

FEATURES

SPARTAN SPORTS

Baseball in Full Swing



Spartan Softball Enters Conference Following Spring Break Success

AROUND CAMPUS

ESAT Studens Rally for Cancer Survivors

Page 3

Senior Art Major Showcases Work

Page 2

3 Students Awarded State Scholarships

Page 3

Journalist Discusses 'Trump Revolution'

Shelby Harrell
Staff Writer

Journalist and professor Nicole Hemmer visited Manchester University to share her ideas about the "Trump Revolution."

Hemmer, who is a contributing writer for the U.S. News and World Report, CNN, the Atlantic, Vox, and produces her own podcasts, began her talk by giving a basic understanding of the meaning behind the phrase "Trump Revolution." "What makes Trump revolutionary," Hemmer said, "is that he is essentially challenges almost every precedent sent down by our previous presidents."

Carefully examining the persona and characteristics of someone who could traditionally be considered a good president, Hemmer listed a number of characteristics that differentiate Trump from more traditional presidents before him. Her discussion also called to attention Trump's lack of political or military experience. "Many voters are reasoning that Trump's lack of traditional experience limits his ability to effectively perform his duties as president," Hemmer said, "and this completely undermines his presidential authority."

However, Trump's apparent lack of involvement in any political position was also the reason behind his popularity as the presidential candidate for the republican party. According to Hemmer, there has been a high amount of distrust among political figures in office. Though many consider the Trump Revolution a current occurrence, this revolution has likely been gestating for a number of decades. "The high amount of political distrust initially started in the year 1973 with the publication of the Pentagon Papers detailing information from the war that American citizens were not exposed to," Hemmer said. "In addition, the Watergate scandal took place around the same time." Approximately 65 percent of American citizens lost faith in their government that year.

SEE TRUMP, PAGE 3

Students Sell Mugs, Benefit Vets

Destinee Boutwell
Staff Writer

Do you have some extra cash from your tax returns and need a place to spend it for a good cause? A class of upperclassmen business students have started their own business selling coffee mugs and Rosie's medallions for their senior case study course. All profits are given to the Wounded Warrior Project in order to help wounded soldiers get jobs, medical care, and to integrate them back into society. So, if you buy a mug, you are supporting Manchester students and helping to provide a better life for wounded veterans.

Rebekah Rich is the president of the business. "Our assignment was to build a business from the ground up," she said. "This included thinking of a product, a target consumer, marketing the project and where we wanted to send the proceeds."

The business class decided that the Wounded Warrior project was a cause they wanted to support. "When we were trying to decide a marketing slogan, a student brought up that, around World War II, coffee was rationed, and a common slogan was 'Buy a cup of joe for your Joe overseas,'" Rich said. "People would sell coffee



to raise money for the soldiers on the frontlines. It just seemed like it was all meant to go together that we would sell coffee mugs to help soldiers again."

The business is going to continue until the end of April in various location on campus and off. "My personal goal for this project was to extend our target consumer beyond the campus," Rich said. "We have set up tables at local events,

and people are selling them in their own hometowns, and we have a music event at the Firehouse scheduled for later this month."

There are 46 students that needed to work together to get this project up and running. "My goal from the first day was to be as transparent with as possible; my title might be president, but it is a project for the whole class," Rich said. "We divided up responsibilities in the beginning, so there was a vice president of marketing along with an entire team of students behind them making up the marketing department. There were advertising and promotional managers, product managers, and finance managers and leaders that took on a role in human resources."

Managing the voices and opinions of 46 individuals can be a huge challenge. "We all presented ideas to the class, which gave people a voice, but eventually we had to make a decision, so we voted. I try to let different departments lead what they need to without having to ask me if it is okay. You are in the position you are in for a reason, so I trust that the departments are making the best decisions they can."

The coffee mugs and Rosie's medallions are being sold in

the JYSC during lunch and dinner hours. They are also being sold at MU sporting events, Manchester high school events and on an online store. "Our class goal is to sell more and more every week. I hope we can sell out, even though I am not sure what we're going to do if that happens," said Rich with enthusiasm. "Probably buy more, I guess."

