs on their minds, especially during COVID-19.

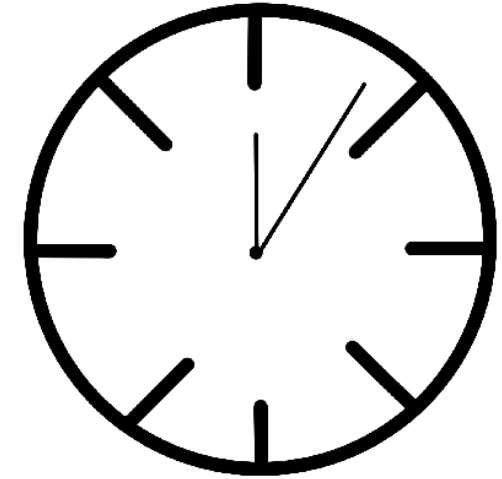
Time management is something that I have improved upon as time has gone along, student Landon Meadows said.

“Time management is a valuable skill that I have improved through resources such as the calendar on outlook, which helps me keep up with things and improve in everyday life,” Meadows said.

Virtual platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom have become a huge part of some people’s lives ever since COVID-19 struck.

“Even though COVID-19 is making human interaction more complicated, we have managed to find a way to stay in touch through technology,” Meadows said.

“I believe that COVID-19 is making things more difficult due to the lack of classroom setting and the lack of human interaction that comes with it, but with the age of the internet, people have found new ways to stay connected, which includes me,” Meadows said.



ZACHARY HISER | PHOTO AND GRAPHICS EDITOR

As students continue to live their daily lives, Marshall University is hoping that its students have a wide array of knowledge in managing their time effectively, pandemic or not.

Noah Hickman can be contacted at [hickman76@marshall.edu](mailto:hickman76@marshall.edu)

# Marshall Rises: The Campaign that Keeps on Giving

By Alyssa Woods  
REPORTER

The Marshall University Foundation may be over 70 years old, but the opportunities and changes it brings into the community continuously develop every day.

The most recent campaign the foundation has created is the Marshall Rises Campaign. It is an independent, non-profit organization that aims to disburse resources on behalf of Marshall University.

The foundation hopes the Marshall Rises Campaign will garner alumni and people interested in philanthropy to become donors to the foundation.

The campaign began in 2016, and in just five years, it has already widened

expectations.

As of 2019, thousands of people across the country and 35 Marshall University alumni chapters have donated over 105 million dollars.

The campaign aims to garner potential donors to the Marshall University Development Foundation and raise awareness about the importance of their donations.

Not all donors are alumni of Marshall, anyone can donate; in fact, some even continue to donate in honor of a loved one that has passed.

The relationship between a donor and the foundation is essential and requires constant effort. This relationship is not missed by Ron Area, Chief Executive Officer and Senior Vice President of the

Marshall University Foundation,

“A relationship can only be established if people know you,” Area said.

Pam Nibert, executive assistant and HR Coordinator of the foundation expands on the importance of maintaining the relationship throughout the years, so all donors will want to continue to donate.

The foundation holds special luncheons for the alumni who have donated and the students who are able to attend the university, thanks to their kindness.

At one brunch, over 400 people came to meet one another, which is where the Marshall Rises Campaign’s heart lies as students meet donors and alumni reminisce on their days at the university.

The relationship between donor and

student is what the campaign wants to highlight the most. For if it were not for the donors of this campaign, many students would not attend the university.

Most of the donations from members go towards need-based scholarships given year-round to students attending Marshall. According to the campaign brochure, there is 11% less debt in students that attend Marshall University than the national average.

Not all the money goes directly to scholarships; however, as the support of donors, Brad and Alys Smith has allowed the foundation to create an ICenter in the New College of Business.

**see Campaign on pg. 10**

# Rotaract Club collects donations for quarantined students

By **XENA BUNTON**  
THE PARTHENON



PHOTO CREDIT XENA BUNTON

With the rise of COVID testing and vaccinations on campus, Marshall's Rotaract club has decided to gather "COVID busy bag" donations for students quarantined in Holderby Hall.

"We have had to think outside of the box this past year with our community service,"

Kennedy McGraw, club president, said. "I came up with the idea because I remember talking to students who were quarantined on campus, and they would hate that they had to move out of their rooms without all of their personal belongings."

Marshall's Rotaract club was created at the beginning of the 2020 Fall semester as an extension of the international Rotary Club and its community service mission.

According to the Rotary Club, 10,698 Rotaract clubs around the world are currently working on service projects for their university or community. Within one week, the club collected enough donations to make 10-15 bags since they thought of the idea.

The club hopes to receive enough donations to create bags every two weeks during the Spring semester.

"We don't have an official goal that we want to reach, but we will be pushing this project all semester long," McGraw said.

McGraw said the bags are only for Marshall students to limit contact with others.

