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THE PARTHENON

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In Remembrance of the 75



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President Elect Brad Smith holds student listening session - P4

FEATURE: Freshman Squirrel Girl uses psychology class to meet Toby, Brutus, other furry friends. - P10

Freshman student Kelsey Thompson sits outside Old Main a few days a week to spend time with the squirrels. The tradition began with her and her sister after a psychology class when she learned about classical conditioning... She said she wanted to know what would happen if she was a consistent force in the life of the campus squirrels.

Center for Business and Innovation Breaks Ground - P12

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Mark Miller Speaks at Annual Fountain Ceremony

By ALAINA LASTER
REPORTER

“Maybe it’s God’s will or maybe it’s fate, but I believe that tragedy not only brought us together today to celebrate the memory of these wonderful souls, but to teach us just how precious love truly is,” said Student Body Vice President Isabella Griffiths, during her speech at the Fountain Ceremony.

Students, staff, and community members gathered in the rain to remember the tragedy that the Marshall community faced fifty-one years ago when seventy-five members of the Marshall football program were lost to a devastating plane crash on Nov. 14th, 1970.

The ceremony featured speeches from Marshall University’s President Jerome Gilbert, Marshall Football coach Charles Huff, and others.

The ceremonies’ keynote speaker Mark Miller, a member of the Young Thundering Herd back in 1971, came forward to tell the community of how the plane crash changed his life.

Miller told his story of how he became one of The Herd, via a phone call to Coach Red Dawson by an old friend. Miller made the commitment, knowing little about the university and never having visited the campus. For three months, Miller was with the varsity football team.

“We were basically, our job was individual and team opposition for the varsity during practice,” said Miller. “We lived together in the dorm, we ate together at the training table, and we practiced together. We quickly grew close to our teammates and looked up to them in many ways. We had become family by mid-November as we prepared for the East Carolina game. We were there to see them off on Friday the 13th as they boarded the bus for the short trip out to the airport to catch southern flight 932 for the flight down to Greenville, North Carolina,” said Miller.

He went home that weekend. Decided to attend a church service to see some of his old high school friends, and when he arrived home the message informing the public of a plane crash flashed across the television.

“So, to answer the question that we have all asked, where were you on November the 14th between 6:00 and 8:00p.m. I was in church,” said Miller. The family remained glued to the television awaiting more details to confirm the suspicion that they already had. When the confirmation flashed on televisions across the community, many people came to their house to console his parents. They had thought that he too was on the plane.

Miller locked himself in his room, unsure of

how to handle the shock, and feelings of grief and sadness.

“Upon arriving back on campus, we spent several days attending memorial services and funerals, something I had never been to before. Parents of our fallen teammates came to the dorm to collect their personal items; they would ask members of the freshman seventy team; ‘what was he doing for the weeks prior? What’s this item in his room and the significance of it?’” said Miller.

The struggles Miller would face had just begun, and he had a long journey ahead of him. In his time recovering, Miller dealt with emotions he did not understand.

“I had never experienced such sadness, I truly struggled daily. I felt guilt if I laughed aloud or enjoyed anything, I wasn’t sure about the future of our team, or if we’d even have a team again. Campus was covered with sadness, silence prevailed, classes were cancelled, lack of direction was prevalent... Faith, hope, and after sometime a personal and team commitment was made to rebuild as that’s what our fallen teammates would want,” said Miller.

When they decided to rebuild, Miller made the commitment as so many others did to honor his teammates through the new program. He still does not understand why this tragedy happened, why here or to this family. Miller explained that some things can’t be understood.

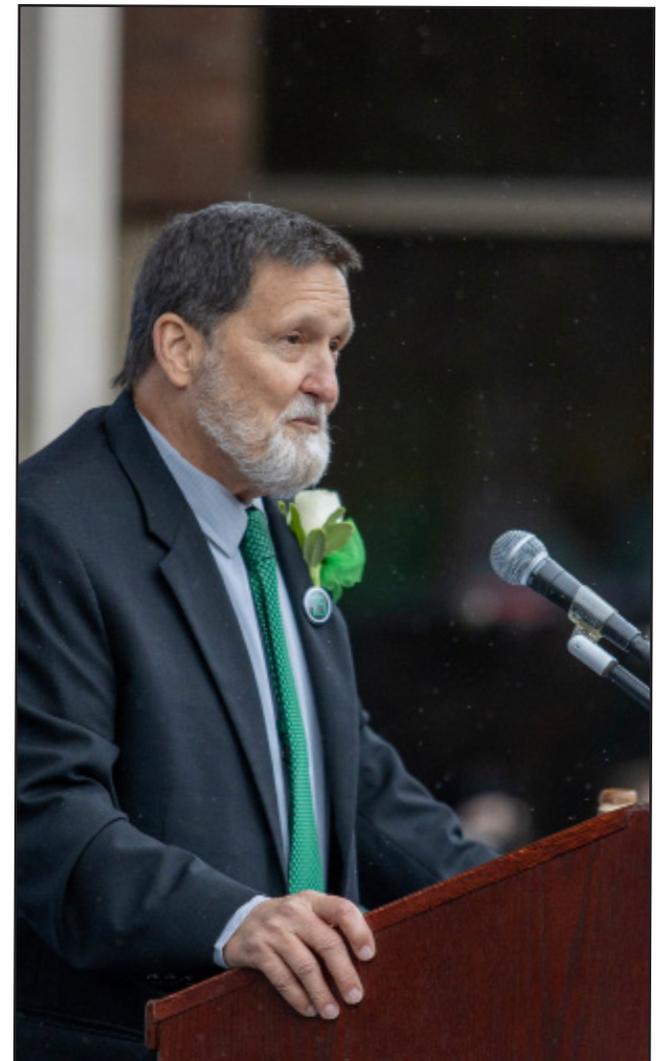
“There are no words that I can share today that will explain the why of this tragic loss. No words that will ensure peace of mind to the families and friends. Personally, as an 18-year-old member of the freshman team, I struggled with the reality of what occurred. Why did this happen? I experienced survivors’ guilt, overwhelming sadness, feelings of inadequacy. How best to honor those lost? to comfort their families? How can we identify the best approach to heal and to move forward?” said Miller.

