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SPEAKERS

Kasey Stevens, Larry Crum, Brandi Wallace, Matt Hayes

Kasey Stevens 00:01

Hello and welcome to the One of the Herd podcast, the official podcast of the Marshall University Alumni Association. On this episode of One of the Herd, we are chatting with Brandi Wallace, a Marshall alumna who has a heart for animals and is making a big difference. 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. Hello, and welcome back to the One of the Herd podcast. We're back for the staff chat. It's been a minute we've got a lot to catch up on. A lot of new things have happened on campus since we last chatted, most recently, new announcement of an athletic director Christian Spears, what have you guys got to say about Christian?

Matt Hayes 00:48

Well, how exciting is it? You know, I mean, and yes, it has been a minute. I've missed you all. I know. It's great to be back together back in the saddle here, One of the Herd. But yeah, how exciting Christian Spears Welcome to the Marshall family. And couldn't be couldn't be more excited for the future. Wow, what a what a impressive pedigree. Dr. Spears brings to the to the table, looking over all of his credentials and his experiences. I think I think he was a great, great selection.

Larry Crum 01:25

Yeah, Christian, just reading over all the things he's done, you know, coming from Pitt, he's done some pretty impressive things. And before we go too deep, you know, I just wanted to say, what a job Jeff O'Malley did during filling in, you know, with everything going on with the Sun Belt Conference. And, you know, there was a lot of a lot of changes over the past year with Marshall athletics. But I think Christian's the man for the job, I think he's got some big ideas. You know, he's done a lot of fundraising work. And I know, the the last group that came in some of the things that have, you know, popped up on campus, the indoor athletic facility, and some of the great things that have come from them. And you know, Christian has a lot of that background, that experience and, you know, bringing in funds and getting things done

getting things built. And so I'm really excited to have him here and what that means for the future, you know, Marshall athletics between him and Coach Huff. There's a lot of new and exciting things happening here.

M

Matt Hayes 02:19

Yeah. In addition, you know, you said his fundraising experience, you know, raising nearly 15 million of a \$25 million goal in a capital campaign at Pitt. In addition to help and hire several, almost a dozen head coaches, across the different sports. They're administrating both football and men's basketball. I'm sure he's had his hands full at times. And he's done very well. So I'm excited for the experience he's bringing to our campus. And I got to give a big shout out to my friend, our dear friend, my buddy, Jeff O'Malley. Absolutely. Larry, I couldn't agree with you more. You know, he has helped us navigate a conference realignment, moving us helping us move away from sila se into the Sun Belt, which is just a great move for us. In addition to dealing with everything involved with navigating the pandemic home, I mean, he has he has really delivered in a crucial time in the history of Marshall University. So Jeff, buddy, appreciate you, sir. And so grateful for your leadership and contributions here at Marshall. Thank you.

K

Kasey Stevens 03:37

Absolutely. And we all welcome Christian to campus, he's going to start March 14. So we're excited about the waves he's going to be making in our athletic department. So coming up next, today actually is the first day of an art exhibition opening on campus. It's got students best artwork from the past two years featured in it that runs through the end of the month. And we'll discuss a little bit of the details on it. But I really wanted to open the floor to you all. Would any of your art that you have ever made be featured in a gallery?

M

Matt Hayes 04:11

Oh, my goodness, no. Never.

L

Larry Crum 04:13

I'm still I'm still at the stick figure level. My I have a soon to be 11 year old as soon to be four year old. And both of them outdo me and all the art art categories. I can't call her inside the line, guys.

M

Matt Hayes 04:25

I mean, I have a couple nieces they make, they make birthday cards, and thanks for you know, everyone's birthday in the family. And I mean, they're very young. I mean, you know, less than 10 years around 10 years old and under, and everything they do is much better than anything I could ever come up with.

K Kasey Stevens 04:46

I won an art contest in the fourth grade and I think that is where I peaked artistically like it's just all been downhill from there. So if you want to come see some great art that's not ours, Birke Art Gallery and Smith Hall. It's open to the public, but they've got it open Monday through Friday 10am to 2pm. Or you can schedule an appointment to check that out, which would be a great lunch time thing to do, if you're interested in that kind of thing.

L Larry Crum 05:12

I mean, the talent of the students here, it's just, it's really neat, it's neat to go see, you know, you get to see the Arts and Media Center and see the things that people are creating, not just art, but you know, in video and photography, I mean, we get a lot of talented people here a lot, you know, they do a lot of great things. And you're right, Kasey, this will be a really neat thing to stop in and support, you know, what our students are doing.