The club is requesting packaged snacks, adult coloring books, colored pencils, crossword puzzles, sudoku, pens, pencils and more.

"I thought it was important for quarantining students to occupy their time besides watching Netflix, studying or staring at the wall all day," McGraw said.

After the club organizes the bags, Rebecca Pack, the club adviser, and some members from Marshall's staff council will collect the bags and give them to students in the same routine as their scheduled meals.

Donations can be dropped off at Drinko Library lobby throughout the spring semester.

Xena Bunton can be contacted at [Bunton2@marshall.edu](mailto:Bunton2@marshall.edu).



PHOTO CREDIT XENA BUNTON

# University College transitions to virtual advising

By **ALAINA LESTER**  
THE PARTHENON

The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed the way the Marshall University College has taken on academic advising. The University College is a tool that provides learning support services and transitional programs. They also provide academic counseling for Marshall's undecided students, conditionally admitted students, some pre-nursing students, transient students and many others.

The academic counselors working with University College are currently working remotely but are available virtually through teams or phone appointments.

The three academic counselors at the college, Robin Taylor, Robin Stafford and

Patricia Gallagher spoke about how this transition has affected them and what changes they noticed from their students.

Academic counselor Robyn Stafford has been with the University College for over two years now. For her, the hardest part of the transition is the lack of facetime with students.

"I think that they [virtual appointments] can be personal. I mean, they can be good, but I think it's really hard to duplicate that interaction that you would have with somebody face to face," said Stafford. "We would have students in our office all the time, I know myself and several advisors would have students just stopping by to kind of check-in, and former students would come in... just to kind of catch us up on everything

that is going on in their life."

The lack of personal interaction is what she misses most about the virtual appointments.

"I have been super impressed with students who have remained resilient in the face of so much unknown and so much change, and having to take classes virtually or online... I think the resilience of everyone or just the determination or desire to dig in and make it work has been really cool to see from everyone, from students and from faculty," said Stafford.

She explained that this whole transition has been a "learning curve" for the University College and that she loves being a part of a University that cares about students... and will still carry on.



ZACHARY HISER | PHOTO AND GRAPHICS EDITOR

see **ADVISING** on pg. 11

## A purpose for plastic: raising awareness with art

By **MIRANDA VALLES**  
REPORTER

On the second floor of Drinko Library, you'll find hanging on a wall a piece that challenges the traditional notion of art. Instead of clay or paint, this piece is made of something we encounter every day, yet at the same time never think twice about—our own garbage.

Baleigh Epperly, the artist, and president of Marshall's Sustainability Club, said they originally created the piece for a class project last year; however, they knew they wanted it to impact more than just their grade.

"I did it to bring awareness to the plastic pollution crisis," Epperly said. "A lot of people don't realize that's actually what we're in. I think people in America have a privileged relationship with single-use plastic."

Epperly said that the general population does not think about grabbing single-use plastic, using it, throwing it away and definitely not thinking about where it ends up.

According to Epperly, only about 8% of the plastic that's used is recycled. The majority of the plastic waste America



produces is shipped off to other countries that recycle it and make it into various items. Still, so much trash accumulates that there is significant buildup.

"Since only 8% gets recycled, where does the rest go? Usually, it gets incinerated, which means it's burned, which is terrible for our air quality," Epperly said. "Or it ends up in waterways," Epperly said that plastic ends up in our water and that it contaminates the water in the form of microplastics, which we end up consuming.

"I would walk to campus, and I would see so much plastic waste everywhere," Epperly said. "I thought to myself; we have this sort of 'out of sight out of mind' mentality. I thought to myself; well, how would things change if we could see it?"

**see ART  
on pg. 10**

## Dating Disphora: Valentine's Day during the

By **ISABELLA ROBINSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

Students across the Marshall campus question how to celebrate this Valentine's Day safely, share feelings of loneliness and provide advice on how to possibly meet someone new during the pandemic.

"I feel like with COVID, it's kind of different. Especially for people who are not in a relationship, trying to find that connection might leave people feeling depressed or lonely on Valentine's Day," Landon Mitchell, senior Video Production major said.

Mitchell said there are many ways to celebrate Valentine's Day with a partner while staying safe such as eating a pizza at home and doing a mutually enjoyable activity.

"Try to salvage those human moments," said Mitchell.

Mitchell said the lonely feelings arising from feeling isolated due to the pandemic can be used to take part in acts of self-care and self-love.

"Keep yourself busy and do some self-care," Mitchell said. "This can be an excuse to just lay down in bed, watch a movie or listen to music.

Along with cabin fever from being home for extended periods of time during the pandemic, many students claim to yearn for a way to connect with their peers and family while at school.

"I think a good way to connect with people and not feel alone would be to do zoom calls with your friends and family as well as getting carryout meals so that you can feel like you went out but still be socially distanced and safe," said Miss Marshall, Kristen Shomo.