Miller explains his coping of these feelings through a song written by Chris Stapleton, titled Broken Halos. In his speech he quoted a few lines.

“Seen my share of broken halos, folded wings that used to fly there all gone wherever they go, broken halos that used to shine. Don’t go looking for the reasons, don’t go asking Jesus why? We are not meant to know the answers they belong to by and by... Why did God allow our families, our university, our community to suffer such a tragedy. Were not meant to know the answers, they belong to the by and by,” said Miller.

After the speeches, the fountain was turned off, and players, family, and students approached the fountain to place seventy-five white roses.

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ZACHARY HISER



CAB throws Paint and Sip to Celebrate Fountain Ceremony

KAITLYN WORSTELL
REPORTER

Campus Activities Board hosted a Paint and Sip for students to enjoy refreshments, relieve stress and meet new people Wednesday.

“Students paint different themes depending on current trends, student feedback or special events”, said CAB, a student-run organization on Marshall campus. “Today’s event started four years ago because we wanted an event that led up to the Fountain Ceremony. We found it to be a popular theme and one that had a special meaning.”

Paint and Sip events have always been popular for students.

“It was upsetting, not being able to host this event in huge groups due to the pandemic,” said CAB. “However, by following the university

COVID guidelines, we are able to have this event for students and that makes us happy. We want to get students out of their rooms and build networks with us and other students around campus.”

This was the last Paint and Sip of the semester; however, there will be more next semester for students to enjoy.

“We are defiantly wanting to plan more of them for the spring semester. We also hope to maybe start new and different kinds of a events as well,” said CAB.

For more information about Paint and Sip or to see more events visit the Marshall University calendar or email CAB at cab@marshall.edu.

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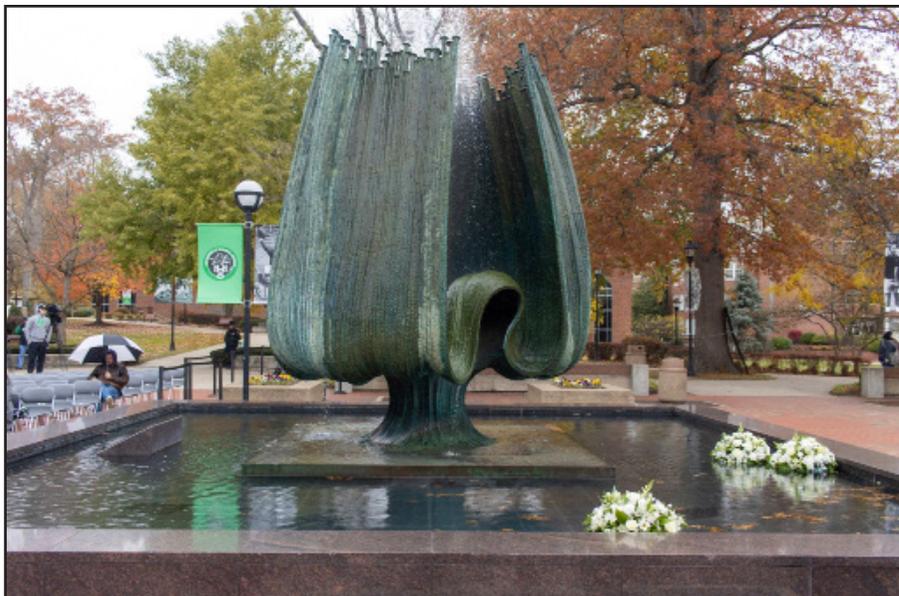


PHOTO EDITOR | ZACHARY HISER

Brad D. Smith talks with Students About University Improvements

JAYDEN TAYLOR
REPORTER

Brad D. Smith, Marshall’s president-elect, held a “listening tour” in the Shawkey Dining Room at the Memorial Student Center last Friday to hear what students think Marshall’s opportunities and challenges will be in the next five years.