The Wounded Warrior Project's mission is to honor and empower veterans who have been injured. This project extends a hand to encourage veterans as they adjust to their new normal. The WWP recognizes that vets can come back from war changed, and they provide health care and services to help them and their families begin to heal.

This case study was a course that Manchester's business students take, so it is an educational experience. "I learned to expect the unexpected," Rich said. "I always think I have provided an answer for every question or problem that could arise, and then something doesn't go like we planned, and so you learn to adjust to the change as fast as you can. I learned to handle situations that I wasn't prepared for or anticipated with a level head."



Joe for Joe mug

MU Embraces Diversity with International Buffet

Ciara Knisely
Staff Writer

The annual International Buffet will take place on Sunday, April 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Haist Commons, and will offer not only food but also an entire cultural experience about the featured countries.

Among others, Michael Dixon, director of Multicultural Services, and Mariam Aly Ibrahim, special assistant in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, began organizing the event last fall and will continue their hard work until the event this Sunday.

Ibrahim, who is in charge of the entire event, recruited around 30 students to prepare recipes of their choice and make the food, which includes dishes from 15 other countries across the globe, such as Vietnam, Uganda and Romania. Chartwells will provide the students with their ingredients. Because some of the dishes require some "cultural nuance," as Ibrahim says, to prepare, the buffet will be a great opportunity for others to experience authentic food from other cultures.

Some of the dishes include: Liboke Ya Ngulu, a dish from the Dominican Republic of the Congo consisting of pork, plantains and banana leaves; Palestinian Roz o Boji, made from rice, meat and a variation of spices and Mexican chilaquiles and horchata water.

Dixon, who has family ties to the Philippines, will be making a favorite dish of his called lumpia, which is a traditional Filipino equivalent of an egg roll filled with a mixture of chopped vegetables and meat. "My mom always made lumpia for holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas," Dixon remi-



nises.

Ibrahim, senior political science and psychology double major, plans to make an Egyptian dish also familiar to her, called Mosakaa, with eggplants, potatoes and tomato sauce, among other ingredients. She also expressed excitement at introducing Dixon to a dish called dolma, from Kurdistan, which includes basmati rice, grape leaves and sumac berries.

International student Glodie Lubiba, in charge of making a dish from her home country of the Dominican Republic of the Congo, also wishes to see others enjoy themselves at the buffet. "We all have different cultures and I wanted to be sure to make a dish that most people will enjoy," Lubiba said.

Dixon is eager to see oth-

ers sharing cultures. "I hope it will expose people to dishes outside their normal palate," he said. He also hopes to see others connect over learning about each other's cultures, as one's culture includes traditional dishes but is so much more than food, Dixon explained.

Ibrahim agrees. As the mastermind behind the organization of the event, she hopes to enjoy making and sharing different foods while enjoying a day full of embracing different cultures.

Lubiba is also eager for the event. "I hope that people will be able to experience others' culture through food that will make them want to learn more about each other's cultures," she said.

Also cooking for the buf-

fet is student Arpan Paul, who plans to make a signature Indian dish of fried rice and chili chicken. "I hope people will experience the authentic Indian dish which is a heritage in the history of Indian food," Paul said. "This food is something we all Indians grew up knowing about."

As the second-largest event put on by Multicultural Affairs, the buffet will focus on more than food. According to Dixon, students will represent their home countries with authentic attire, entertainment and may speak in their native tongue.

To entice others to attend, Ibrahim adds that bubble tea, a coveted delicacy in the Midwest, will also be served at the event. This drink consists of a tea base with added milk or juice and chewy tapioca balls or fruit jelly.

Evident in Ibrahim is also the anticipation to share the event with others. To spread the word about the event, she spent weeks recruiting others to help plan the event and make the food, setting up tables in the JYSC to motivate others to attend, and even encouraged students and staff from the Fort Wayne campus to participate.

The International Buffet promises to be an enjoyable experience for everyone. Along with more aspects of culture included with each different dish, there will also be information available about the dish, as well as information to indicate common allergens in the food, or gluten-free and vegetarian options.

The event counts as a meal swipe for students, and is \$14.99 for adults and free for children under ten years old. Haist Commons will also be serving its typical meal options for those who do not wish to eat at the International Buffet.