"I just think it is important to remember to make the most out of our opportunities, and even though we can't spend [the holiday] together, we should enjoy it," said Ariana Swayne, a senior Biology major.

While isolation may be the circumstances many are faced with, Swayne says that this holiday can still be enjoyable.

Swayne suggests that those looking to meet someone new or potentially begin dating to do so virtually in order to stop the spread of coronavirus.

With the growing popularity of online dating websites and apps such as Tinder and Bumble, it is easier to meet others without coming into contact with them in person.

Mitchell said he met his current partner while socially distancing amidst the pandemic, and don't give up hope looking for that special someone.

"Make sure you know this person is actually who they say they are before meeting them," said Mitchell.

Mitchell said that while online dating apps and websites can be helpful for some people, he recommends "taking safer measures when meeting in person."

While there are still many ways to celebrate Valentine's Day safely with a partner, singles also have a wide array of unique activities to spend the holiday.

Semoni Weaver, a freshman journalism student, says the best way to cope with loneliness on Valentine's day is to embrace alone time and to do fun things.

She plans to spend her Valentine's day working on herself by going to the gym and spending time with her friends.

**see Dating  
on pg. 10**

# Restaurant and pet shelter hosts Valentine's fundraiser

By **ISABELLA ROBINSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

Little Victories Animal Rescue's annual Sweethearts' Dinner, typically hosted at Rocco's Ristorante in Ceredo, was forced to go remote this year. Still, organizers of the event said ticket sales and community support have been "overwhelming."

"We sold as many dinners as we can possibly think about handing out that night, and we have even more people who want to sign up," Little Victories board member, Sarah Walling, said.

Walling said board members were concerned about the event's success if participants are unable to attend in-person.

"Usually, it's an opportunity to socialize, and we have a silent auction that goes along with it," Walling said. "[This year], it'll be almost like a drive-through and pick up at Rocco's."

Despite concerns, 234 dinners were purchased supporting the shelter to be picked up for the event Monday evening, Stephanie Howell, executive director of Little Victories, said.

Howell said event organizers sold tickets so quickly, and they had to end the selling period sooner than expected.

"This is tremendous," Howell said. "We are really excited about the support the community has given us."

Howell said all funding for Little Victories comes from donations and fundraisers and receives no state or federal funding. She said each dinner sold makes a difference due to the near-halt of their reliable sources of running the shelter.

Howell said ticket prices were lower this year, and \$25 of each sale will go towards sustaining Little Victories.

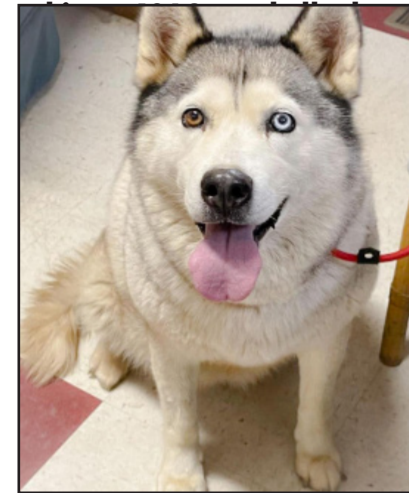
"Usually, we charge 75 dollars, but that includes unlimited beer and wine and things like that when you're in the restaurant," Howell said. "Because you are not getting the experience of the restaurant, I could not justify the regular ticket prices."

Howell said community support for small local businesses is critical during the pandemic, even if some are unable to operate as usual.

"It's not the experience that people are used to in

the restaurant, but it's still going to support Little Victories, [and] it's doing what we need to do more of in these days and times—supporting local businesses," Howell said.

**Isabella Robinson can be contacted at**



# The Beak Café brings the beach to Huntington

By **CAMERON COLLINS**  
REPORTER

The Beak Café, a new restaurant located on Fourth Avenue in Huntington, opened in July 2020 amidst the pandemic. Opening a small, locally-owned café during this time has proven difficult for owner Jacki Shaffer and her staff.

"We're trying our best. We opened during the pandemic," Kyle Steele, general manager said. "There's a lot of factors against a small business right now, so we really appreciate people for coming out and supporting us."

After her mother's passing in 2005, Shaffer decided she wanted to bring to fruition her mother's dream of opening a restaurant.

The café is locally owned and operated by Shaffer's family. When choosing a name, they wanted to honor Shaffer's mother; however, they could not decide which name to use to refer to her. So, they chose 'The Beak Café.' The name 'the Beak Café,' according to Steele, came from the ongoing joke that Shaffer's mother "always had

her beak in someone's food."

The café offers salads, soups, sandwiches, and a daily homecooked meal - sometimes two - based on Shaffer's mother's recipes. "I like the sandwiches; personally, that's my forte," Steele said.

Steele also mentioned he is creating a breakfast menu that will be available in the near future.

"I wanted it to feel like the beach," Shaffer said. "When you get off for lunch, you come in and get to feel like you're at the beach for an hour or so."

