



Tech Collegian



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President Obama visits Charleston

By Patrick McBrayer
Staff Writer

On October 21st President Barack Obama visited Charleston to discuss the growing drug addiction problem of Appalachia – an issue that has plagued West Virginia for many years. During the visit the president faced much criticism, many blaming the drug abuse on Obama's energy policy (a call for a shift from coal to clean energy sources). Between 2012 and 2013, West Virginia lost sixteen percent of coal related jobs, according to the latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. This not only affected the coal industry, but the lives of the families connected to the coal industry.

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin was accompanying President Obama during the visit and told reporters, "Anytime you have a loss of jobs, loss of income, loss of purpose, loss of family, you're going to have people turning to different things, and that's why you'll see people today that are very upset about that, that we have taken it on the chin." President Obama made this visit to express the urgency of drug abuse in the United States noting that it is not just a statewide issue, but a national problem. Obama plans on fixing this problem by altering current drug policy to emphasize more aid for drug addicts. As a result, he has proposed a 113 million dollar budget that will provide treatment and prevention programs in hopes that this problem can be solved promptly.

Homecoming Recap

By Rhea Calica
Staff Writer

Homecoming "Around the World" was a joy this year. Between the basketball games, the parade, and door decorating contests, homecoming weekend was packed. Though few dressed up for the parade, there were a few elaborate costumes. Alpha Sigma Tau had a princess-themed float. Ariel, Snow White, and the Huntsman were just a few that made a spectacular appearance in the homecoming parade on the Alpha Sigma Tau float.

The door decorating contest was a competitive one. However, only six residents, three rooms, won the prizes. In Ratliff Hall, Tyesha and Alondra won with their



In Maclin, the residents of room 317 won. Yet, neither set took home the grand prize. That award went to Ms. Madison Stone and Ms. Kim Rush in Ratliff. Way to go all of you! I'm sure we are all looking forward to next year's homecoming blast.

Photo Credit: WVU Tech



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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 450 words, and they usually respond to a particular item or debate from the previous issue. Opinion articles are longer pieces, up to 800 words, and take the form of a longer column. No letter or opinion articles may be printed anonymously. If you are interested in contributing, email tech-collegian@mail.wvu.edu.

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Review of "The Technologists" by Matthew Pearl

By Farshid Zabihian

Guest Writer

Many people have heard of the clash between science and religion. But have you heard of the clash between science and technology (engineering)? Nowadays technology is universally considered a good thing which goes hand in hand with science. But it was not always like this!

The novel, "The Technologists" (2012), almost entirely occurs at the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston. The year is 1868 and the students of the first class of MIT are a few months away from graduation. Although MIT was founded in 1861, due to the break out of the Civil War, the first classes started in 1865. The school was established based on the European polytechnic model to train engineers and technologists badly needed for the newly industrialized United States. The teaching and research philosophy of the school put emphasis on the instruction of applied science through laboratory practices. Unlike nowadays, those days not everyone was technology friendly! Labor unions saw technology as a threat to their job security as machines were replacing manpower in factories. Also, some traditional science schools, such as rival Harvard, considered technology-based schools as disgrace to "real science". Needless to say, public and press were skeptical. MIT was the symbol of this "new science", thus the main target of attacks. While MIT was trying to convince skeptical public that it was not a threat to public safety and technology could greatly benefit the society, Boston encountered disaster after disaster. Ship compasses span out of control in Boston Harbor which caused ships to collide. Soon after, every piece of glass melted in the city downtown. Due to the nature of the events, scientific experiments, supposedly conducted at MIT, were blamed for the catastrophes. The future of the institution was in jeopardy. Four brilliant Tech students, Marcus Mansfield, Robert Richards, Edwin Hoyt, and Ellen Swallow (the only female student at Tech) got together to solve the mystery. Their mission was to save their future, Tech, and the city. To provide a cover for their investigations, they revived a secret society called, what else, "Technologists". While they were close to find the cause of the first two events, other disasters fell upon the city; water pipes froze, boiler exploded, and even worse, poisonous gas was released during a major parade. The novel provides scientific explanations for the events, though often not an accurate one. Beside its scientific theme, the clash of social classes in the nineteenth century Boston society, particularly in academic environment, is smartly integrated to the story line. The main characters of the novel are representing working class, aristocrats, intellectuals, and women and their interactions and behaviors mimic the nineteenth century society in the US. To sum up, if you would like to read a science, mystery, and historical thriller, this is the novel to read.

