

# Crimes in Closets Podcast Ep

📅 Mon, 11/8 8:35AM ⌚ 26:19

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

marshall, podcast, campaign, favorite, students, people, aviation, program, event, campus, marshall university, community, celebrating, case, uab, listen, episode, life, attend, neat

## SPEAKERS

Kasey Stevens, Larry Crum, Cristy Skofield, Matt Hayes, Beth Gordon

---



**Kasey Stevens** 00:02

Hello and welcome to the One of the Herd podcast the official podcast of the Marshall University Alumni Association. The world is scary, people suck, hide in your closet is the tagline for the podcast Crimes and Closets, hosted by Marshall alumna Beth Gordon and her best friend, Christie Schofield will get to hear about their true crime podcast today that celebrated its first birthday in March. And as always, before we get to the interview, let's check in with our alumni staff for an update of what's new on campus. Welcome back to the One of the Herd podcast, we're here with Matt, Larry and myself for our staff chat this week. It's been a very busy fall. But upcoming, you know, early next week is our annual fountain ceremony where we get to honor the lives of those lost in the 1970 plane crash.



**Matt Hayes** 00:57

Yeah, and we're, we're, we're really looking forward to this year's event. The committee has put a lot of time into planning and preparing for this year's event. We're returning to more of a traditional format for this year's ceremony. If you attended last year's ceremony the 50th Memorial, we were very spaced out. We had, we had folks out on the field in front of both Buskirk Hall. And but this year, we're bringing ever tried to bring everyone back to the plaza be right near the fountain again. And the hope is that, you know, even though you know we're still in the middle of this pandemic, it's you know, we're we're doing the best we can and hoping that that things continue to get better. But we will have the the safety measures in place. You know, we'll encourage folks to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status, but you know, hopefully everyone that can will come out and be part of this very special event with the Marshall family.



**Larry Crum** 02:09

You know, all the events are so emotional and well put together and last year's, it just had an extra emotional element to it being 50 years and then, you know, this year is 50 years for the 1971 Young Thundering Herd. That's right. It just it's a special week, a special weekend. And, you know, it's just it's a neat event, and I'm glad we're gonna be able to return to some form of normalcy.

M

Matt Hayes 02:35

Yeah, me too, really looking forward to that event.

K

Kasey Stevens 02:38

Absolutely. It's a beautiful tribute and way to honor those folks. And speaking of football upcoming, we have a home game against UAB. UAB, famously, well famous to Conference USA, Cut their football team in December of 2014, due to funding, but that program resurged in the summer of 2015. So wait about six months without a football program. But recently, just last year, beat us in the Conference football championship

M

Matt Hayes 03:06

What a comeback.

L

Larry Crum 03:07

Yeah, what a come back story already. I mean, you lose your entire program, the you know, people wanted it back. And they brought the program back. And then, you know, a couple years later, five years later, their conference champions. Yeah, they're a tough team.

M

Matt Hayes 03:21

They really are. And on top of winning a championship, they have brand new facilities, they just build a new stadium. So there's got to be a lot of excitement at UAB, around the football program right now. So we're hoping that, you know, we can maybe take a little chip out of that excitement, you know, introduce a little bit of thunder.

K

Kasey Stevens 03:44

Absolutely. And speaking of thunder, you know, the Marshall University Foundation has really brought the thunder in the recent years with the success of our Marshall Rises campaign. And that success is starting to be visible on campus with the addition of new banners. And we have got some exciting new events coming up next spring.

L

Larry Crum 04:03

Yeah, we've talked before about the the Marshall Rises campaign and the and the success that it's had. I mean, two years ago, we made the public announcement that the campaign was was happening, the public phase of the campaign and, and here we are celebrating, you know, reaching and surpassing that goal, right. And, you know, now we're celebrating that all across campus. You can't go anywhere on campus without being reminded of this incredible campaign. That's actually, you know, changing the face of the university. There's going to be, you know, new buildings and new facilities and new programs that

are going to come out of this. And all across campus. There's banners and there's signs. And I know, you know, we weren't able to have some events this fall, but in the spring we plan on celebrating that with with a big event kind of commemorating and celebrating that Marshall Rises success.