M Matt Hayes 05:35

Well, the students are talented, no doubt, and they're able to learn about art, while they're here, they're able to exercise their craft. But, you know, this, this exhibition gives them the opportunity to put their works on display, and to engage the public in a special way. So, you know, helping them learn how to sell their work to represent their work to the public. So those learnings are invaluable, that's what they're going to have to know and be comfortable with, beyond their time here at Marshall. So I'm really thankful that they have these tough times and opportunities for experiences like this.

K Kasey Stevens 06:16

Absolutely. And so contributing to a little bit of that in talked about selling their art, talk about business, the business school was recognized as one of the Princeton reviews, best business schools for the fourth year in a row, which I think is a great success for institution of our size. And it really shows great trust in the program we have going forward, I know we've got a lot of new opportunities in the College of Business and in the schools of business. And thinking of the potential you've got with that college of business building that's going to be on Fourth Ave.

M Matt Hayes 06:49

Yeah, the opportunities, Marshall are so tremendous. Our College of Business continues to excel and crank out graduates that are making a difference in the business world and this recognition. And the Princeton Review is, is just more proof of the great work that's being done here on our campus.

L Larry Crum 07:16

Yeah, for years running, there's a lot of, there's a lot of colleges and programs here on campus.

Yeah, for years running, there's a lot of, there's a lot of colleges and programs here on campus that get a lot of recognition for the the work that they do, and the students that they turn out and what they do, but the business school, it just seems like the things that they're the the alumni that they produce, the people that go to this program has been, you know, top notch, top notch, top notch, but you know, you combine this with the momentum that the school has right now building this new facility, that's going to be state of the art. And you know, that's all anybody ever says is state of the art and what it's going to mean to the community, not not just the the caliber of students that are coming in here, but what it's going to mean for Huntington, to have this downtown and the plans they have for that. It's exciting. It's an exciting time to be here. You know, we use that word a lot. But I don't, I can't think of another word to use with all the programs and the growth on campus. And then this new College of Business, that's going to be, you know, right here, right here on campus. It's an exciting time.

M

Matt Hayes 08:14

It really is. And, you know, as a proud graduate of the College of Business here at Marshall, your Marshall University, you know, I can speak personally, you know, they're doing a lot of the right things. And I know, right now, there's there's a strong focus on applied learning, you know, and putting putting students in situations where, you know, they are they are more prepared to enter the workforce. Now, then, you know, five or 10 years ago, where our students are, you know, and you think of the alumni network, oh, my goodness, you know, there are 10s of 1000s, of College of Business alumni out there. What a resource to leverage and to tap into. And I'm so grateful for the all those folks and the way they give back and how they stay involved, and how they're helping students on our campus today. It means so much.

L

Larry Crum 09:12

Yeah, it seems like every time you turn around, there's there's someone that's giving back to the university giving back to the College of Business. They're excited about what's coming. That's right.

K

Kasey Stevens 09:20

Absolutely. And Matt, you mentioned, proud alumni. And one thing I want to touch on before we close our staff chat this afternoon, is first generation and legacies college students. We've had about 130,000 alumni come through Marshall's campus or online. And what we've seen from that is a lot of first generation students. Matt, can you talk a little bit about about what that experience was like for you?

M

Matt Hayes 09:47

Well, you know, I'm a first-genner. Both of my kids are now Marshall students. So we're building the legacy story within our family right now. But yeah, being being a first gen college Students Oh, man, it was exciting. It was, and it was scary. Because I can remember, you know, mom, dad bringing me and dropping me off. And, you know, I was like, you know, son go ask questions, you know, figure help, you know, we're here for you. Yeah, you know, but I had other family here in Huntington that, oh, my goodness, I think of the support network I had with local

family. And in my parents, they had my back that, you know, I was the I was the first to blaze the trail. And, you know, now, seeing my kids, you know, nearing coming toward the end of their time, here, here at Marshall. It's, you know, making their way it's exciting. And I think of all the other folks that I'm aware of, in this great stories of folks who, who face such adversity, to get here to be a first gen college student, and others who, you know, the families, it's the great great, great grandparents all the way down through the generations, who all in one family have more degrees from Marshall University. I just think, you know, what a wonderful thing to celebrate on both sides of first gen in the legacy stories.

