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# THE PARTHENON

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**ELECTION '08**

## Secretary of State encourages students to vote in November

BY KELSIE EBERLY  
THE PARTHENON

Students gathered Tuesday at the First Year Residence Hall South to hear W.Va. Secretary of State Betty Ireland talk about several issues concerning the upcoming elections and the importance of voting.

The last day to register in West Virginia was Tuesday. Ireland and staff brought registration forms for students still wishing to vote to get registered by midnight.

"If you call Marshall University your home, you may register to vote in Cabell County," Ireland said. "You really do need to vote. You need to register to make your voice heard."

Ireland presented to students that W.Va. has an 85 percent registration rate for 18-24-year-olds, but only 8 percent of them showed up to vote in the May primaries.

"You registered, but didn't come out to vote," Ireland said. "So we try and reach out to young people to find out why you don't vote." She asked students what election officials could do to make it easier or enticing for college students to come out to vote Nov. 4.

Some students said becoming more educated on the issues would help. One student from Hawaii asked about absentee ballots.

"I learned tonight that even if you're away from home, you can still vote and that your vote still matters," said Taj Robinson, freshman music education major.

Ireland laid out several issues to open up for a question and answer session. These included primaries, the Electoral College, showing identification at the polls and issues that affect college students.

One issue students were concerned about was the suffering economy.

Ireland informed students that in the first eight days of October, the market lost 20 percent of its value.

"If the state of the economy is bothering you, you owe it to yourself to go online and see what the two presidential candidates are



TAYLOR KUYKENDALL | THE PARTHENON

Secretary of State Betty Ireland met with students in First Year Residence Hall South to persuade them to vote. Students said being educated about politics would help them vote in the future.

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## Biden, Penn urge college affordability

BY JESSICA WINTZ  
THE PARTHENON

Jill Biden, the wife of Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden, and actor Kal Penn called for change in college affordability and post-college employment in a conference call with hundreds of college newspapers across the country Tuesday night.

Biden, who is a professor of English at Delaware Technical and Community College at the Stanton/Washington campus, said college students across the country are facing a difficult challenge in paying tuition, room and board and textbooks. She said that her students often share their stories of struggle with her in the classroom.

"My students cannot afford four more years of the same failed policies of the last eight," Biden said. "More than ever before, I'm seeing students

who can't do their homework because they can't afford the textbooks. They can't drive back to the campus for extra help because gas is too expensive to make the trip."

Biden explained how Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Biden, the Democratic presidential and vice presidential nominees, have outlined a plan that would help college students and their families make college more affordable and help with the burden of applying for financial assistance.

The plan calls for creating the American Opportunity Tax Credit. This fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at a public college or university. Biden said this tax credit would help low-income families send their students

to college.

Obama and Joe Biden also want to simplify the financial aid process by eliminating the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. Instead, aid would be based on a much simpler yet equally accurate formula, so students can predict their eligibility in advance.

Families applying for assistance could do so by checking a box on their tax form, which would authorize their tax information to be used and eliminating the need for a separate application.

Penn, who recently starred in "Harold & Kumar Go to Amsterdam," said that as he has traveled across the country to different college campuses, he has heard students express concern about finding a job once they have graduated, which is an issue Obama and Joe Biden plan to address if they are elected.

"They plan to invest in the manufacturing sector that will create 5 million new green jobs," Penn said. "And this plan will help those students who will be graduating soon."

Penn said he decided to get involved with the Obama campaign after listening to the Illinois senator's keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. He said Obama offered him hope after being cynical about the political process for a long time.

Jill Biden and Penn said they hope college students who may be voting for the first time will take a closer look at the presidential candidates and vote for the candidate who will be the best leader and continue the efforts in making college more affordable for everyone.

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## Researchers seek alternative treatment for stress disorder

BY BRITTANY EVANS  
THE PARTHENON

In response to the number of veterans affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, researchers within the College of Education and Human Services have developed Operation Appalachian Soldier: Desensitizing Traumatic Memories, a pilot study for neurolinguistic programming.

Neurolinguistic programming is a therapy used to reorganize thought patterns and desensitize traumatic memories, such as those experienced with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The study was established at Marshall in 2006.

Rosalyn Templeton, dean of the College of Education and Human Services and neurolinguistic programming researcher, said the study is intended to develop scientific evidence of the effectiveness of neurolinguistic programming.

Templeton said further research depends on funding for the program. She said the research team is working with Brigadier General Sutton on securing \$5 million to \$12 million to run the project for three years.

"It is hard for individuals to realize that you can do some visualization in your head and take care of a lot of issues that haunt you," Templeton said. "We hope the pilot studies will provide a physician's statement paper that will give more credibility to the therapy."

Templeton said symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder include panic attacks, phobias, inappropriate behavior, insomnia, alcohol and drug abuse and flashbacks of a traumatic memory. The disorder can prevent sufferers from living a normal life.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder affects people who have experienced some type of abuse or traumatic situation. Templeton said the therapy also is effective in treating people with phobias and addictions.

The treatment used in the pilot study consists of three sessions of treatments that last two hours each. Templeton said during the sessions veterans will recall imprinted

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**PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

## Discovery, innovation essential for university

BY TAYLOR KUYKENDALL  
THE PARTHENON

Learning for the sake of learning may seem like a lost practice in a world that emphasizes highly specialized education, but students of Marshall have an opportunity for a more rounded education.

Marshall University President Stephen Kopp said the university's strategic vision is divided into four areas. The areas include intellectual capital, community and service, economic development, and discovery and innovation. Kopp said the four parts are largely based on West Virginia state goals for higher education.

"We need to look for ways to continue to improve innovation in all aspects of the university," Kopp said. "One aspect of that is rethinking general education



KOPP

and focusing on what matters most in terms of the overall development of our students and the advancement of their thinking."

In Kopp's strategic vision, he said the key to producing leading research and academic innovation is to examine the "crossroads of interdisciplinary convergence." The crossroads refers to the combined efforts of various departments of the university.

One of the signature initiatives of Kopp's strategic vision is to "pilot the da Vinci Roundtable Project Renaissance Program," an example of interdisciplinary convergence. The goal of the project is to produce a central group of faculty with the potential to develop as Renaissance thinkers.

A Renaissance thinker is defined in the vision as an "individual who has developed an advanced prowess for integrative/interdisciplinary thinking and transference across multiple disciplinary domains."

Kopp said Renaissance professors could then instill those virtues in others, particularly students.

Learning for the sake of learning may not be popular, but it is not new. Plato, a famous Greek philosopher, said more than 2,300 years ago, "knowledge is the food of the soul."

Adam Stephenson, 22, a music performance major from Rowan, Ind., said he thinks it is important to pursue a well-rounded education to engage in any academic profession.

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### Kopp's Strategic Vision

*Editor's note: This article on President Kopp's Strategic Vision for Marshall is part of an on-going series by Parthenon reporter Taylor Kuykendall. This article is the fifth part of that series.*

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