About the author

Matthew Pearl (1975) is an American novelist. He has authored four historical novels, *The Dante Club* (2003), *The Poe Shadow* (2006), *The Last Dickens* (2009), and *The Technologists* (2012). Setting in most of these novels is his home city Boston. Ironically, he received one of his degrees from Harvard, MIT's biggest rival.

24 Hour Extra Life Charity Stream

By Rhea Calica
Staff Writer

On Saturday, November 7th, the Golden Bear Esports club was lucky enough to host a 24-hour long stream in partner with Extra Life. The stream began at 9am Saturday and ran until 9am Sunday. The Club streamed a variety of games including Heroes of the Storm, Hearthstone, Destiny, Super Smash Brothers, Mario Maker, Final Fantasy XIV, and many others. Each of the team members streamed their own games on their personal twitch accounts, while the main stream was through the GBE account.

It was a long and tiring day for the members, but it was all worth it. The goal for the club was \$1,000, however, it was unfortunately unobtainable. However, the club did manage to raise a whopping \$641 with the biggest thanks going to Nathan Hudson for his staggering fundraising skills. All of the donations received will go to the WVU Children's Hospital.

In addition to fundraising for the children, some of the club members and all of the officers have promised to dye their hair if individual goals were met. The club intends to do another fundraising charity event in the Spring semester. Let's all wish them luck for the event to come!

Patrick's Observations



Ask Monty

Dear Monty,

Everything around here is so stressful. My classes are taking up a lot of time. I don't have any friends anymore. I don't have any free time. I feel like I'm losing my life. Any ideas on how to fix it? I need all the help I can get.

Signed,
Ready to Explode

Dear Ready to Explode,

Stress is a normal part of college life. I'm sure if you seek out your friends, you will find that they are still there for you. Chances are, they've been really busy too. The only advice I can offer is to find someone you can talk to about everything. One of my best friends and I have long talks about all of our problems, but we also take the chance to hang out and relax when we're together. Take a break in between your homework and listen to music or dance like a fool, or watch some Netflix. Try not to overload yourself. I'm certain everything will get better for you.

Sincerely,
Monty

Dear Monty,

My roommate and I got along really well at the start of the year. Now, she's being really distant and angry. I don't know if she's just taking it out on me because we live in the same room or if it's me she's really angry at me for a reason I don't know. I'm not sure if I should ask her what's wrong or if I need to just let her be and deal with it. Any suggestions?

Please Help,
Hurt and Confused

Dear Hurt and Confused,

In some cases, you and your roommate just reach different viewpoints on how things should be. Regardless, ask her what has her so upset. If she doesn't want to talk to you, then let her have her space for the day. While you let her have some time, go talk to Vicki Shaw or Dr. Hall or Dr. Lieving. They may be able to offer some further insight or be able to get your roommate to open up. No matter what, let your roommate know you're there for her, too. Maybe she just needs a friend to talk to. Good luck.

Signed,
Monty

Basketball Season Preview

By Seth Greensage
Staff Writer

In terms of their games, the team is not necessarily concerned with their record until conference games roll around. The Golden Bear basketball teams are each set on the same goal: a conference championship. The men and women both have exceptionally difficult schedules, so all of their games leading up to conference are simply preparing them for conference. Both teams have been plagued by injury, so much so that there are players who have to jump off the IR and on the court. While these athletes are undergoing a vigorous practice schedule, workout sessions, study hall, class, and dealing with the everyday stress of any other college student, hopes and attitudes are still soaring, these athletes have been working extremely hard in an attempt to reach a championship. While the men are currently off to a 2-3 start and the women are off to a 2-1 start, hopes are high due to the immense depth of talent on the team. The women's leader in points, rebounds, and blocks is 6'1 center Rocio Ruiz- Berdejo, while the women's leader in assists and steals is guard Savannah Shamblin. The men's leader in points, assists, and steals is 6'2 guard Ryan Atkins, the leader in assists is 6'9 forward Patrick Gnagbo, and the team leader in blocks is 6'6 guard Paul Stone.

Men's Soccer

By Krystin Barton
Staff Writer

Last year WVU Tech lost their head coach and the team was left to Coach John Dunn. After Coach Dunn took on the Head Coaching job at Tech, we all wondered what would become of the very successful men's soccer team, who were champions the last two years. Having the team only one season, Coach Dunn has proven he can lead and coach a team with great success. This season the men only lost two games, each to Rio Grande. The men's soccer team followed Coach Dunn's lead and became the runner-up of the conference tournament. For Coach Dunn's first year being head coach, he has a lot to be proud of and so do the men's soccer team. They had a great winning season and Tech cannot wait to see what they will accomplish in the years to come.