The Beak Café offers many services aside from indoor dining. They provide free delivery to the University's campus as well as catering.

"You give me a party to plan, and it's on," Shaffer said.


She spoke of previous events she has planned, including bridal showers, baby showers, and even anniversary parties. They welcome customers to use the restaurant to host events but also cater locally.

The Beak Café is located at 412 9th St.

**Cameron Collins can be contacted at collins388@marshall.edu**



# Herd men's soccer season begins Saturday

2021 MARSHALL MEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE			
Feb. 13	 Ohio Valley University	Mar. 13	 Florida Int'l. University
Feb. 16	 Lipscomb University	Mar. 18	 at University of Kentucky
Feb. 19	 WVU Institute of Technology	Mar. 24	 at West Virginia University
Feb. 23	 East Tennessee St University	Mar. 27	 Old Dominion University
Feb. 27	 Bowling Green	Apr. 3	 Florida Atlantic University
Mar. 2	 at University of Akron	Apr. 10	 at University of Alabama-Birmingham
Mar. 6	 at University of S. Carolina	Apr. 17	 Charlotte

Richard Crank | The Parthenon

## By GRANT GOODRICH SPORTS EDITOR

Although the current volatility of collegiate sports schedules could shake things up, the Marshall men's soccer team will begin its defense of its Conference USA title on Saturday against Ohio Valley University.

"We will have to negotiate the rigors of playing in a COVID world," head coach Chris Grassie said in a statement to HerdZone, "but as long as we can get a decent run at it, we should be able to play some entertaining stuff this year."

The season was supposed to start last week against Virginia Commonwealth University, but COVID-19 issues within the Thundering Herd's program resulted in a postponement.

Thus, the matchup with Ohio Valley will kick off the spring 2021 schedule. The conference portion

of the season does not begin until Mar. 6, when Marshall will travel to Columbia, South Carolina, to face the Gamecocks.

Grassie said that coming off its first Conference USA title in 2019, Marshall is in title defense mode.

"Hunting the title is easier than defending the title," Grassie said. "But we now have to defend the championship, and that is the next level for this group and our progression as a team."

The expectation, not only in the Herd locker room but among the conference's coaches, is that the Herd will repeat as champions in 2021. The Conference USA Preseason Coaches' Poll, announced on Wednesday, Jan. 27, tabbed Marshall as the preseason favorites.

Among the conference announcements, Marshall redshirt sophomore Milo Yosef received Preseason Offensive Player of the

Year honors. At the same time, Yosef, senior Pedro Dolabella and junior Jan-Erik Leinhos earned their way onto the Preseason All-Conference team.

Senior Jamil Roberts, who was drafted on Jan. 21 by Sporting Kansas City, also returns for the Herd. Because his senior season was pushed to the spring after the pandemic caused its postponement, it was unsure if he would be able to play his final year. However, Sporting Kansas City agreed to let him play his final collegiate season before beginning his professional career.

Another aberration of a soccer season during a pandemic is that there will be no conference tournament after the regular season. The team with the best record will represent the conference in the NCAA tournament.

**see soccer on pg. 10**

# Marshall men's basketball to host MTSU

## By NOAH HICKMAN THE PARTHENON

The Marshall men's basketball team will host the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders for a two-game series on Feb. 12-13 at the Cam Henderson Center.

Marshall is coming off a two-game series split against the Old Dominion Monarchs in Norfolk, Virginia, of which the Herd lost game one 82-81 and won game two 87-67.

Despite being second to last in Conference USA east division and having the worst overall record in the conference, MTSU (5-11, 3-7) is coming off of a two-game sweep against the Charlotte 49ers, of which the Blue Raiders won game one 66-65, and game two 73-60.

Marshall has a record of 10-5 (4-4 in C-USA).

Redshirt sophomore guard Andrew Taylor said that toughness will be key for this two-game series because the Blue Raiders are starting to find ways to win games.

"(MTSU) is finding a way to beat teams like ODU found a way to beat us (in game one)," Taylor said. "(ODU) out-toughed us on the boards, just the fact of the matter -- we are going to have to be the tougher dudes in this matchup."

The Marshall men's basketball team is led by its three guards - Taevion Kinsey, Jarrod West and Andrew Taylor - each one of them averages over 10 points a game.

Kinsey is second in total points per game in Conference USA, scoring 19.8 a game.

**see basketball on pg. 10**

## Soccer and Volleyball Attendance Plans per HerdZone

### Soccer

Fans will be permitted to sit in the main bleacher area of Hoops Family Field for all home soccer matches this spring season. An attendance limit is set at 33% of total bleacher capacity, or approximately 330 fans for matches this season. Gates will open one (1) hour prior to kick-off and tickets can be purchased at the main entrance to Hoops Family Field on match day. Fans are not permitted on the field at any point before, during or after the match. Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing must be maintained while at Hoops Family Field.