**M** Matt Hayes 04:52

Yeah, the success stories are just plentiful out of this campaign experience for Marshall University. Marshall Rises, you know, 1/3 of all the gifts given to this campaign, were from first time donors. And that's significant for us because we're expense we're very, very aggressively expanding our donor base. That is great for us. On top of that, we have experienced a 44% increase in scholarship support.

**L** Larry Crum 05:24

That's what I'm excited about.

**M** Matt Hayes 05:25

Yeah, as a result of this campaign, there are now 500 more students on our campus who are receiving scholarship benefits now that weren't prior to Marshall Rises and the campaign. So yeah, it's making its mark on Marshall University, and it's, it's heading in the right direction, we are definitely rising.

**L** Larry Crum 05:44

And the neat thing about the campaign is that it's, it's not, you know, some people get the, the headlines with, with the major gifts that you see. But every gift matters, I mean, every little gift that comes across, people don't always see that they give a gift to the University and, and don't always, you know, see an immediate impact. But when you know that there's 500 new students that may not have been able to attend Marshall, maybe not have been able to attend college that are here because of the generosity and giving of, of the Marshall family, it's really impressive to think about.

**M** Matt Hayes 06:16

It really is it you know, Marshall, we're, we're an institution with a high percentage of first gen college students.

**L** Larry Crum 06:24

Absolutely.

**M** Matt Hayes 06:25

You know, so many of our students, you know, they don't have the family legacy of, you know, both parents and grandparents having attended college or graduated from college, you know, and that makes us special in a lot of ways. And so, you know, to be able to provide these types of opportunities, it really

has an impact on our community, upon our state, and the local economy, the region. And then what what our graduates can go on and do, how our lives can be transformed, and, and the doors that will open for these individuals, as a result of earning a degree at Marshall University. You know, it's a game changer for a lot of these families.

L

Larry Crum 07:09

The neat thing about that stat about first gen students is that there's so many first gen students that are coming through, that are creating that legacy down the line of, you know, you talk to anybody that has gone to Marshall, there's some families you've talked to that have 3, 4, 5, you know, generations that have attended Marshall, and now we're creating that we have these new students that are coming in, that are getting that Marshall experience that are going to go out and, you know, they better bring their kids here.

M

Matt Hayes 07:37

We hope so!

L

Larry Crum 07:38

That's exciting. It's creating a legacy a future legacy of future Marshall alumni,

M

Matt Hayes 07:44

Right on, right on. That's what we want.

K

Kasey Stevens 07:47

Absolutely. And one of those ways we are bringing in new Marshall alumni is through the new aviation program. So we're working with FAA right now to offer to degree programs that will prepare students for careers in the aviation industry. And guys, I heard that program is really taking off.

L

Larry Crum 08:07

You know what's neat is but we got to attend the the ribbon cutting for the aviation ceremony.

M

Matt Hayes 08:13

What a great event!

L

Larry Crum 08:14

What an event! That was so neat. We had they had the planes on display. Let's talk about the planes for a minute

minute.

**M** Matt Hayes 08:19  
Oh, so cool.

**L** Larry Crum 08:20  
I mean, yeah, I was. I wanted to get behind the is it the wheel? What do you what are you getting behind?  
I've never flown, you know,

**M** Matt Hayes 08:27  
But I don't know. But I know what you mean.

**L** Larry Crum 08:29  
Yeah. I think just the planes are so

**M** Matt Hayes 08:32  
The controls?

**L** Larry Crum 08:33  
The controls? Yeah, they're so state of the art. They're beautiful. I mean, when you see these things flying all over the tri state, I noticed that there's a Marshall M underneath of it. So it's right. Everywhere these planes go. There's the Marshall presence. And the event itself was just so well done and really deserving of this kind of program that we're bringing here to Marshall.