Women's Soccer

By Krystin Barton
Staff Writer

WVU Tech Women's soccer team was taken over by Coach Stephanie Kot two years ago and ever since she has been trying to make the women's soccer program successful again. Coach Kot is assisted by Coach Sierrah Soto, who played for Tech for four years. Coach Kot has spent the last couple of years on this program trying to build it up, trying to find women who not only have talent for the game of soccer, but also have a love for the game. Only one year after taking over the women's team, Coach Kot made it happen. This year was a record breaking year for the women's team. They have won more games in a season this year than any year since at least 2007, winning 14 games and only losing 6. The women have also scored more goals this season than they have since at least 2007, scoring 45 goals. Not only did the coaches have a dream of breaking records and making the women's soccer program successful again, but the players did as well. The women's soccer team are known for their saying by Caitlin Foster "One Team One Dream". They had a dream to break records and to have a season that will be remembered and they did with a winning season and being runner-up in the conference tournament. The women's soccer team have proven that they have what it takes to make their dreams come true.

Being Away from Home during the Holidays

By Krystin Barton
Staff Writer

Spending the holiday seasons away from home and away from family can be difficult, especially the first time you have to do it. Many college students are in the same situation of not being able to go home from the holidays. Although you may be upset and missing your family, you still should make the best of the situation you are in. Families are important and holidays are a special time to be with your family, but there is still good that can come out of spending the holidays away from home. Here are some tips to make it easier to survive the holidays away from home.

First, you shouldn't stay on campus the whole time and be thinking about what you are missing at home. You need to get out of the dorms, go off of campus, and take an adventure around West Virginia. There are plenty of historical sites, parks, and activities in West Virginia that you can go see in your new found spare time. A lot of students don't take the time to explore West Virginia, but while

you're stuck on campus you have the opportunity to explore.

Next, you can find small projects to do to keep you busy so you don't have time to overthink about missing home. You may want to do small projects for your family such as picture projects, making ornaments, or even finding small projects on Pinterest to do. Having projects to do will help keep your mind busy and it is a good way to make little things you can send home to your family so your family knows you are thinking of them.

Having this time to yourself on campus is a great time for you to do something you have been telling yourself you want to do. This could be something you love to do but have been so busy with school that you haven't been able to do it or it could include something new that you have been wanting to try. This could be learning chess, playing an instrument, singing, writing or anything you have been wanting to do or have been wanting to try. You should do things that you do for you. Do something that you enjoy doing. You may want to work out, play a sport, play video games, or read. Just do something that makes you happy. This will help you not be stressed about being alone and it will help keep you busy through the

holiday season.

Even though you're far away, you should still contact you family. Just because you cannot be with your family on the holiday doesn't mean you can't contact them. You should talk to them about how you feel not being home. It's okay to miss home and to miss your family, it's even okay to cry but letting out how you feel is always better than keeping your emotions bundled up inside.

Lastly, spend time with others. There are a lot of other students that will be staying on campus through the holidays so get together with them and do some holiday activities that you would normally do at home. Even if you don't know anyone who stayed on campus it's a great time to meet new people or spend the time with friends you already had. Another good way to spend time with people is to volunteer. There are many places that need volunteers especially around the holidays.

Although being away from home on the holidays isn't something that anyone wants to do, sometimes we don't have a choice and you have to make the best of it.

Poetry Corner

"The Drunken Love Poem?"-

You said we may talk again somewhere down the road, but that road is too long for me. Every miles gives you one more reason to fall out of love. So what since does it make when we've fallen this hard, but I always promised I would catch you?

Contradiction is a killer, so let's just not. I need a chance. You can be the shoe, and I can be the street. So you know, no matter where you go, I'll always be holding up your feet.

I can wait, of course I can.

Give me hope to hold on to, and faith will carry the broken man but,

Kill one and you're a murderer, kill them all and you're a God. But what if you kill the wrong ones, and you've failed you're only job?

Pain is only a figment, keep telling yourself it doesn't hurt, and eventually you'll be fine.

But the more you waller, the more you vogue in yourself. Searching for deeper meaning or reasoning behind this given cataclysm. You hurt, not the kind that can be fixed with a pain pill or a bandaid, but the pain that linger inside of you for months on end. The kind of pain that you want to let go of so bad, but you know if you do, it will come back harder and faster. Like the cancer patient who just hit remission.

It's a lie. It's just the period of time between pain. So you let go.

God was just nice enough to give us a blindfold for the bigger picture.