### Volleyball

Fans will be permitted to sit in the lower level chairbacks of the Henderson Center for all home volleyball matches this spring season. An attendance limit is set at 15% of total arena capacity, or approximately 1,300 fans. Gates will open one (1) hour prior to first serve and matches will be free of charge for spectators this season. Fans are not permitted in Rows A-E of the Henderson Center or on the court at any point before, during or after the match. Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing must be maintained while in the Henderson Center.



# Weekend Recap

## Men's Basketball (10-5, 4-4)

Friday, Feb. 5 - L, 82-81 at ODU

Saturday, Feb. 6 - W, 87-67 at ODU

After losing a 21-point lead against ODU on Friday, Marshall bounced back to beat ODU by 20 on Saturday. In game two, the Herd offense made 13 three-pointers, shooting 48.1% from deep, while the Herd defense held the Monarchs to 14.3% from beyond the arc. Andrew Taylor, Jarrod West and Taevion Kinsey combined for 53 points on Saturday night, making up for 61% of the team's scoring.

## Women's Basketball (5-7, 4-6)

Friday, Feb. 5 - L, 80-70 vs. ODU

Saturday, Feb. 6 - W, 73-68 OT vs. ODU

Exploding for a career-high 35 points, Savannah Wheeler willed the Herd to victory in an overtime thriller in game two on Saturday. She scored 12 of the Herd's 13 overtime points, single-handedly outscoring the Monarchs.



## Women's Tennis (1-1)

Saturday, Feb. 6 - W, 4-3 at Middle Tennessee

The Blue Raiders started strong in doubles, defeating Marshall's Anna Smith and Daniela Dankanych. But the Herd's Liz Stefancic and Jutte Van Hansewyck took the second doubles match while the Herd pair of Madi Ballow and Madison Riley gave Marshall the overall doubles point. In singles, Anna Smith, Jutte Van Hansewyck and Madison Riley won their matches, leading to a Herd victory.

## Track and Field

Saturday, Feb. 6 - 1st place finish (163.5 total points)

Marshall topped three other schools - Florida International, West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky - to win the Marshall Classic. Marshall's Macie Majoy took first place in pole vaulting. MaryAnn Adebayo finished first in the weight throw. Mikah Alleyne won the 300m sprint; Tori Dotson won the 800m race, and Cari Hively came in first in the 3000m event.

## Volleyball (2-1, 1-1)

Sunday, Feb. 7 - W, 3-1 vs. Charlotte

Monday, Feb. 8 - L, 3-1 vs. Charlotte

In game one on Sunday, Marshall got off to a 2-0 set start. Charlotte fought back to win set three, but the Herd closed it out in the fourth set to take game one. The Herd's Ciara Debell led the way with 16 kills.

Game two on Monday went the opposite way for the Herd, with Charlotte winning the first two sets. Marshall took set three, but Charlotte wrapped up the match in set four.

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# THE PARTHENON

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"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

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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.

## NEWS

# Judge denies WV teachers union request to work from home

By Cassidy Waugh  
THE PARTHENON

West Virginia Judge, Carrie Webster, denies the West Virginia Education Association's (WVEA) request to maintain virtual learning until all teachers have a vaccine available to them.

The request comes out of concern for the potential exposure teachers receive from their students when they are present in the classroom. This unprecedented case out of Kanawha County will set the tone for any future injunctions in the state.

Marissa Dillon, a member of the American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia, believes the federation should decide whether the schools should maintain a virtual schedule at the local level and on a county-by-county basis.

"My biggest concern opening back five days a week where all students come back to school is that you cannot socially distance. It is physically impossible when teachers have 30 kids in a classroom," Dillon said.

Dillon is finding the most effective method of learning in the current environment is with a blended schedule. "I believe this is the best choice because it allows students to come to school and get that in-person learning while also keeping the population down to half."

The current schedule has students attending two days one week and three days the next; this allows for five in-person instructor days every two weeks.

Kristi Booton, an English teacher at Wayne High School, agrees with the judge's decision to resume a blended environment since the most at-risk population has already received their vaccinations.

"Most students don't have the skills to prioritize their education on their own and need more support and guidance from teachers in order to be successful. I feel that that is lacking with virtual learning," Booton said.

Booton believes the students reach full potential from a traditional classroom, where she currently feels safe. "The school system is working hard to keep things sanitized and safe for students and teachers."

Teachers are currently prioritized as essential workers. As of Friday, Jan. 29, Gov. Jim Justice announced that all teachers over the age of 50 who initially opted for the vaccine have received their first dose.

Those who missed the sign-up deadline are currently left waiting. All teachers remain a priority on the vaccination list; however, it is unclear when they will receive their vaccinations.

Public schools continue to rely on the color-coded map to dictate what teaching/learning style they will adhere to each week.