L

Larry Crum 11:21

Yeah, I too, was a first gen student, I remember what it was like to get here. And, and like I said, thrown to the wolves, I remember what it was like walking around on campus, and just that first time feeling a little overwhelmed. You know what I mean? This is This is big, this was not little town Point Pleasant, where I'm from, and this was a neat opportunity. And the neat thing about these two groups, is that the pride that these two groups feel and what they did, your first gen students are so proud of what they overcame to be here, it's right. You know, we've heard stories from folks that maybe, you know, in their area, going to college, you know, wasn't a thing that many people did. So it was, it was the, you know, the the odd thing to do. And, you know, coming here and overcoming that, and getting that degree and the pride that they feel. And then you have on the other side of the people that that grew up in Marshall families that their grandparents and parents and great grandparents went to Marshall and the pride, they've just always been around the green and white. And we're always going to games and the pride they felt, you know, being the next one in line that went to and got their degree. You know, both of them are great stories. And we want to hear those stories, because we love to, you know, tell the stories of the alumni of what they've accomplished and what they've done. And, you know, getting online and sharing those stories as a way we can do that.

M

Matt Hayes 12:40

And it helps pave the way for the next generation because we want to, we want to use those stories as opportunities to show people who stood prospective students, whether they're young adults, or high school graduates or, you know, young adults, whatever the case may be that opportunities exist, and there's no limit to what you can accomplish when you put your heart and mind to it. And it doesn't matter if you're a first gen or legacy. But But man, we really love celebrating these stories. I really

L

Larry Crum 13:13

Like the community they're creating, specifically around the first gen students because of what we talked about with the over, you know, being overwhelmed, you know, being here and you know, maybe not having that support system. Yeah, the community they're creating is creating this opportunity for them to read these stories and reach out to people that have been in the same boat they are That's right, kind of given them giving them that support that you know, they too can do it.



M

Matt Hayes 13:36

Yep, invaluable.

K

Kasey Stevens 13:37

Absolutely. And if it weren't for, you know, people like you all, I wouldn't have had an easiest time going to college. My dad was a first generation college student. And it wasn't really expected of him to go to school. But because he did, it made a lot easier for my brother and I. So thank you all. And thank you all for sharing your stories. And if you are interested in sharing your story, you can do that on our website that's herdalum.com I think that about wraps us up for the staff chat. Stay tuned as we interview a Brandi Wallace. She's had an interesting career, and has recently led her to a service opportunity helping with animals. So how did you get started with one by one animal advocates?

B

Brandi Wallace 14:23

I think it was just through a Facebook post. I moved back to West Virginia after being away for a while. Moved back in 2014. And started a job but still had plenty of time on my hands. So I thought signing up to transport animals sounded like a good way to spend some time so I think I first got in touch with Heather Aulick and she got me started with with transporting.

K

Kasey Stevens 14:55

So awesome way to give back. So you mentioned me transport animals What really does that involve?

B

Brandi Wallace 15:02

Well, when I first started, Courtney Proctor Cross had just started as the director of the Huntington Cabell Wayne, animal shelter. So we didn't really have a program set up to get animals moved out into rescues. When I first started, we have the barn at the shelter, and we just had random crates thrown out in the elements. And you just had to go clean them up, and then pull the animal from the shelter. Use your own personal vehicle. So I was using my mom's Subaru because I can fit more carriers in. And basically just getting animals out into different rescues that we've secured them in. Usually, it's more metropolitan areas, larger cities, whatnot, where they have a higher adoption rate. Or they go straight from me into a foster home to be adopted.

K

Kasey Stevens 15:58

Wow, what has been the farthest you've had to travel to transport and the animal.

B

Brandi Wallace 16:03

I just looked this up yesterday. So my normal route that I'm doing right now is from Huntington, West Virginia. I go to one buy, not one by one, one of a kind rescue in Akron, Ohio. And then I unload there and then traveled to new lease on life rescue in Youngstown, Ohio. Round trip that's over, over 10 hours driving time, and then I'm there unloading. While they're unloading the animals, I usually get the crate cleaned out. So that's usually a 12 to 14 hour day. But the longest that I've traveled would be to new Woodbridge, New Jersey, and that was 562 miles each way. That was an overnight trip, for sure. So I got in a hotel that night, and then came back the next.

K

Kasey Stevens 16:55

Wow, that's very impressive. And it shows you obviously have a heart for it. Have you always loved animals?

B

Brandi Wallace 17:02

Always, ever since I was little. I don't remember not ever having a pet. Growing up, it was cats, dogs, we had rabbits. I had a leopard gecko that lived to be 24. He just passed away a couple years ago. But yeah, animal lovers run in my family. So we've always had pets. And it's just awesome big being back here and getting involved with local shelters. You meet some of the most awesome kind hearted genuine people doing this kind of stuff, because we're all just kind of volunteering our own time and effort. Sweat equity hours, if you will. So it's just an all around good feeling.