Professor Spotlight

By Patrick McBrayer
Staff Writer

Dr. Ranjith A. Munasignhe is a professor and the department chair of WVU Tech's Computer Science and Information Systems Department. We had the opportunity to ask him some questions relating to his life, interests, and education.

What are your research interests?

I am interested in two areas:

- a) Machine Vision: More specifically, I am interested in pattern recognition and Image Processing.
- b) Theory of Continua: This is a specialized area in the branch of Mathematics called Topology.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

I do not have much time for hobbies any more. I play chess when I have time. I used to play card games also. I still read more than I play games. I also play Ping-Pong.

Who are some of your key role models/what inspired you to become a professor in your field of study?

My high school principal inspired to excel in what I do. I think many of my teachers impressed me. When I was in classroom and doing well, I felt most comfortable as a kid. I came from an underprivileged background (mostly economically) and teachers (most of them) made me feel special and hopeful.

What are some of your goals in life?

I always wanted to travel and see the world.

Do you have any advice for students?

Choose a good senior project. Find an internship in your field before you graduate. Both will help you to find better employment. Pay more attention to grades. Employers look at your GPA. You should have fun in college, but if you fail in your primary goal (getting a degree), it wouldn't be memorable experience.

Poetry Corner (continued)

"I miss it, that's all":

The bittersweet symphony called life finally stopped playing.

Your band was confused on which tune they were in, so they found a place to quit.

There IS a difference between giving up and moving on. Giving up is the camel who was so broke, he couldn't carry the last straw.

But moving on is leaving the straw there to find something more worth his time.

The beauty that is underlined by every intricate imperfection I call "you" is so amazing, I want to show everyone.

Then I lost you. I lost who you are. But I remember who you were, I remember who I fell in love with. And that's what I'm holding on too.

I lost you because you lost yourself. YOU lost who you are. YOU gave up. YOU ended the extraordinary chorus of your being, and you are no longer playing amongst the stars.

Or maybe you did move on. Working for something better, whatever you think is waiting.

All I know is that I miss you. With every inch of my being, I miss you. I miss your song every time I saw you, and not being able to help myself when I dance to the rhythm of the way our hearts beat.

This was my phenomena. My 8th wonder of the world. The most beautiful sounds ever heard which will cease now.

Maybe it was too much for us. Maybe the Lord thought you were more, that we didn't deserve your grace.

The most painful part of all of this is that maybe, he was right.

Now it's done.

-Kenney Plumley

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment." - Buddha

On this day in history...

November 16, 1907 - Oklahoma admitted as the 46th state.

November 17, 1869 - The Suez Canal opened in Egypt, linking the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

November 20, 1789 - New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

November 22, 1963 - President John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, TX.

November 24, 1969 - *Apollo 12* landed safely in the Pacific Ocean.

November 26, 1917 - The NHL (National Hockey League) was formed in Montreal, Canada.

November 27, 1901 - The Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

November 29, 2004 - *Godzilla* received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

November 30, 1966 - The former British colony of Barbados became independent.

Thanksgiving Recipes

Oven Roasted Thanksgiving Turkey

Ingredients

1 (10 to 12-pound) Premium Basted Young Turkey, thawed, giblets and neck removed

Directions

Cook turkey as specified on the package. Roast until timer pops up and turkey is fully-cooked, 180°F as measured by a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the thigh. Always confirm doneness with a meat thermometer. Juices should run clear. Let stand tented with foil 20 minutes before carving.

Make-Ahead Mashed Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients

3 pounds sweet potato

2 tablespoons butter

1/3 cup sugar

1/4 cup maple syrup

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

Heat oven to 400°F. Place sweet potatoes on baking sheet. Bake 55 minutes or until tender. Let stand 5 minutes; scoop pulp into large bowl. Mash with potato masher or process through a ricer until smooth. Stir butter, sugar, maple syrup, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and vanilla into sweet potatoes. Place in lightly greased, 2-quart baking dish. Bake 30 minutes or until bubbly. Bake and mash these potatoes up to two-days prior to Thanksgiving. Then, day-of, simply stir in seasonings and bake for 30 minutes or until bubbly.

Honey Roasted Carrots

Ingredients

1 pound small carrots, cut in half lengthwise

2 tablespoons butter

1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary

1 teaspoon garlic salt

2 tablespoons honey or maple syrup

Directions

Heat oven to 400°F. In baking dish, combine carrots, butter, rosemary and garlic salt; stir to mix. Roast 45 minutes. Drizzle carrots with honey; toss to coat. Roast 10 minutes or until carrots are tender and glazed.