Senior Art Major Showcases Work

Kelleen Cullison
Staff Writer

Add a pinch of nostalgia, a friendly sibling rivalry and the wonders of nature; combine with some natural talent and determination, and that's the making and display of Jessica Klemm's senior art exhibition, "Nature's Aesthetics."

From March 1-27, Klemm's art was displayed in Cordier Auditorium, with works ranging from the written word to blown-glass figures. "I can't pick a medium," Klemm said. Her vision of nature was expressed through charcoal sketches and graphite drawings, collages and photographs, paintings and even digital graphic design.

"That was made out of National Geographic catalogues and some rubber cement," Klemm said as she gestured to her collage "Fox in a Daisy Field," which had been exhibited in the 2015 Renaissance at Roanoke show and the 2016 Honeywell Art Show. Off to the side was a collaboration between her poem "Imitation" and her piece "Covered Sidewalks," a black and white image of a tree-lined street with the sun filtering through the branches just right, which has been entered in the 2014 Honeywell Photography exhibit. "I took this picture in Savannah, Georgia," Klemm said. "Then I wrote 'Imitations' afterwards to go along with it."

In the center of her show was a glass case filled with pendants and necklaces, and a miniature forest scene filled with tiny glass blown deer and elk, handmade by Klemm in her glass-blowing class. "I made the tree with my bare hands," she said, gesturing to the gnarled wire that sat overlooking the "herd" of deer. "And I made all the beads on it."

Elk make frequent appearances in Klemm's work, and are the leading figure in many of her pieces. "I starting hunting in the sixth grade," she said. "My dad introduced it to me as a way to bond with him. From Junior year on, though, I got too busy to sit motionless in the cold for hours. Deer for me is remembering that, those times with my dad."

Now she weaves those times into her art. Klemm remembers getting interested in art at a young age in response to her

sister's talent. "I got a little jealous growing up beside her," she said. That good-natured sibling rivalry evolved into an art minor, and into a source of income.

Klemm's commissions can be spotted around campus. Her collage of books is displayed on the back wall on the main floor of Funderberg Library. "It took me 17 hours to make," Klemm said.

She's made multiple collages for the English department, and two for the economics department. The student graphic designer for MU, she's put together the VIA posters seen around campus, the MU softball team logo and the cover for 'Spectrum,' Manchester's literary and art magazine, of which she is co-editor and graphic designer. "Jessica is an amazingly multitalented young woman of deep verve and contagious passion," said Professor Beate Gilliar.

As an English major, Klemm's goal upon enrolling in Manchester was to become involved in book publishing. "I did an internship last summer to work as a literary agent for L. Perkins Agency and Riverdale Avenue Books," Klemm said. "If you look them up, their number-one selling genre is erotica and LGBTQ books, but luckily I didn't have to read any erotica!" she laughed. "I got to read science fiction and fantasy, which is what I want to go into." Klemm considers herself lucky to get to intern in the field she's most interested in.

Her artwork and versatility with graphic design, which she was introduced to in her first year at Manchester, is giving her options she hadn't expected in the publishing world. "I'm also considering becoming a book-cover designer," Klemm said.

"As an art minor, an exhibition was optional for me," Klemm said. "Then I realized I was a credit short to graduate. Professor Oke helped me put this together, and along with the set up and tear down, and so on, this was a class for me." Klemm looked around at the pieces, which were to be taken down on the following day.

Senior art exhibits are mandatory to graduate as an art major at Manchester, and can be found throughout campus at various times in the year, displayed in Winger, Cordier Auditorium and in the Science Center.



Senior Art major Jessica Klemm

Photo courtesy of Haylee Parrish

Manchester Adds Two Majors

Students Thrilled to Learn the Ways of the Force, Defense Against the Dark Arts

FROM THE JOAK LEAVES

Shelby Harrell
Staff Writer

With just a flick of the wrist, life's problems will be solved for those who choose to explore the arts of magic as well as the ways of the Force.

The Manchester University Office of Academic Affairs has recently announced plans to offer a new program entitled DADA, or Defense Against the Dark Arts, for students who feel as though they are destined to become the next great wizard.