K

Kasey Stevens 17:49

That's awesome. What has been the most rewarding part of it for you?

B

Brandi Wallace 17:53

I'm just seeing the broken ones. The ones that haven't been treated properly or loved on. I've been out in retrieval missions to get dogs and cats from different just not very desirable living conditions. And seeing them getting them food, water, the things that they need and then taking them to a place and then I usually end up seeing either progress pictures or their adoption photo. So you get to see them at their lowest point. And then where they're supposed to be which is in a loving home with food, water, shelter, all those things.

K

Kasey Stevens 18:42

That is awesome. Is one by one currently looking for volunteers to help transport and foster?

B

Brandi Wallace 18:48

Absolutely. We're always looking for people you could sign up for just local runs. A lot of times,

we'll just need to get the animal out of the shelter and to a local veterinarian to help us vaccinate neuter and spay. They also have to have health certificates in order to travel to rescue out of state. So we need local transporters we need fosters if you could open your home. It really is crucial for the cats and dogs to be in foster homes so that they don't start to shut everyone out in a shelter environment. When they go to foster homes, they have that chance to thrive. And you just keep them for a week two weeks, sometimes a little longer. They supply everything you need from cat litter to crate puppy pads food and you just need to spend a little time with them and let them chill at your place for a while. But yeah, we actually always need fosters and transporters. In order to sign up you can just send an email to our group, which is one by one animal advocates, their email address is onebyoneaa@gmail.com. Or you can also hop on the website of the animal shelter, the Huntington Cabell Wayne animal shelter's website, and you can fill out and adoption application to foster and transport on there as well.

K

Kasey Stevens 20:28

Perfect, thank you for that insight for our listeners. And I'll be sure to add those links in our show notes. So folks are able to find those as well. So we talked about what you do now. Now we're gonna transition to a little bit more Marshall specific questions. So what brought you to Marshall University to begin with?

B

Brandi Wallace 20:47

For me, it was location, I grew up in the Huntington Milton area. And I graduated high school when I was 17. And therefore started college when I was 17. So Marshall was just an easy go to I could still live at home, I could still work where I was currently in Milton, and travel back and forth to class.

K

Kasey Stevens 21:11

And what did you major in my major was pre nursing has that helped you like some of the skills that you learned while you're at Marshall into what you do now?

B

Brandi Wallace 21:22

I would say so it's got me kind of interested in not really the nursing aspect of it, but more the like the veterinary side. So if, if I was smart, I would have went to that tag or veterinary school instead of nursing, because that wasn't really my passion, I guess at the time, but animals always has been. So then I just kind of went into a completely different direction, which was hospitality, which is what I'm still currently employed in.

K

Kasey Stevens 21:54

Everyone has like, a little bit of different direction. And I think sometimes figuring out what we don't want to do is just as important as figuring out what we do want to.

B

Brandi Wallace 22:03

I agree I was 17 and had zero clue what I was going to do with my life. Some days, I still feel like that. But my aunt was a nurse, my mom was a nurse. So I was basically just like, Well, I'll start with nursing and go from there. And then I got a job at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club in Teays Valley and got into fine dining. And that, besides animals, my passion is the hospitality industry. Traveling meeting new people, that kind of thing.

K

Kasey Stevens 22:39

What has been your favorite position in the hospitality industry?

B

Brandi Wallace 22:44

Um, I would say bartending. I really love serving. I went from Sleepy Hollow to the Greenbrier and got some really great experience from world renowned chefs, just lifelong employees there that knew everything about the industry. And from there, you can meet people from all over the world. And you can keep those connections and just go wherever you want. Basically, I was employed with the Ritz Carlton for a few years in Florida. And you could work there six months, move up into a supervisory position, and then basically apply for any position available anywhere in the world. And that kind of freedom just has always appealed to me.

K

Kasey Stevens 23:35

What advice would you give to someone considering coming to Marshall as a freshman?

B

Brandi Wallace 23:41

Um, now, I would say to definitely get involved in community work. I just think if it makes you feel good, it's great for the community. It gives you more a sense of like, the hometown feeling. You get to meet some great people and hopefully make like, lifelong friendships out of it.

K

Kasey Stevens 24:07

And that is some great advice. And now we're going to transition into 10 fun, quick, get to know your questions that we do with each of our guests. So the first one is, what is your favorite color?