The session began with Smith posing questions and discussion topics for the hour-long session. Smith asked, “If there was one thing that you could tell me to focus on as the president to make the experience better for students would that be, and what is it about your experience here at Marshall that so amazing that if other students knew, or other potential students knew, they would want to come here?”

Students said they felt diversity was a reason they came to the university, and some said they think diversity can be improved in the com-

munity. Students also said they were proud of Marshall becoming an R2 university, a research milestone awarded by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Students suggested improvements like more local food options on campus, as well as more dietary inclusive options like vegan and non-dairy foods. One student mentioned the recent tragedy on Third Avenue, as well as the recent accident of a professor being hit on Hal Greer Blvd. at a cross walk, asking if there were any plans with the city to help make those streets safer to cross. Smith said there have been discussions of different plans with the city and Mayor Steve Williams to implement and make the roads safer to cross.

Students also said they feel

Marshall should handle Title IX cases differently, so more students feel comfortable to go to school at Marshall.

One student asked if Smith was planning to host these discussions more often, even once a semester to continue to keep communication between students and himself clear. “I just feel that if he wants to be able to have a good relationship with students and do everything the right way, asking the people that are most affected (the students) about issues is the right call,” Clark Bolland, a junior business management major, said.

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PHOTO EDITOR | ZACHARY HISER

Collegiate Recovery Program Supports Students in Recovery

By ALAINA LASTER
REPORTER

The Marshall Collegiate Recovery program is an on campus organization dedicated to helping students through their recovery journey. Throughout the semester, The Collegiate Recovery Community has hosted events to help students with their recovery. The program offers group meetings Monday through Thursday, virtual and online. Each Monday they offer the "All-Recovery" group, which is open to everyone, in person from 5-6 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center, room 2W9. All-Recovery is dedicated to having people share their experiences in a safe environment, so that each person may benefit from their peers. There are several groups offered by the program to aid in student recovery. SMART recovery, which meets on Tuesdays, uses a four-point program to help change behavior. This meeting is held in person in the Memorial Student Center also room 2W9, between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Gro-Marshall meets virtually on Wednesdays to "recognize the therapeutic power of nature."

The meeting features a connection to the environment with the idea that people can grow through their struggles similarly to nature.

Smart Recovery Family and Friends meets every Thursday to help the significant others of those struggling through recovery. Thursday's meeting is in person in the Memorial Student Center 2W22 between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Rebecca Tomblin is a recovery coach for The Collegiate Recovery Community. Tomblin said as someone who has been through recovery herself, she is dedicated to helping those within the community. "I am a student and I am also a person in long term recovery, for a long time I tried to hide that and it seems like The more I am open with my professors about my past the more accepting they are of me," Tomblin said. "It just seems like I get a lot more help now that I'm honest about my substance use disorder." She has been with the Collegiate Recovery Community for over a year now, and has worked through the pandemic. She said students did not utilize the virtual options as much as they had in person in the past, but the program hopes to increase attendance again in the upcoming semesters.

"Some ways it has been affected by COVID is just the number of students that were attending the support groups has kind of backed

off and we are just now starting to get individuals back interested in attending support group meetings, and things like that," said Tomblin.

The program offers naloxone training and events to gather people going through recovery. The program is planning a tailgate for the last home football game. "We do events, like on the 30th we are going to do a sober tailgate, just sober fun events within the community and on campus," said Tomblin. They plan to host two more events before the end of the semester, one for stress relief during finals week and another to celebrate Christmas, said Tomblin. The organization runs these meetings and programs with the goal of giving back to the community, Tomblin said. She also said the Marshall community has been very supportive of her, which is just one reason she hopes to give back to those in not only the Marshall, but the Huntington community.

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Alpha Xi Delta Members Accepted to Marshall Med School

By LEEAH SCOTT
REPORTER

Three Alpha Xi Delta members Olivia Hart, Holly Edwards and Madelyn Ross achieved their goal of being accepted into Marshall's medical school, and shared with the Parthenon their challenges and experiences in their fields.

"My journey is unconventional because as a sophomore in high school I became a young mother to a little girl," Hart said. "I really had to focus on finding a career path and not giving up. This required hard work, grit, determination and drive." Hart said as a young mother, she knew she needed to plan carefully to achieve her goals.

"To many I was a societal failure," Hart said. "I want to serve as a role model to other young mothers and my daughter who may not think their dreams are achievable. Anything is possible with hard work and determination."

Hart said she is part of Marshall's BSNMD program, meaning she did not have to take the MCAT. "Your tuition for medical school is paid for through the Marshall Medical School program," she said. "This required an application my senior year of high school."

Hart said the BSNMD program allows her to graduate in three years with a full biology degree, and she will start Medical school in August 2022.

Hart said when she came to Marshall, she wanted to become involved on campus, and found Greek Life and joined Alpha Xi Delta. Hart holds the leadership roles of alumni relations director, electronic communication director and the honor board of Alpha Xi Delta. Hart recently won the Carol Topping Bar Scholarship for academic success and successes within Gamma Beta.

Holly Edwards said she has wanted to become a doctor since early high school, when she started volunteering at Thomas Memorial Hospital in the NICU.