One such student, Sophomore Nolan McBride, is very excited about the opportunities that such a major addition could give to the student experience. In addition to learning the secret to defeating "He who shall not be named," McBride hopes to use many of the learned skills to protect both wizards and unsuspecting muggles from danger. "You never know when you are going to experience an event such as a death eater attack," McBride said, "so you must always be prepared to defend yourself as well as those around you."

The old administration building is scheduled to be repurposed as the Granger Hall for Magical Practice in the beginning of June to ensure that the building will be ready when students return to campus next September. "Clearly," McBride said, "this building is meant to be repurposed, as it is the oldest building on campus." While there are students who will choose to use their magic to aid humanity in a grander sense, there will also be students who choose to use their skills on a smaller scale.

Sophomore Abigail McVay, for instance, feels that using wizardry in her future career in the field of

psychiatry will be highly beneficial. "Helping people with the flick of a wand will save so much time," McVay said, "I specifically feel that learning spells will help."

In terms of housing, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) will implement a variation on the traditional sorting ceremony. "They will have a new house sorting ceremony, and we will be assigning halls based on the results," Erin Grube, RHA member, said.

Each student of the new major will meet in the lobby of the old administration building at midnight on the day that they arrive to campus. In similar fashion to the traditional ceremony, the students will be asked to don their complete wizarding attire as they sit upon the sorting stool as the hat places them in one of the campus' five main dorms.

In addition to the ability to have their dorms selected for them, many students are excited about the prospect of using their magic for décor purposes. "Housing won't be much different," Junior Mary Elizabeth said, "but we will be able to use magic to make our rooms exactly as we want."


Those who feel the power of the Force will be able to develop their abilities in Manchester's new Jedi Temple that is scheduled for construction early this summer. The Temple will also serve as housing for students who desire to learn the Jedi way. Junior Ben Johnson is just one of the many students that is seeking to better himself through learning the ways of the force. "To learn the ways of the Force and to better myself I seek," said Johnson, practicing master Yoda's object-subject-verb form of speech. Yoda terminology and linguistics is one among a handful of courses that

will be taught to padawans. Other planned courses include; Jed101: "The Yoda Method," Jed 204: "Care of Magical Creatures," "Jed 305: "Jedi Lore: "What to Believe," Jed 401: "Lightsaber Crafting," and finally, Jed 404: "Force ghosting." The latter two courses will enable the students, or rather, the "padwans" to apply all of the skills they have acquired over their experience to the rigorous trials that await them. According to the Office of Academic Affairs, the trials will serve as a version of Manchester's traditional senior comprehensive exam that the students must pass before earning the right to graduate as a Jedi Bachelor.

One of the more unique courses featured as a requirement, "The Yoda Method," is scheduled to take place in the woods outside tall oaks. "The goal is to offer the experience of training on Dagobah," Johnson says, "without having the ability to actually go to Dagobah." This unique training program will involve intense physical activity, as students will be required to run, jump, climb trees, and flip over logs, all while carrying the class instructor on their backs.

McBride, as an advocate for the future Jedi Temple, describes the housing as adequate for a Jedi's standards. In contrast to the Granger Hall for Magical Practice, the Jedi Temple will act as student housing in addition to training grounds. "Each room will be a sanctuary in which the Jedi will be able to purge all anxieties from their mind and focus on the present moment," McBride said. "After all, the Jedi are very focused."

Each room will also be equipped with Wi-Fi, though many of the students will prefer to have their mail delivered via R2D2 unit.



Oak Leaves

Published by the students of Manchester University on Fridays during fall and spring semesters

Editors-in-Chief
Sarah Farnam and Carly Kwiecien

Design Editor
Jafet Garcia

Chief Photographer
TBA

Web Editor
Karen Kanyike

Faculty Advisor
Dr. Katharine Ings

Staff Writers
Brittany Dilley, Ciara Knisely, Destinee Boutwell, Jensen Lassiter, Kelleen Cullison, Maddie Jo Shultz, Shelby Harrell, Tanner Edge, Virginia Rendler

Delivery Manager
Claire Mumma

The *Oak Leaves* is distributed free on campus to Manchester University students, faculty and staff.