**M** Matt Hayes 08:55  
Yeah, yeah. The facilities of the aviation school. The Bill Noe aviation School of Aviation, is first class have they spared no expense. They did it right. And students are going they're starting with a, a smaller number of participants and students in the program to begin, but it they plan to aggressively expand that very soon and offer it to many, many more students. So if you're interested in pursuing a career in aviation, I understand that's one of the career fields right now. Where there are more positions than there are qualified graduates to fill. This is a great opportunity for you and you know, you can do that at Marshall University and come out with all of the credentials everything you need to be able to step right in to a position with in aviation wherever you want to go.

**L** Larry Crum 09:55  
.. .. .

You could say the sky's the limit.

**M** Matt Hayes 09:57  
Ah haha.

**K** Kasey Stevens 09:59  
This thing has really gott off the ground quickly.

**M** Matt Hayes 10:01  
Oh my goodness and the puns keep coming.

**L** Larry Crum 10:03  
On fire.

**K** Kasey Stevens 10:04  
And I would really feel assured and I just would love it if I got on a flight and the pilot had on a little Marshall lapel pin.

**M** Matt Hayes 10:11  
Oh Would that not be cool too sweet.

**K** Kasey Stevens 10:14  
That about wraps up our podcast chat for today with the staff. Stay tuned for our chat with the Crimes and Closets ladies.

**M** Matt Hayes 10:24  
The Marshall University Alumni Association is proud to announce a new community partnership with the Woodlands Retirement Community. Woodlands Retirement Community is a premier continuing care retirement community in Huntington, West Virginia for people ages 55 and over. The campus occupies 171 acres of spectacular property that overlooks hilltops, and valleys in the area. For more information about woodlands retirement community, visit [www.woodlandswv.com](http://www.woodlandswv.com).

**C** Cristy Skofield 11:00

Honestly, like, I mean, I had to listening to True Crime podcasts for years, and would just talk to Beth about it. And she thinks that I was crazy at first for listening to that kind of stuff. But then she herself got into it. And we kind of started joking around about oh, we should do it ourselves. Why not? We could be good at that. And then it just kind of started to turn into more serious conversation, not just joking, and we just went with it. And of course, it coincided with the beginning of COVID. Even though that really wasn't our plan, like we had started talking about it well before that even started, but that's when we started. So I think we became one of 1000s that started during that time.

K

Kasey Stevens 11:39

That's fantastic. How do you guys choose like which episode topics are going to cover?

B

Beth Gordon 11:44

I mean, I think a lot of it has to do with crimes that just intrigue us where we're pretty dialed in at this point now. So what you know is going on as far as like in the true crime community, but we get a lot of suggestions from people who listened to us that are from small towns and knew somebody who knew somebody, and they want to hear us cover a specific case. And we get a ton that way. And we really love those because there's always a connection to a listener. And we get tidbits sometimes that you know, the media or journalists or things like that probably aren't going to share so.

C

Cristy Skofield 12:19

And I think it also like helps to do those because if we do a listener suggestion, then they might even be more inclined to say, hey, go listen to this podcast, I listened to you because I made this suggestion. And you know, like, they may share us with their friends more than if they normally you know the normal, so

B

Beth Gordon 12:37

I don't, Yeah, they're personally connected to us at that point then, too. Yeah.

K

Kasey Stevens 12:41

How much research do you guys put into each episode? Like, how many hours does it take before you're like, Okay, we're ready to record ready to get this roll on?

B

Beth Gordon 12:50

A lot. Yeah, I would say we probably put in at least six to eight hours a week. Yeah, I'm just hardcore researching. Sometimes there are books to read. Sometimes there are documentaries to watch. Sometimes there's a bunch, where sometimes we have to request documents FOIA requests, autopsy reports, things like that. They take time to come in. So a lot.