Edwards said when she arrived at Marshall, she wanted to be involved with leadership and on campus, so she joined Alpha Xi Delta and met other girls with the same study. She took the MCAT and applied for medical school over the summer.

"I'm not sure the kind of doctor I want to be yet," Edwards said. "I love the patient-physician environment, helping someone in their physical body. West Virginia needs physicians and health care, and I am really passionate about the state."

Madelyn Ross said she started her college career as a dietetics major, but over time, she wanted to go into medicine.

I am keeping my mind open going into med school, but I can see myself being a family medicine physician," Ross said. "I want to work with the life span and provide continuity of care to prevent need for chronic care in West Virginia."

Ross said she works as a pharmacy technician, helping with

vaccinations in nursing homes. Ross said the experience helped lead her down the path to medical school.

Olivia, Holly and Madelyn hold roles within Alpha Xi Delta. Holly is the president; Madelyn is the vice president.

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Basketball is Back in Huntington

By **CHRISTIAN PALMER**
REPORTER

Basketball is back in Huntington, as both the men's and women's team at Marshall seasons are underway. Both teams have had immediate success, as the two each currently own a record of 2-0.

The Marshall women's basketball team opened its regular season with a dominant offensive performance. Scoring the second most points in the Tony Kemper era in a 108-45-point victory over Bluefield State.

"Obviously, we came out good in the first quarter," said Marshall head coach Tony Kemper. "Our defense waned a little in the second quarter. It was a great third quarter and welcome home Aaliyah Dunham. I'm so happy that she's here and I think you saw the reason why. She's a really good player and I believe she's happy to be home too."

It was a complete team effort for the Marshall women's basketball team in the victory over Bluefield State. Six different players reached double figures in scoring for the Herd, including two new additions to the team. Xavier transfer Aaliyah Dunham and Austin Peay transfer Brianah Ferby combined to score 30 of the teams 108 points. Dunham finished the game with 17 points, seven assists, six steals and two rebounds.

The Marshall men's basketball

team also opened its season with a strong offensive performance. Putting up 96 points against the Wright State

Raiders in a 96-88-point victory for the Herd.

Senior Taevion Kinsey led Marshall

in scoring against Wright State, dropping 22 points in the opener. Kinsey did most of his damage from

the free throw line, making all of his 12 attempts from the charity stripe. Andrew Taylor was second amongst Herd players in scoring with 15 points, and also lead the team in assists with 11. Redshirt Junior Grant Basile not only led Wright State in scoring in the contest, but he also scored a game high of 37 points leading all scorers.

Both of the men's and women's teams will be back in action at home this week. Marshall fans will have the opportunity to pack the Cam Henderson Center for three separate games this week.

The men's team will play two more home games this week, after already securing a victory in the Cam Henderson Center Monday against Milligan in an 80-58-point victory. Marshall will also play Campbell at home this Thursday, with that game starting at 7 PM. The team will also play on Sunday at home against Jackson State with that game starting at 4 PM.

The women's team will be back at home after a brief one game road trip that included a 68-64-point victory over Radford. Marshall will play this Friday in the Cam against Morehead State, with tipoff slated for 6 PM.

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Guard/Forward Marko Sarenac (#15)

Courtesy of Zach Hiser

Marshall Football's Win Streak Halted By UAB

By **ANDREW ROGERS**
REPORTER

The Marshall football team ended its four-game losing streak end in a 21-14 loss at the hands of the UAB Blazers on Saturday afternoon at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Marshall suffered its first loss in the annual '75' game since the program started it in 2013. "I understand fully how much this weekend means to a lot of people, myself included," Head Coach Charles Huff said. "I thought we fought hard. That's what Marshall is about. That's what Marshall will always be about." The Blazers

got out to the quick start with an opening drive touchdown. Running back DeWayne McBride scored from 3 yards out just over 2 minutes into the football game and UAB went up 7-0. Later in the first quarter, McBride scored again on a 15-yard run to make it 14-0 UAB after the first quarter. That touchdown run capped off an 11-play, 99-yard drive that over six minutes off the clock.

The Herd trimmed the deficit in half prior to intermission. Grant Wells fired a 36-yard pass downfield to wide receiver Jayden Harrison to get Marshall on the board before halftime. That late momentum built up before halftime carried over into

the third quarter. Marshall rallied to tie the game when Wells threw a screen pass to Corey Gammage who scored his first touchdown of the year. That momentum did not last long. UAB quarterback Dylan Hopkins marched his team down the field and scored on a keeper to give the Blazers the lead for good late in the 3rd quarter, 21-14. UAB's biggest drive was one that resulted in zero points. It was a fourth quarter drive that went 42 yards, on 16 plays and ate up 9:59 of the fourth quarter clock. Marshall finally had a chance late in the fourth quarter to march a comeback, but Wells threw a pass that was intercepted by UAB safety Grayson Cash that

effectively ended the game. That's a championship-level football team right there," Huff said. "They fought, battled and made some big plays in some big moments. I thought our guys fought hard, played tough all the way through. We just didn't execute consistently enough to beat a championship team. Wells finished the game 22 of 39 for 232 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. Rasheen Ali carried the ball 16 times for 41 yards. Gammage was the Herd's top wideout catching 8 passes for 67 yards and a touchdown. Marshall falls to 6-4 overall and 4-2 in Conference USA, but remains in contention to win the league's

East Division and compete for a conference championship. There is no margin for error moving forward. Two wins for the Herd to finish the season and it makes a return trip to the Conference USA Championship game.