The *Oak Leaves* accepts paid advertising. To receive a rate card or to inquire about advertising, please email us at oakleaves@manchester.edu.

To contact the editors:
oakleaves@manchester.edu

Printed by the *Columbia City Post and Mail*

ESAT Students Rally for Cancer Survivors

Virginia Rendler
Staff Writer

If you've driven through downtown North Manchester recently, you may have noticed a multitude of purple ribbons tied to trees and lamp posts lining the streets. These purple ribbons signify the upcoming superhero-themed Relay for Life, to be held on Saturday, April 22. The relay honors the hundreds of cancer survivors in Wabash County, and Manchester University students are helping to organize it.

Relay for Life is a cancer awareness event put on by the American Cancer Society. It brings people together to celebrate cancer survivors and to remember those who have been lost to the disease. Teams will have someone on the track for each hour of the event to show their support.

The event includes a survivor dinner and silent auction, and survivors will be honored with a victory lap during the relay.

Manchester University's Exercise Science and Athletic Training program is heavily involved in the upcoming event. Dr. Kim Duchane, associate professor of health and physical education at Manchester, said that the three programs within ESAT, physical education teaching, exercise science, and athletic training, all care deeply about health promotion, and that supporting this event was a good use of service efforts.

"The Health Promotion students serve on the Survivor Committee," Duchane said. "We plan for special events during the Relay for the survivors. We have an opening ceremony, then the survivors and their caregivers walk their lap, then we serve them lunch and give them a gift bag. As you can imagine, it takes all of us to coordinate the lap and serve over 200 people. We also set and decorate the reception area, put up banners, collect the food donations and several other tasks." The entire relay has a committee from the event leadership team. Duchane represents the university, and has five students who serve with him: Mikayla Duzan, Sarah Arney, Carissa Fockler, Courtney Hersick and Taylor Loshe.

Mikayla Duzan is a first year physical education major. Her role in the relay is reaching out to various clubs and councils on campus and asking them to consider walking in the relay. "Relay for Life is important because it works to fight against cancer by celebrating those who have won the battle against cancer and remembering those who fought hard but couldn't overcome it," Duzan said. "ESAT students take part in this event because we believe it is important to give back to the community and support a cause that so many people have been affected by in one way or another." Duzan said she was looking forward to seeing the support from the Manchester community to help make this year's relay a



success.

Of the 30 teams involved with the relay, 10 of them are from Manchester University. "We also have groups that help us organize, set up and clean up during event," Duchane said. "I am really proud of our Spartan football team, who has been with us from the beginning.

They provide a valuable service to the community in organizing the event."

Duchane and Duzan encourage everyone to get involved in the event. "There is a way for everyone to participate in Relay for Life," Duzan said. "Whether it's walking in the relay, promoting cancer

awareness or being there and showing support, everyone can find a way to get involved."

The event will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22 at the Manchester Community Schools Administration Building, 404 West 9th St. in North Manchester. It will end at 10 p.m. that evening.



3 Students Awarded State Scholarships

Jensen Lassiter
Staff Writer

Manchester University students received three of the six state-wide 2017 Jean Lee/Jeff Marvin Scholarships, which are awarded by IAHPERD (Indiana Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance). Mark Osmialowski, Paige Keller and Hunter Gaerte were the winners.

Each student has plans as to how they're going to use their scholarship money. "I will use this scholarship to split between books and tuition," Osmialowski said. Funding his tuition helps him reach his goals for the future. "My ultimate goal is to stay and coach collegiate football, but I would love to be able to teach physical education and health in a high school or middle school setting, while coaching high school football as well." Keller also plans to use her scholarship money for textbooks and tuition. She looks forward to teaching in the future. "When I was a junior in high school, my English teacher asked us to journal for five minutes about what we thought was the biggest problem in the United States," she said. "I chose to journal

about obesity. Then, she explained to us we would need to become experts on our topic by reading books, looking up information and forming an opinion, because at the end of the year we would be writing a research paper on our topic. The more I learned about the obesity epidemic, the more passionate I became about pursuing a career where I could impact people's health behaviors. I felt by becoming a teacher, I would have the ability to inspire my students to lead healthy lifestyles."