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## OPINION

# The glass is half full - just trust me.

By **TYLER SPENCE**  
OPINION EDITOR

Do you feel that? Something different between your friends and family, even from just a few months ago? Noticing your attitude and mind feels cloudy and more judgmental than usual?

Allow me to introduce you to our epidemic of pessimism.

As a disease continues to ravage an exhausted country, the public mood seems to have soured considerably.

Pandemic fatigue shows its side effects considerably, and the most significant contributing factor to our collective bad attitudes - pessimism.

We have heard plenty about mental health in the past 11 months; seeing the words on a screen reminds me of a borage of corporate feel-goodery our minds have had to endure for too many months. Our minds are in utter duress at best and completely broken at worst.

This fact is clear to all of us. We all are desiring one collective win, a feeling of elation and completion of a terrible time, but we often are too cynical about embracing the little victories along the way to our major triumph into a society we recognize as home. Our epidemic



THE WEEKND PERFORMING DURING HALFTIME  
OF SUPER BOWL LV - ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

of pessimism is evident in something as trivial as the Super Bowl halftime show.

Instead of celebrating the performance of a talented singer like The Weeknd, who clearly cared enough about the performance to spend

his own money due to NFL budget cuts, and the fact that there is a halftime show at a Super Bowl of any quality at all in the middle of a pandemic, the internet did what it does best - criticized and compared. In an event that may be the single most beloved spectacle in

American culture and celebrating it accordingly, we manage to choose to be unhappy about its quality. It seems that we almost make the choice to be unhappy, albeit without most of our intent.

To feel any sort of win again, we have to embrace the ones we get. Please meet and welcome my friend - relentless optimism.

Do you remember what it felt like to be optimistic? I think it might have been a long time since many of us felt genuinely optimistic. Relentless optimism would like to remind you of what the future holds and the greatness you might be looking over in front of you. It may be difficult to find any silver lining out of a year like 2020, but it's the relentless optimism that will ensure you confidence that the future will be better. If not because of your circumstances, then because of your attitude. This is most of the battle.

Seasons will continue to change. Summer will come, both literally and figuratively. Just thinking about thinking positively is exciting, isn't it?

Debunk those negative thoughts with some relentless optimism, and let's see if we can start feeling like ourselves again.

**Tyler Spence can be contacted at [spence83@marshall.edu](mailto:spence83@marshall.edu)**

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](mailto:parthenon@marshall.edu) or email the opinion editor, Tyler Spence at [spence83@marshall.edu](mailto:spence83@marshall.edu).

**SOCCER cont. from 6**

Marshall, of course, represented C-USA in the NCAA tourney last season. After winning in round one against West Virginia University, the Herd lost in round two against the University of Washington in Seattle. That night – Dec. 1, 2019 – was the last time the Marshall men’s soccer team took the field.

“It’s been about a year since we’ve been able to play competitively,” Grassie said, “so we’re chomping at the bit to finally be able to get going.”

In the hopes of Marshall fans, players and coaches, the season will begin on Saturday

at 1:00 p.m. at Hoops Family Field.

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**ART cont. from 4**

The piece itself comprises pieces of garbage that Epperly picked up around campus and pieces from their own collection. The background is crafted from garbage bags, and among the waste, there are flower and butterfly embellishments, which Epperly said represents the resiliency of the Earth.

Epperly said that their goal was to make it a large and imposing piece so that people would have to look at it and become aware of their day-to-day impact on the environment.

“The idea was that two things could arise from it. One would be that you would internalize it—how much plastic you use and make a switch to other alternatives,” Epperly

said. “The second thing would be you get upset at the companies who make this stuff, and you get inspired to take action.”

Epperly said they have always had a passion for sustainability, which started as early as elementary school.

“I remember having that mentality of children of always wanting to ask questions,” Epperly said. “I wondered why we weren’t doing anything if we knew of a way to stop it, so I actually went to my principal and asked if we could recycle our plastics.”

Epperly said they got the idea for a plastic-free campus petition from this piece, and it ended up being a way for them to get more signatures to make that goal a reality, as the University pledged to be plastic-free by 2026.

They added that their only hope is that more people become aware of the impact that plastic waste has on the planet.

Epperly’s passion for eco-activism and art translate far beyond school as well. Outside of leading Marshall’s Sustainability Club, they also run an online shop that sells jewelry, stickers, pins and various other hand-made crafts all inspired by nature and what it has to offer.

Epperly’s plastic art piece can be found in the Reading Room of Drinko Library, and their shop, Zendelphia Creations, can be found on Instagram.

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**BASKETBALL cont. from pg. 6**

UTSA Roadrunners guard Jhivan Jackson is the only player in the conference with more at the moment, averaging 19.9 points per game.

MTSU’s two leading scorers are guards Dontrell Shuler and Jordan Davis. Shuler averages 12.5 points per game, and Davis averages 11.3 points per game.