"The course has changed, but the goal has not," Huff said. "If we were able to write the story it would be totally different, but it's not that way."

Marshall football returns to action on Saturday when the Herd travels to Charlotte for a 3:30 p.m. kickoff.

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Herd Men's Basketball Rally on Opening Night

By NOAH HICKMAN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Marshall men's basketball team won opening night against the Wright State Raiders 96-88 on Friday, overcoming an eight-point deficit midway through the second half.

Head coach Dan D'Antoni praised the opponent, saying the team played well in the latter stages of the game.

"You know whoever scheduled this game first is nuts. That's a tough season opener," D'Antoni said. "They have a very good team, I thought we fought hard. We really upped the defense at the end."

Marshall trailed 69-61 at the 11:17 mark of the second half but managed to go on an 11-3 run to tie the game at the 7:46 mark.

The game went back and forth from there until Marshall went on a 22-11 run in the final five minutes of the game.

The Herd trailed 77-76 with less than five minutes remaining and won the game, making this the first time in the last two seasons that the Herd came back when trailing with less than five minutes left in the game.

It also marks the third time in the D'Antoni era in which six student athletes scored 10 or more points: senior guard Taevion Kinsey (22), redshirt junior guard Andrew Taylor (15), freshman forward Aymeric Toussaint (13), senior forward Darius George (11), sophomore forward Obinna Anochili-Killen (11) and junior center Goran Miladinovic (10) were the ones who did just that, respectively.

The ball being spread around was needed as there were two Raiders who dominated on Friday night.

Raiders redshirt junior forward Grant Basile led all scorers with 37 points shooting 12-21 from the floor and 12-14 from the free throw line. Taylor Holden was the second leading scorer as he put up 25 points while shooting 8-18 from the floor and 8-11 from the line.

The Herd responded to the dominating performances shooting 52.4% from the floor and going 8-26 from three-point range.

They also shot 22-27 from the free throw line.

Kinsey had over half those free throw attempts as he went 14-14 from the charity stripe. He shot 4-13 from the field while posting a stat line of 22 points, four rebounds and two assists.

Taylor got a double-double in the first game of the season as he put up 15 points, a career-high 11 assists, four rebounds and three steals.

In the first game of his collegiate career, Toussaint shot a perfect 5-5 from the field while putting up 13 points and two rebounds in 10 minutes of action.

Even though there were fireworks on offense, there were also some key defensive plays that determined the outcome for Marshall.

There were 10 total blocks in the game and the Herd recorded nine. Combining for eight blocks were junior forward Marko Sarenac and Anochili-Killen; both had four blocks.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Smith should change building names with his name on them

By CRAIG CARPENER II
SENIOR, HUNTINGTON WV

When I first started at Marshall three years ago, President Gilbert was still relatively new in his executive position. Coming from an uncontroversial academic background, he seemed to be a popular pick, so I was surprised a few months ago when I heard that he was stepping down as president of Marshall. The search for a new president was done promptly and transparently, but I would be lying if I said I paid it any attention, and I hardly expected any excitement from the process. However, the appointment of Brad D. Smith as the next president soon changed that. Suddenly, it was the talk of the town that a businessman and donor was selected to fill President Gilbert's position. I heard numerous cheers from "pragmatic" citizens, and just as many jeers from Marshall's campus creatures. Many people in town were excited that Marshall would be helmed by a businessman, while many students and teachers were horrified at Brad Smith's lack of academic experience. Smith's recent multimillion-dollar donations to the university did not relieve this tension, either. I must say that I myself have no opinion on Smith's fitness to be university president, and I do not think that Smith's donations to the university were some sort of bribe (he made similar donations to West Virginia University), but I do think that we must look at the optics of this appointment. After generous donations from Brad Smith in recent years, Marshall administration decided

to name the schools of business and the new campus building after him. I find it amusing that we still do this in an era where no statue or namesake is safe from the memory hole, but it is still considered business as usual in higher education to name things after donors. However, now that Brad Smith is to be the university's new president, I think it appropriate and necessary to rename those aspects of Marshall University that have been named for him. Can you imagine President Elect Smith at a conference representing the "Brad D. Smith Schools of Business", or speaking from the currently-in-progress "Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation"? The cultivar of these inevitable situations would not be the professionalism or prestige that Marshall University seeks, but rather the appearance of a personality cult around our new leader and local millionaire. Renaming institutions is almost always a sort of insult to the previous namesake, and not a surprising or original suggestion coming from a college student such as myself, which is why I believe it should be President Smith's priority and first act of business to remove his own name from the institutions he manages. I doubt said measures will change the opinions of the university's many scornful professors, but an olive branch it will be.

