

## Matthew Poslusny, Ph.D. Named Provost

Hannah Thornton, staff writer

Dr. Matthew Poslusny was named the new provost on Friday, February 22, 2013. Meredith College has been searching for a new provost since the fall of 2012. The most common question circulating through the student population right now is “what is a provost and what does a provost do?”

While the duties of a provost vary from campus to campus, a provost is someone who typically resides one step below the college president. The Chronicle, the journal for higher education, identifies the position of provost in a higher education institution

*Amongst other duties, the Meredith provost “is a member of the Executive Leadership Team and oversees four schools, the library, the registrar, and enrollment management.”*

as working to “promote and maintain a distinctive academic vision” while making sure that the institution “stays true to its mission.”

Meredith College has deviated slightly from this definition, and has expanded the position to include Senior Vice President & Provost (SVPP) as stated in the official published job description. The responsibilities of our provost will combine the areas of academics and admissions in order to grow in ways that maintain academic standards and show incremental growth. Amongst other duties, the Meredith provost “is a member of the Executive Leadership Team and oversees four schools, the library, the registrar, and enrollment management.”

The search process began in October when Meredith hired RPA, Inc. (referred to by some as the “match-maker”) to create the job description and begin recruiting candidates. Kate Nolde, RPA, Inc. representative, came to Meredith to get a feel for our community to find the best candidates for the campus.

The search and review process began with -- **Continued on Page 6**

## Congress Faces Challenge With Sequester

Monique Kreisman, staff writer

The sequester is a collection of federal spending cuts that will go into effect automatically if Congress cannot reach a budget agreement by March 1st. It was established in 2011 as the US crept closer to the debt ceiling, and it totals more than \$1.2 trillion over the next ten years. About half of the cuts—over \$500 billion—will come from the defense budget. Unpaid furloughs for Pentagon workers are expected. An additional \$500 billion will be cut from domestic programs such as food safety inspection and housing aid.

## Olympian Sprinter Shoots Girlfriend

Rachel Pratl, staff writer

Oscar Pistorius, the world famous double-amputee and Olympian sprinter who has competed and won both Olympic and Paralympic medals with prosthetic legs, has been charged with the premeditated murder of his girlfriend. On February 14, 2013, he was accused of deliberately shooting Reeva Steenkamp, a famous swimsuit model.

On that same day, thousands of women stood up to participate in One Billion Rising, the global movement now considered the largest mass action to stop violence against women and girls. Participants said that Steenkamp’s tragic death created a platform to share how violence has touched their lives.

*According to South African law, Pistorious could be charged with 25 years in jail if convicted of the charge of premeditated murder.*

Pistorius’ defense team claims that he mistakenly believed Steenkamp was an intruder hiding inside the bathroom of his home in Pretoria, South Africa. Last Friday, he was released on \$112,000 bail after a four-day, emotionally wrenching bail hearing.

He is expected to face trial in South Africa within six months. According to South African law, Pistorious could be charged with 25 years in jail if convicted of the charge of premeditated murder.

Following in famous athletes Lance Armstrong and Tiger Wood’s footsteps, Pistorious has again shamed his Nike endorsement in an advertisement which features him besides the saying “I am a bullet in the chamber” opposite Nike’s “Just do it” slogan and logo.

## Senate Confirms Hagel as Secretary of Defense

Kim Dixon, staff writer

On Tuesday, the Senate confirmed Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) as secretary of defense in a vote of 58 to 41, the narrowest margin for any defense secretary on record. His confirmation follows weeks of partisan fighting over his nomination by President Obama. Four republicans voted for Mr. Hagel: Senators Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Richard Shelby of Alabama, Mike Johanns of Nebraska and Rand Paul of Kentucky. Mr. Hagel will be sworn in on Wednesday. He follows Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and comes into



Chuck Hagel photo via npr.org

office just as across-the-board budget cuts are set to affect the Pentagon on March 1 as a result of the 2011 Budget Control Act.

Hagel has been under fire during the confirmation process for his outspoken opposition to the war in Iraq, criticism of the Israeli lobby’s influence in Washington and past statements on Iran. Senator John McCain, once close friends with Hagel, had heated exchanges with him over the troop surge in Iraq. Republican Senator Ted Cruz (Texas) accused Hagel of taking money from North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Hagel, 66, is a former two-term Nebraska senator. He served in Vietnam combat where he was wounded twice. He said he was honored that the president and the Senate “have entrusted me to serve our nation again.” After the Senate vote, President Obama said in a statement, “we will have the de-

fense secretary our nation needs and the leader our troops deserve.”

## Controversy at the Academy Awards

Lizzie Wood and Brianna Karmi, staff writers

Usually the biggest controversy surrounding the Oscars is the incredibly long time it takes to dole out all of the awards. However, this year brought



Seth MacFarlane photo via npr.org

a sexist comedian and a certain First Lady.

While the ratings were the second highest in history for first-time host Seth MacFarlane, his performance is drawing in mixed reviews. Those who were less pleased with his performance felt that he was overly sexist in his jokes and singing numbers, especially in the number “We Saw Your Boobs.” Despite drawing in more male viewers than an average Oscar night, MacFarlane has already announced that he will not be making a return appearance as host again.

The next source of controversy comes from the White House. First Lady, Michelle Obama surprised viewers and presenters alike when she participated in the awards show. However, not all viewers were happy to see her. Some feel that the First Lady is prioritizing her duties incorrectly, and she should focus more on political matters and White House duties.

Finally, a tweet was heard around the world when the Onion tweeted about Lead Actress nominee Quvenzhané Wallis and called her by a rude obscenity. This nominee is nine years old. Needless to say, there was major backlash to this tweet, and the message was quickly taken down from the social media site.

*So, what do you think? Email the Herald and let us know your thoughts on this past Academy Awards.*