Gaerte hopes to lessen her student loans as well. "In a few years I hope to be teaching middle school, and coaching volleyball at the high school level," she said. Gaerte wasn't exactly sure what she wanted to teach at the beginning of her college career. "I started off as an English education and a psychology double major," she said. "I wanted to teach and counsel in a school. I quickly learned that English was not my strong suit. I knew I wanted to teach; I just didn't know what. One of my family members brought up physical education and I had never thought about it. I've always been super passionate about sports, health and fitness. It kind of clicked then."

ESAT has many program benefits, such as specialized hands-on experience. This gives students extra practice in their career field as they advance. "The best part of my major has been my PEP (Physical Education Program) labs," Keller said. "The first lab was one where I got to teach homeschooled students in grades 4th-8th and the second lab the students were K-3rd grade. These labs were a great experience because they really pushed me outside of my comfort zone.

"It was the first time I created a lesson plan and the first time I taught a lesson to students," she continued. "I was really nervous at first because all my peers were standing around watching and making notes of feedback to give me. However, everyone was in the same boat and encouraged one another throughout the process. It was neat to build relationships with the students and earn their respect."

Osmialowski agrees. "My major has so much hands-on experience involved that I feel like I have an advantage on other physical education majors from other schools," he said. "The homeschool lab has made the transition to teaching so much more easier, and it is a fun learning experience as well."

TRUMP, FROM PAGE 1

Trump's status as a presidential revolutionary is also attributed to his differing relationship with political parties compared to past presidents. "In the 19th century, political parties were often more powerful than the president himself," Hemmer said. "However, that has obviously changed over the years." She then went on to explain that Trump has his own brand of party.

Professor Leonard Williams, who brought Hemmer to campus, spearheaded the VIA. "It made sense to bring someone with an understanding of our political position today," Williams said. "Nicole provides enough expertise in the area to accomplish our goal of setting the Trump administration into context."

Williams also noted that the "Trump Revolution" VIA was open to other members of the community besides Manchester University students and faculty. "We opened this presentation for anyone with a thirst for knowledge," Williams said, "not just political science students."

For example, senior peace studies major Michael Himlie attended the event in order to gain more knowledge of the current president of the United States. "Trump's policies are so unprecedented," Himlie remarked, "that everybody is taking interest."

In addition to her previous state-

ments regarding Trump as a president, Hemmer also broached the topic of the relationship between government and the media. Hemmer specifically referenced Trump's "loose" relationship with accurate facts and representations. "Trump does no fact checking," Hemmer said. "It's always been this way since he has no one to hold him accountable."

As one of the many attendees of this VIA, first year Hannah Newby remarked that Hemmer's argument seemed to be a little biased. "It seemed to be more directed toward the Democrats in the room as opposed to the Republicans," Newby said, "there wasn't really a balance." Despite any diverging viewpoints among the students and faculty at Manchester, Williams reveled in the fact that this is the prime time for students to learn about politics. "The first 100 days of the presidency is a great time for citizens to develop their attitudes toward our president and to eventually make their final judgements," he said. The president's first 100 days in office began the day after his inauguration and will conclude on April 29, 2017. In addition to enlightening the student body on the concept of the Trump Revolution as a whole, both Hemmer and Williams hope to bring valuable insight into the world of politics. "Our goal for this VIA," Williams said, "is that students get something to chew on from a broader perspective."





SPARTAN SPORTS



Junior Eric Knepper

Baseball in Full Swing

Tanner Edge
Staff Writer

Manchester University's baseball team has been in an uphill battle heading into conference play this season. With a young team, having only eight seniors out of their 51-man roster, the Spartans are trying to find themselves before making a push for the playoffs. Sitting at 7-13 overall and 4-4 in the conference, Manchester is in a prime position to strike a playoff push by winning most of their upcoming games.

The Spartans senior center fielder Chad Schultz has high hopes for this season. He prides himself on doing whatever he can to help the team win. "Personally I would like to hit at least a .300 batting average," he said. "I had a goal of making no errors this year, but I've already made one. I just want to do what I can to help the team win no matter what it is."