The Parthenon is committed to publishing a wide variety of opinions and perspectives. If you wish to send a letter to the editor for publication, email parthenon@marshall.edu.

How getting kids to make grocery lists and set the table can improve their vocabulary and willingness to learn

OPINION

By Diana Leyva
University of Pittsburg

Reading, writing and math are often thought of as subjects that children learn in school. But as a psychologist who researches how families can help support learning at home, I have found that children can also learn those skills through everyday tasks and chores. One of these chores is preparing a meal – everything from grocery shopping and cooking to setting the table and enjoying the meal.

Our research shows this is especially true for Latino families living in the U.S., many of whom are new to school systems in the U.S. but for whom family dinners are a central part of the day.

Our study included 248 Latino parents with kids in kindergarten. Some parents were given a set of tips – described below – on how to support children’s language, literacy and math at home while selecting, preparing and eating food. Parents were asked to use these tips for at least a month. Other parents were not given these tips.

Our study found that the children whose parents were given these tips had larger vocabularies and more motivation to learn both one month after using the tips and even five months later. These children were also better storytellers and were better able to control their behavior and pay better attention compared with children whose parents were not given these tips.

Busy parents in particular loved these tips because they were easy to follow and to fit into their regular schedules and did not require extra work or special materials.

1. Make grocery lists

Parents can ask their children to write out the grocery list before they go food shopping. While older children can use letters and numbers – for example, “2 cereal boxes, 10 bananas,” younger children might be

encouraged to draw pictures of the items their parents want to buy or to use a combination of letters, numbers and pictures.

A 2017 study found that the more parents let their children try out writing and reading letters and numbers on their own while making grocery lists, the better the children’s reading and math skills are later.

Once back from the store, parents can ask children to use their grocery list to check whether the parents bought everything on the list. This is a great way for children to practice writing, reading and math.

2. Cooking and setting the table

Gathering and mixing the ingredients for cooking or setting the table are opportunities for kids to practice math in a playful and familiar way. We found that practicing math with children during these household chores can also increase kids’ motivation to learn math.

Ask your child questions such as: Can you get five apples from the fridge? I added 4 cups of milk plus one more – how many are there in total? How many plates and forks do we need today?

3. Tell stories at mealtime

Parents can use family dinner and other meals to encourage children to tell stories about their day. Telling stories about past or future events is a great way to build skills like vocabulary and story comprehension that are needed to read.

To get children to talk, parents should use lots of questions that require children to come up with their own answer rather than simply responding with a “yes” or a “no.” For example: Who came with you to the party? Where did you go with Grandma? Why were you scared?

Talking about topics that the child cares about can also help parents get children to talk. To keep the child engaged in the conversation, parents can ask follow-up questions like “And then what happened?” They can also repeat back what the child says. For example, if the child says “We went to the park,” the parent might respond “That’s right, we went to the park!” and use phrases such as “Uh-huh,” “Oh,” “I didn’t know that” and “Really?” to keep the conversation going.

4. Use the language that’s most comfortable

Parents should feel free to talk in the language they know best. Many parents might feel pressured to speak in one language – such as English – at home because this is the language used in school. However, when parents speak in the language they are most familiar with, they are better able to express their thoughts and feelings while also preserving their culture. Speaking a native language at home is not detrimental to children’s learning. When children have strong foundations in one language – such as Spanish – they can use that knowledge as a building block for learning a second language – such as English.

Our research is based primarily on Latino families, who place particular value on family meals. Latino families tend to eat together more often than families from other ethnicities. They are also more likely to cook at home and involve children in kitchen chores.

However, these tips apply to all families who regularly cook, eat and shop for food together. And they can help busy parents support their young children’s learning without much added burden or spending.

The Squirrel Girl:

How a freshman student took principles from her psychology class to make friends with Toby, Brutus and some other campus squirrels.

By Alaina Laster
REPORTER

Freshman student Kelsey Thompson sits outside Old Main a few days a week to spend time with the squirrels. The tradition began with her and her sister after a psychology class when she learned about classical conditioning. “I have a psychology class right now and we were learning about Pavlov, and his dogs,” Thompson said. “We learned about how he taught them with the bell, it’s called conditioning and really you can condition anything if you do it long enough.” Thompson said she has always liked squirrels and was inspired to test out Pavlov’s process for herself. She said she wanted to know what would happen if she was a consistent force in the life of the campus squirrels. She began early in the semester, and as it has gone on she has watched the squirrels grow more and more comfortable in her presence.

She refers to the squirrel who first accepted her food as Todd. Todd is the first squirrel who would eat out of her hand, and as he approached her more and more, many of the other squirrels followed. “Eventually it got to the point where more squirrels would come, and they would come closer,” Thompson said.

“I actually have a few squirrels now, I have been doing this all semester, that will actually climb up my leg and sit on my lap.”

As she became more familiar with the squirrels, she named more of them. Today she can spot four different squirrels.