K

Kasey Stevens 13:20

So really, you guys aren't just hosting a podcast, you're really acting as almost investigators.

B

Beth Gordon 13:26

Well, sleuths, I guess.

C

Cristy Skofield 13:28

To a certain extent, we're reading a lot of news articles and watching documentaries, you know, and like she said, every now and then it's requesting some sort of report or whatnot but yeah.

K

Kasey Stevens 13:40

What has been your favorite episode to record so far? Now that's a little strange because of the content of your podcast, but what has been the most like intriguing one, I guess.

B

Beth Gordon 13:51

Oh, gosh, do you want to go? Do you know Christy cuz I have to think.

C

Cristy Skofield 13:54

Well, I mean, this was probably just gonna sound like it's just because it was the most recent one. It's the one I remember. But this last week, which Sheila Davaloo, she's just, as we mentioned, a loony bin and it was interesting the twists and turns it took, I think so. I don't know, I feel like that one may have been my favorite also. I felt like our interaction was cool on that one, too.

B

Beth Gordon 14:21

I think honest to goodness, and I did not plan to say this. But I think my favorite case that I have researched personally is the Leah Hickman case which actually took place right in Huntington. She was a Marshall student. And I knew all of the places that was everywhere and all of the reports and any anybody that any you know, any place anybody was talking about I was I personally could picture it in my head and it's unsolved, which, when they're unsolved like that, they don't, they stick with you. That's something that you know, you think about occasionally, what actually did happen to her? Who did do this horrible thing to her? We just don't know. And so you don't forget those cases. And occasionally we'll Google her name just to see if anything ever comes up about her. So I think I was really personally connected to that case for a lot of reasons.

K

Kasey Stevens 15:12

I've seen that you guys, after some podcasts will do a petition or link to it in your Instagram bio. Have you guys seen progress on that? And you're getting your following to kind of fill out those petitions and get



guy's seen progress on that? And you're getting your following, to kind of fill out those petitions and get progress to be made on some of those cases?

B

Beth Gordon 15:30

I think so. I mean, I know that Christy, you posted a link about a petition for a guy who was up for parole. Do you what how can you speak to how you felt like, the response was to that?

C

Cristy Skofield 15:41

Well, I mean, I saw a lot of people would, you know, would comment in our social that they did it and whatnot. But I haven't seen progress towards it. Because it's something that's not I think, up until July. So whether or not it's helped anything is kind of yet to be seen for that one, for sure. But I mean, people seem to respond to it. And we're definitely going on to sign it that at least that's what they say that we are doing. So.

K

Kasey Stevens 16:07

that's awesome. And I think that's a great way you guys are making a difference for sure. What is the most rewarding part for you all about doing the podcast?

B

Beth Gordon 16:16

I think for me, it's, I mean, I love spending time with Cristy, her and I are great friends, we've been friends for years, and we just have such a good time together. And it's almost like building a business with your best friend is really fun. And it's like an exciting thing. And there's no pressure, we just, you know, do it for fun. And I really love that about it having that with her that something her and I will have forever. And I think just connections with other people, other podcasters our listeners, these are sensitive things that we talked about. And I think that we really are able to connect with, you know, the people that are kind of in our bubble that listen and support us. And I think that's been really fun.

C

Cristy Skofield 17:00

Yeah, I would agree with you on all of those specifically, well, specifically doing it with my best friend, meeting community like true crime community, other podcasters we've made some friends that we weren't expecting. And I would also say, just seeing how far it's actually gone. When we started, we were like, five people are going to listen to us, you know, mom, dad, sisters, we never expected to like, not that we're huge or anything yet, yet. But we definitely have way more listens than we ever even dreamed that would happen. So.