Digging deeper into team goals is key for the Spartan senior. "I would say the focus is to just improve every day," Schultz said. Understanding that he is a leader on the team is something he hasn't taken lightly. The team has five more weekend series' and four Tuesday

conference games left this season. "We are young all over with new guys playing big roles early in their careers," Schultz said. "We need to get more comfortable with each player's role, and I believe that we have improved already. Now that conference games have started, our main goal is to win conference and make the conference tourney and see what happens from there."

Junior pitcher Taylor Kopplin recalled some of the baseball team's glory days with high hopes of getting back to those moments soon. "Our goal every year is to win the HCAC," he said. "By winning the regular season, we would then host the HCAC tournament." If this win happens, it would give the Manchester Spartans an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. "Manchester baseball has had a lot of success in the near past, going to the World series in 2004 and 2013," Kopplin added. "We are just working to continue that tradition of success and do our best to get a shot to go back to the world series."

The Spartans start their first weekend conference matchup against Earlham College. After that, it will be a blur of conference games to round out the regular season before the HCAC conference tournament hits off.



MU Softball Enters Conference Following Spring Break Success

Maddie Jo Shultz
Staff Writer

After a winning streak over Spring Break, the Spartans returned to Indiana for the start of 2017's Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) on Saturday, April 1.

Though several players lament the losses the team has suffered this season, they hope to improve their batting average and overall pitching as they begin the HCAC. "As a team, we really just want to win," says first-year Taylor Sleeth, a sentiment echoed by first-year Tristyn Koon.

Sleeth added that the players have continued to build strong bonds since the team's trip to Florida. "I don't know if it was the warm weather or us living together, but we grew closer as a team," Sleeth says.

Koon agrees, saying that the team needs some improving but is on the right track. "I need to hit my spots when I'm pitching," she admits, "and to work on my mental

strength."

Coach Josh Dzurick has held team meetings regularly since the start of the season, and Koon says that to get them ready for the conference, he has been reading them a book during meetings to motivate them. On April 2 the Spartans entered the conference with a doubleheader against the Mt. St. Joseph Lions. Manchester scored two runs in the first game, but Mt. St. Joseph sneaked ahead with three runs for the win. In the second game of the day, the Lions defeated the Spartans 15-1.

The team's recent losses contrast with the results of the games played in Ft. Myers in late March. Sleeth points out that the team had a record of 7-3 from the 10 games they played at Century Field over Spring Break.

Things are going to start heating up for the Spartans as they continue in the HCAC. The scheduled doubleheader against Anderson on April 5 was postponed due to inclement weather.

Upcoming Games

April

- 08 @ Franklin
- 09 @ Alma U.
- 12 @ Defiance
- 13 @ Rose-Hulman
- 18 @ Hope College

Quick Facts

- Lady Spartans won 7 out of 10 games during their Spring Break trip
- Head Coach Josh Dzurick boosts morale by reading books to players during team meetings
- MU enters HCAC conference with 2 tough losses against Mt. St. Joseph U.

2017 Softball Roster



Sydney Thompson
C, Sophomore



Kate Skeens
3B, Sophomore



Lauren Ladwig
2B/OF, Junior



Emilee Liston
OF, Senior



Madisyn Walter
Pitcher, Junior



Savannah Delgado
C/SS, Freshman



Krystal Sellers
SS, Sophomore



Mikayla Deisler
OF, Junior



Makenzi Nyland
Infield, Freshman



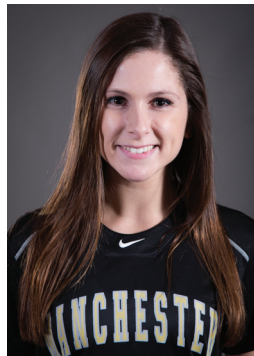
Sarah Shoemaker
2B/OF, Freshman



Shakira Perez
1B/OF, Freshman



Tristyn Koon
P, Freshman



Katelyn Boyle
OF, Freshman



Miranda Boggs
SS, Sophomore



Makenzie Kazmierczak
OF, Freshman



Andrea Hernandez
3B, Junior



Chloe Hensley
IF, Senior



Mallorie Jennings
P, Junior



Kristin Connors
Infield, Freshman



Taylor Sleeth
3B, Freshman