“I name the ones that I can recognize, so there is Todd,

Gunther, there’s Brutus who has a tear in his ear, and I swear he is not afraid of anything.. I’m not sure if it’s true that squirrels have all different personalities, but I personally think they do. There is also Oakley, who I have not seen yet today,” said Thompson. She said she feels that since she has started, the squirrels around Old Main have not only become more adept to her but also to all humans. When she sees them, she notices that they are more likely to approach her even without food to offer them.

“People think it’s crazy for sure, they come by, and people will stop and ask to take a few pictures. I don’t really care I mean yea, why not? It’s kind of crazy that I am sitting here with a squirrel on my lap,” said Thompson.

Her appreciation for the creatures as well as understanding of them has also changed since she began. She has spent almost a full semester observing their behaviors and watching them grow more comfortable in her presence.

“I realized how curious they can be actually, so I had one - I think it was looking for peanuts - just jumped into my bag, and I didn’t realize it, and I turned back and having to like shove it... To get out of there,” said Thompson. Thompson has found out a lot about squirrels, and she conducted thorough research to make sure that the squirrels will be healthy when she feeds them. Squirrels can be fed peanuts and walnuts, but it is best to avoid sunflower seeds because they

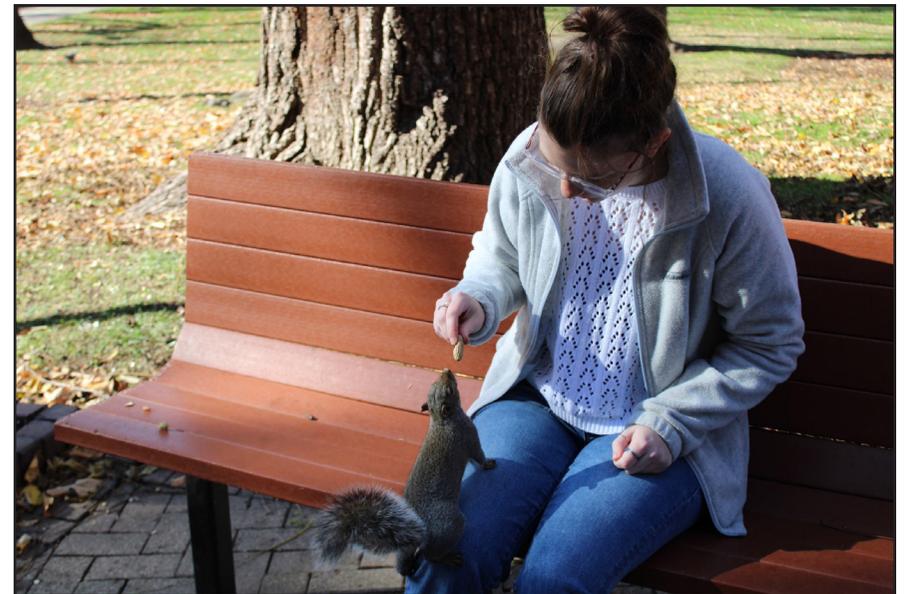
are a choking hazard.

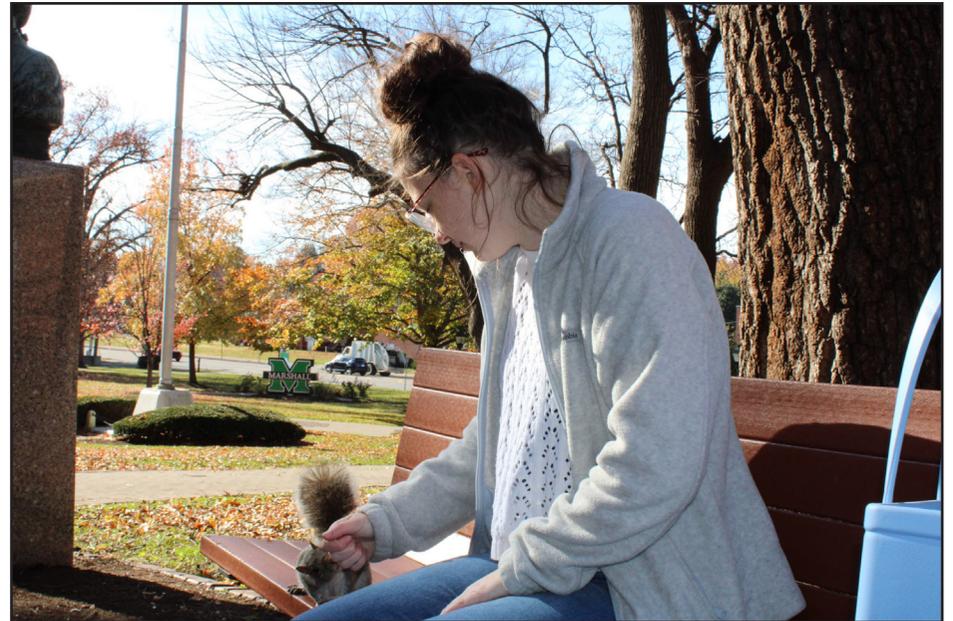
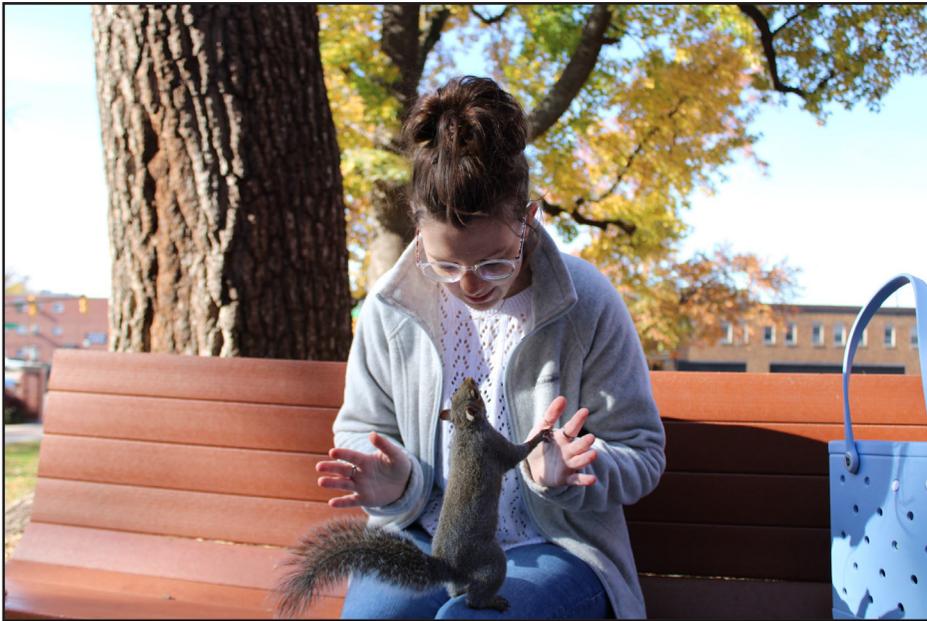
“It was just a lot of testing out which foods they liked, and which they didn’t. They did not like any healthy greens at all. Those were recommended because it’s healthier but no, they did not appreciate that,” said Thompson. The squirrels on campus are already used to humans and are slightly domesticated. It is safe for them to eat the peanuts and walnuts that she provides. “The squirrels have discovered that they can find food and a friend,” said Thompson.