B

Brandi Wallace 24:20

My favorite color is actually Marshall like Kelly green. And I tend to enjoy wearing all black just like a lot of other women. But yeah, green would be my favorite color.

K Kasey Stevens 24:31
Did you have a favorite class at Marshall?

B Brandi Wallace 24:34
I really, really enjoyed the psychology class and kind of wish that maybe I would have explored that area a little bit more. But yeah, that would that would have to be my favorite.

K Kasey Stevens 24:46
Do you have a favorite professor as well?

B Brandi Wallace 24:49
To be honest, I'm going to show my age here that was over. Over 23 years ago and I actually don't even remember, I did take a nutrition class that I really enjoyed. And I would have to say that whoever was the professor of that class, back in 1998 99, would have been my favorite.

K Kasey Stevens 25:15
Do you have a favorite place to vacation?

B Brandi Wallace 25:18
Well, I've actually had the opportunity to live a lot of places that people would vacation. like Florida, I was there for five years on the west and the east coast. I'm not really one of those people that takes a week or two off every summer and heads to the beach. But of all the places that I have traveled, I would say Ireland would be the number one place that I would most definitely love to go back there. It's very beautiful. It really is. So in September, that's, that's the best time of year to go September.

K Kasey Stevens 25:54
Good to know. What is your favorite thing about your career, or about volunteering?

B Brandi Wallace 26:00
I think was both it's meeting new people. With volunteering, you meet new people that have the same interest and passion that you have, obviously, with serving bartending, you meet people from all walks of life from all over the place, and just getting that interaction I really enjoy. With hospitality, you can get a job anywhere in the world, especially right now. And like I

said, you can live in a location where most people vacation. I've worked at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota, at the members Beach Club, and the view outside of the window from the restaurant was the Gulf of Mexico, and the sunsets every evening were made it just super easy to go to work.

K Kasey Stevens 26:48

That's beautiful. Do you have a favorite musical artist?

B Brandi Wallace 26:52

I would have to say right now. And for the past few years, it's been Matt Kearney. He's from Oregon. It's basically just be a little poppy, if you will, but up be some acoustic stuff. That it's just the kind of music you can listen to all day and just keeps you in a good mood.

K Kasey Stevens 27:16

And in that same vein, do you have a favorite song?

B Brandi Wallace 27:20

My favorite song is gonna be completely different than my favorite artists. hands down favorite song of all time is November Rain by Guns and Roses.

K Kasey Stevens 27:28

Oh, love that. Do you have a favorite movie?

B Brandi Wallace 27:31

Favorite movie is gonna be a cheesy chick flick. Pretty Woman.

K Kasey Stevens 27:37

So very good choice. Favorite book?

B Brandi Wallace 27:42

Favorite book. Oh, gosh, that's a that's a hard one. I do love John Grisham books. I would have to say I had the chance to meet him. While I was working in Florida, him and his wife and his son. They are awesome. But favorite, I would say favorite author hands down John Grisham. But

I'm not sure that I could give you just one specific book that I would say is my favorite.

K

Kasey Stevens 28:09

And this one might be a tough one. Do you have a favorite animal?

B

Brandi Wallace 28:12

Yeah, that is a tough one. We've always had cats growing up. And cats have been like, my sister has always had dogs. So I was the cat person. She was the dog person. And she even bought me a book for Christmas a couple years ago why dogs are better than cats. But now that I'm working with rescue and am involved more, I think I think dogs would have to be don't tell my sister but dogs would have to be my favorite.

K

Kasey Stevens 28:43

Your secret is safe with us! Thank you so much for taking the time to join us today and appreciate you sharing your Marshall experience. I mean, your Marshall story and a little bit about what you do volunteering. And we hope that this this episode helps to bring more volunteers in and bring more awareness to what you do in the community.

B

Brandi Wallace 29:03

We hope so too. That would be awesome. Courtney project cross has done amazing things with the shelter since she's taken over. With COVID you do still have to make an appointment to come in. But I do encourage everybody to get on the website. Look up one by one animal advocates. We work a lot with local southern Ohio, Eastern Kentucky shelters, a lot of rural ones. And we can always use help pulling animals from those areas that are in need and getting them off to a forever home.

K

Kasey Stevens 29:38

Thank you so much for tuning in to today's episode of One of the Herd. We hope you enjoyed this episode. 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. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at [@marshallalumni](https://www.instagram.com/marshallalumni). Keep listening to our episodes It's available wherever you listen to podcasts