Junior guard Taevion Kinsey said it is important that the team keeps its focus and does not get distracted by little details such as playing on the road or at home.

“We are definitely keeping our focus on us and whoever we have to play,” Kinsey said. “Focusing on one game at a time, I think that is our biggest thing that is going to help us.”

Presuming the Marshall men’s basketball team does not run into any dilemmas with COVID-19, four of its last six

regular-season games will be played at home, with Rice being the only road trip left.

Marshall will face Middle Tennessee on Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. and on Feb. 13 at 4 p.m. Both games will air on ESPN+.

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**Campaign cont. from 2**

This ICenter will be advantageous to developing future business leaders at Marshall by being equipped with all the tools needed to create and start their own business.

The Marshall University Development Foundation and the Marshall Rises Campaign’s importance can be felt more now than ever before. As the world is still in the middle of a pandemic, money is not always certain.

Attending college seems further out of reach than ever before. With the help of the foundation and campaign, donors across the country can ensure that every student will rise above their circumstances and become the best that they can be. If you are interested in donating or if you want to learn more about the campaign, visit, <https://www.marshall.edu/rises/>

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**DATING cont. from 4**

“Friends are still really important, so trying to do something with them might help combat the loneliness a little bit.” said Marshall student, Caleigh Grant.

There are many ways to simulate hanging out with friends and family while still staying safe.

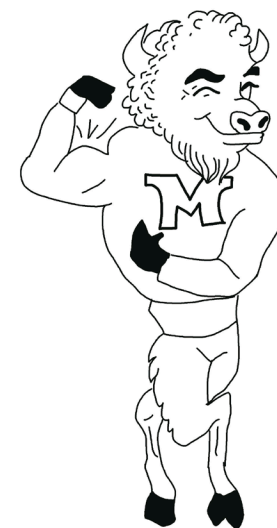
“Facetime your friends, talk to your friends, spend time with your family, show your love to them.” Senior Biology student, MaKayla Swayne, said.

Feelings of loneliness at this time are common. Mitchell recalls feeling lonely during the first few months of the pandemic and advises those experiencing it now to stay optimistic.

“I would like to tell anyone who is lonely during this holiday or this time, that things

can get better.” said Mitchell.

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## ADVISING cont. from 2

will still carry on.

Robin Taylor has been working at the University College since 2014. She has a bachelor's and master's degree in counseling from Marshall University. She enjoys working with students who are discovering the possibilities that their future holds.

"I really like working with these students who are discovering what they want to do... I really like exploring what their options are, and working like, for instance, with career education to help them explore even further," said Taylor.

"Getting all of the technology to work correctly, where everybody in the country had to make such a quick switch, that we had a lot of things at Marshall already in place that made it really really easy, but there were just a few little things that we had to kind of fine-tune," Taylor said.

Even though she has had some trouble with the technology this past year, Taylor believes she has found some positive points to the whole situation.

"I am finding that students are getting more comfortable about scheduling themselves onto my calendar to be able to talk with me," said Taylor. "It's easier in a sense to stay disconnected the way we've got things set up now, but I've found that... Where we all are kind of disconnected from our usual routines that you'll see more people reaching out to have a connection, somebody to listen to."

Patricia Gallagher has been at Marshall Since 1984 and has had previous work in the Career Services Center and the Office of the Bursar.

In her experience with this transition, she has discovered that more virtual options are great for some of her students.

"I probably had every bit as good attendance... We offered students teams meetings with video or phone appointments, and I've discovered that my advisees are shy and don't like to be on camera, so they actually prefer the phone appointments," Gallagher said.

She is glad that her attendance has increased but explained that with these phone appointments, it has been hard to get to know people she has spoken with all semester because she doesn't know what many look like.

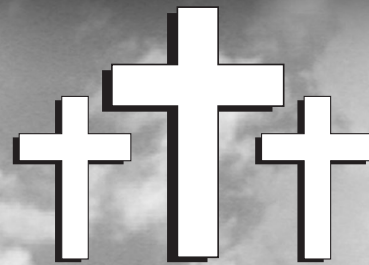
"Overall, I think the students are still missing the in-person appointments; they like that personal touch more so than we had thought," Gallagher said.

The environment she explains may not be the same; however, "I think we are able to be successful and to work with the alternatives that we have at the present and make it work," Gallagher said. "Do not be afraid to reach out, don't wait, thinking a problem will take care of itself. We encourage you to get in touch with us just as soon as you have questions or issues because the earlier you get in touch with us, the easier we can help you solve it."