K

Kasey Stevens 17:35

That's awesome. And especially just like being a year old podcast and your guys success through COVID has been amazing. Did you guys ever imagined that that would happen?

B

Beth Gordon 17:45

No, I think it is very safe to say that we did not and we a lot, I think there was a lot of conversations that her and I would have that would be like, you know, how long are we going to let it go? You know, like, we'll see how it goes. But how far is it really gonna go? And, man, it's just it's really, it's been like a train. It's kind of been pushing us forward. And we're in it now. So. But it's been amazing. It's been absolutely the best surprise ever.

K

Kasey Stevens 18:11

What advice would you give to someone trying to start a podcast?

C

Cristy Skofield 18:16

Do your research.

B

Beth Gordon 18:18

And buy a good mic.

C

Cristy Skofield 18:20

Yeah, definitely buy a good mic and do research on the like a good way to start. You know, I feel like there were things that we could have even done better. That may have gotten us out there a little bit quicker. But yeah, you definitely have to do your research.

B

Beth Gordon 18:38

And just do it. Like don't sit on it. Do it.

C

Cristy Skofield 18:42

Yeah, you never know.

K

Kasey Stevens 18:44

So Beth, what brought you to Marshall originally?

B

Beth Gordon 18:48

I'm from Barboursville, which is just a tiny town right beside Huntington and I grew up there. I lived there my entire life. My family is still there. And so Marshall was just kind of the next step. I you know, it was a

local college and it's a great school. I've been a Marshall fan since I was to my recollection five or six my siblings went there. And so, you know, it was just what where I was going to go my whole life. So.

K

Kasey Stevens 19:18

What was your major while you were in school?

B

Beth Gordon 19:21

So I was a psych major, or I wanted to be a psych major at the time that I was there, which makes me sound very old and decrepit. It was not an accredited degree. So I could major in it, but my Bachelor's would have been just like a Liberal Arts General Liberal liberal arts bachelor's. So I think now they there's like a PsyD program where you can get your PhD in psychology, the amazing.

K

Kasey Stevens 19:49

There's been a lot of progress with that program through the years. How has that experience at Marshall kind of helped during your career or in the podcast, the psychology aspect?

B

Beth Gordon 20:04

Oh, well, that's immensely helpful. I take everything from a psychologist perspective. I overanalyze everyone, from the very minute that I meet them. And yeah, I definitely am very glad to have that. In my background, I think it brings an interesting spin to the way that I do the cases, I pick the way that I research the cases and the way that I kind of interpret the victims and the murders and all of that kind of stuff. I come at it from a very psychological standpoint.

K

Kasey Stevens 20:37

What was your experience at Marshall? Like?

B

Beth Gordon 20:40

I loved it. I mean, when I came to Marshall, everyone that I went to high school was at Marshall, so I call it 13th grade, because it was just kind of all the same gang, the same crew, we really did all of the same things. I mean, when you're seniors in high school, you, you're in Huntington all the time anyway, you're going places. And so yeah, it was just, it was just an extension of, of my high school and all of my friends that were already there. So I loved it. We all went to football games anyways, and we're huge fans up was probably more of a Marshall fan football wise than I was my high school. So I would spend, I would go to a Marshall game before my high school. So it was great.

K

Kasey Stevens 21:21

And what advice would you give to someone coming to Marshall as a freshman?

B

Beth Gordon 21:26

Oh, gosh, I have all kinds of restaurants you should try out. I think my advice to incoming students, college students in general is to just take it all in, don't be afraid. You know, you're gonna figure it out. And you really need to live in the moment and be young and make your connections, do well in school. It's going to serve you you're there for a purpose. Life will end after those four years at Marshall. So go to class, go to class guys. But make those connections and have have a good time. Work hard, play hard.

K

Kasey Stevens 22:05

Those are great nuggets of advice. So we've got eight fun quick questions to get to know our guests that we do with everyone. First one is what is your favorite color?

B

Beth Gordon 22:16

Green.