“Each squirrel has a different level of how far it will go, so Todd will come sit on my lap willingly because he knows that’s how he gets peanuts now. For other squirrels I do have to toss it to them to get them to come closer and closer. It really just depends on who is out that day,” said Thompson. She said many of her friends didn’t believe her when she told them about the squirrels. She now brings them with her to show them the bond she has formed with some of the squirrels. She also mentioned how curious they are about her items such as her camera. She said that Todd is her favorite, since he was the first to trust her, but Brutus is one of her second favorite squirrels.

“Brutus is probably my number two, just because I think he is so funny. One day he decided to try out my kickflips, so he would climb up to my knee and then just do crazy jumps off of it. I don’t really know why... But that was really cool, and I was so excited about that,” said Thompson.

She said she hopes to continue with the squirrels even as it gets cooler outside. She learned after naming Brutus, that the squirrel is female. Brutus recently had kits and Thompson has watched them grow up. She even sets aside some peanuts for the little ones so that the older squirrels don’t push them around.





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Confessions

Saturday 8:25 am
Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm
or by appointment

Brad Smith, Others Break Ground on New Business Center



By CONNER WOODRUFF
REPORTER

On Wednesday, Mayor Steve Williams, Marshall President Jerome Gilbert, Marshall President-elect Brad Smith and Marshall University faculty and other community members crowded into a tent on the block of 1400 4th Ave for the new school of business' groundbreaking ceremony.

The Lewis College of Business' Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation is slated to finish construction in the Spring of 2024.

"We are taking another step closer to having a brand new, state of the art building; the Brad D. Smith center for business and innovation right here on this very spot," Gilbert said during the event's welcoming speech.

Speakers at the event discussed the five-year history of this project, having been a dream of President Gilbert's since the early months of his presidency. Gilbert shared that the project was not truly on its feet until the school received a \$25 million donation from Brad and Alys Smith in November 2018.

Because of the donation, the new school of business has been named after Brad Smith.

"If my name is ever going to be associated with anything, I would want it to be associated with this building; because this is the house that we built." Smith said.

Mayor Steve Williams elaborated on how much Marshall University means to Huntington and why this building is important.

"You can be right in the middle of the center of the world, in Huntington, West Virginia and Marshall University and can reach heights to be able to change

the directory of what is happening around the world," Williams said. "Marshall University is the heart of Huntington, West Virginia."

Attendees were given a free booklet, going into detail about the star features of the new building, featuring information about auditoriums, computer labs and other spaces.

Speakers at the event talked about what the new school of business can bring to both Marshall University and the city of Huntington.

"We can ensure that this new facility will be shaping innovators, business people and entrepreneurs who will take on the many challenges of the 21st century," Gilbert said. "We have put a lot of work into this."

We will strengthen connectivity by bringing Marshall's campus and downtown Huntington closer together," Smith said. "This is a milestone moment."

The Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation has been funded largely by a number of substantial donations from around the tri-state area.

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