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# Worship Directory



To advertise on this page,  
call Linda at (304) 526-2723

## Fifth Avenue Baptist Church

1135 Fifth Avenue  
Corner of Fifth Avenue & 12th Street in downtown Huntington

Sunday Morning Worship – 10:45 am  
Social distancing & wearing masks required

Visit our website for Worship Services  
and for other times of Bible study, worship, and activities  
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**304-523-0115**



## CATHOLIC

### St. Peter Claver Catholic Church

828 15th St. (on 9th Ave) Htgn.  
304-691-0537

Sunday Mass: 11:00a.m.  
Daily Masses: 12:05 on Monday,  
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday  
Confession by appointment

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck

428321

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA Catholic Parish & Parish School

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**Spanish Mass:** Second & Fourth Sundays of  
each month at 9:30 am

**Las misas en Español:** los domingos segundo  
y cuarto de cada mes a las 9:30 am

**Confession:** Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 pm or by appointment

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### SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

2015 Adams Ave. Huntington, WV  
304-429-4318

Mass Times: Sat. 5:00pm, Sun. 9am,  
Confessions on Sat. 4:30pm-4:45pm or  
anytime by appointment

Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-12pm

**Rev. Fr. Thomas**

HD-439348

### St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

HUNTINGTON, WV  
526 13th Street  
(304) 525-5202

Pastor: Fr Dean Borgmeyer

#### Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm  
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

428322

# The future, according to MU President Gilbert

By **TYLER SPENCE**  
OPINION EDITOR

When Marshall University announced Dr. Gilbert as its 37th president, the native Mississippian had big plans to make Marshall renowned nationally. In a time when many students are unsure of what their future looks may look like, Gilbert remains hopeful, not just for the future of Marshall University but for the entire state of West Virginia.

"We know that we got to create more jobs in West Virginia," Gilbert said.

Gilbert discussed a call he was on with Jay Walder, CEO of Virgin Hyperloop, about the testing facility under construction in Tucker County and the need for educated workers in various fields to operate and build the ambitious new facility.

He said he recognizes the combined effort it will take to enhance the future of the West Virginian economy. Between companies coming in from other states and regions and a young workforce willing to be the pioneers in the process, Gilbert said it will be challenging; however, there is hope.

"We can't expect our graduates to stay in the state if there are no jobs for them, so our responsibility as higher education is to try and work with our state government, our economic development groups, to create those opportunities to foster job creation," Gilbert said.

Gilbert sees the effect the Mountain State can have on visitors firsthand. He mentioned his daughter, who was working in Washington D.C. but was stuck doing almost entirely remote work during the first wave of lockdowns in the spring of 2020 due to coronavirus.

After visiting Gilbert in Huntington, she and her husband decided to buy a house in Charleston, and they are currently living there.

"I think there are many people like my daughter and her husband who are thinking, maybe the dense city environment is not necessarily what I have to have. Maybe a place like West Virginia, which has a lot of outdoor appeal...and then some small-large cities like Huntington and Charleston... I think you have a tremendous advantage," Gilbert said.

Gilbert's work has been far-reaching, with noticeable changes like the student center's remodeling or achieving the status as a research two doctoral

university. Still, Gilbert is just as proud of fixing minor scale problems that can often harm student success.

"Our retention rate and our graduation rate have both gone up in the last several years." Gilbert said the Friend at Marshall program created in the fall of 2019, which increased full-time freshman retention rates by 5%, a number that can be considered unheard of across most institutions.

"Normally, you see 1% or a .05% percent - but to jump 5% in one year really told me that we are doing some things right and that we are connecting with the students that need assistance."

Gilbert added on discussing the outside pressures many students feel when arriving at a university, often not being school or class related.

"If you can study, go to class, apply yourself, then you'll be successful. We'll take care of all the rest."

Despite the successes Gilbert has achieved some goals have been more challenging to achieve than others. Gilbert mentioned his desire for Marshall's enrollment to increase faster, noted by his 2017 plan to increase enrollment to 15,000 by 2021, has been reevaluated - particularly due to the enrollment crisis colleges across the country have faced due to the ongoing pandemic.

Outside of the classroom, Gilbert envisions an environment full of enrichment and unique experiences and believes time at a university is much more than a degree. That time at a university is an opportunity not just to create productive workers but also citizens who will give back to their community.

"I've always believed people should have beliefs... a set of moral guidelines in your life that guide your behavior. That gives you the orientation to live a life of integrity, meaning and respect for other people and adds to our society... We need to let our students know that we want to, not mold you but guide you in a way where you can discover what you feel is important and you become true to your beliefs, and you go out and act on those beliefs."

Dr. Gilbert gave an example from Dr. Martin Luther King saying:



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COCOMMUNICATIONS

"Dr. Martin Luther King said there were just laws and unjust laws, he believed in obeying those just laws, but the unjust laws he did not want to obey," Gilbert said, "and he was willing not to obey those unjust laws, and he was also willing to tell people he was doing it, why he was doing it, and to accept the consequences of going to jail as a result of it."

Anna Williams, Student Body President, said working with him was a pleasure and said this of President Gilbert's commitment to students and the future of Marshall University:

"He is so dedicated to students, faculty, staff, and this community. He is a forward thinker. He likes to innovate and is always considering the next step."

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