C

Cristy Skofield 22:19

Yellow for me.

K

Kasey Stevens 22:23

And your favorite place to vacation?

B

Beth Gordon 22:26

is my favorite place to vacation is a little island off the coast of North Carolina called Oak Island. So I like to go to the beach, huh?

C

Cristy Skofield 22:35

Yeah, we like beaches, too. We don't really have like one place that we consistently go back to. Well, the lake in Wisconsin, that is very peaceful. So I do like to go to that one. And we go there a lot because we have family there.

K

Kasey Stevens 22:49

What is the favorite? Your favorite thing about your career?

—

**B** Beth Gordon 22:55  
That I get to work with my friend.

**C** Cristy Skofield 22:58  
Yeah. And then it's just no pressure. You know? Like, I don't feel pressure with it. There's nothing that you know. There's no reason to feel it. It's just it's fun.

**B** Beth Gordon 23:08  
There's no calling in sick if we don't feel like doing it that day. We're like not gonna we're not gonna do it today.

**C** Cristy Skofield 23:15  
Yeah, exactly.

**K** Kasey Stevens 23:15  
Not gonna get in trouble if you show up late. Who's your favorite musical artist?

**C** Cristy Skofield 23:24  
Oh, it's easy for me Pink.

**B** Beth Gordon 23:29  
My favorite band is 311 My favorite musical artist in general would probably be Dolly Parton. So, it's a really wide range. But.

**K** Kasey Stevens 23:41  
Do you have a favorite movie?

**B** Beth Gordon 23:43  
Sound of Music.

**C** Cristy Skofield 23:45  
Oh, that's a good one. I have always said My Best Friend's wedding is my movie, even though I haven't

watched it. And I don't know how long but I've always said that's my favorite movie. I love Julia Roberts. So.

**K** Kasey Stevens 23:56  
Your favorite book?

**C** Cristy Skofield 23:58  
I don't think I have a favorite book.

**B** Beth Gordon 24:00  
So the the most interesting one that I have read recently is the night Nightingale. I don't know if you guys have heard of that. It takes place in like occupied France. Hmm. Very interesting story. I was very into that. You should check that out. It's not true crime.

**C** Cristy Skofield 24:20  
Yeah. Yeah, actually, I don't think I mean, if I had to pick one of the most I've only just recently gotten back into reading so I would have to say that it'll be a recent book and it was probably the Rob Lowe biography. It's a good one.

**K** Kasey Stevens 24:37  
Do you have a favorite animal?

**B** Beth Gordon 24:39  
Um, I like elephants, and whales.

**C** Cristy Skofield 24:45  
Elephants and whales. Wow. Yeah. I don't think I knew that about you?

**B** Beth Gordon 24:50  
I like to watch them on Discovery.

**C** Cristy Skofield 24:55  
I don't think I mean besides a dog because we have one. I'm telling really think I have a liking of any other

ones?

**K** Kasey Stevens 25:05  
And then back in the musical train of things, do you have a favorite song?

**B** Beth Gordon 25:09  
Oh my gosh. I don't think I have a favorite song. I that will be very It depends on my mood.

**C** Cristy Skofield 25:18  
Yeah, I feel like I mean, I just like all Pink songs. And so depends on the day on which one is like, hitting me and I want to sing it out loud.

**K** Kasey Stevens 25:29  
That's fantastic. Thank you all so much for joining us this morning and for taking the time out of your schedules to do this. I really appreciate it.

**B** Beth Gordon 25:40  
Yeah, thanks, Kasey. This was really fun. Thank you for having us.

**K** Kasey Stevens 25:46  
Thank you so much for tuning in to today's episode of One of the Herd. We hope you enjoyed this episode. And if so, leave us a review on Apple podcasts. If you have an idea for an episode, let us know by emailing us at [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu). Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @marshallalumni, keep listening to our episodes available wherever you listen to podcasts.