

The Oak Leaves

Manchester University Issue IX - December 7, 2012

Trackless Performs at WBKE's FuzeFest

Hannah Schutter
Staff Writer

After winning last year's Battle of the Bands and opening for The Knux at Chet Fest, Trackless came back to Manchester on Friday to perform at WBKE's FuzeFest.

Held in Wampler Auditorium, Manchester University students graced the stage first. "They were simply volunteers who enjoy performing and wanted to participate in the event for fun," said WBKE Sports Director and FuzeFest emcee, Mark Zinser. Openers included musical performances of original, student-written songs and covers by Chris Minter, Trevor Kimm and Brandon Curry and the comedic stylings of Michael Paynter.

After the openers concluded, Trackless, a band comprised of Ball State University students, began to perform. This group boasts nearly 600 "likes" on Facebook and has an album set to be released by Christmas. "We think they will go somewhere in the music industry, hopefully in the near future," Zinser said.

With a set list containing pieces ranging from covers (like Foster the People's "Pumped



MUSIC TO OUR EARS Trackless, a band of Ball State University students, performs on Friday, Nov. 30, for WBKE's FuzeFest. After winning the 2012 Battle of the Bands and opening for The Knux's performance at Chet Fest, Trackless had been in talks with WBKE with hopes of returning to MU and heading their own show. Manchester University students opened the show with various musical performances.

Photo by Maia Marusak

Up Kicks") and original songs, this five-person band entertained an intimate crowd and made sure the audience was on its feet and dancing the entire time.

WBKE had been

in talks with Trackless for over a year to get them to come back and put on a show at Manchester's FuzeFest. Trackless "blew us away last year," said Megan Feters, WBKE advisor.

Zinser said: "They [Trackless] thrived to develop a deep relationship with us."

FuzeFest, completely run by WBKE members, was organized so there was a "fun event

to attend [on campus, but to] hopefully raise some awareness of the radio station and its presence on campus. We want students to be excited when WBKE is involved with something, like

they are when there is a MAC event," Zinser said. WBKE's other big event is Chet Fest, which is usually held sometime in April.

Amidst raffles of gift baskets and WBKE apparel, Trackless performed for a couple of hours until having to conclude their show. Unlike the concerts I have been to, the band members simply stepped off of the stage upon finishing and began to interact with the crowd. Having no "roadies" or crew, Trackless members sat up their merchandise table on their own and handled money while selling t-shirts and EPs.

It was apparent that the band members were not in Hollywood just yet, though, seeing that they are all senior students at Ball State. Instead of discussing after parties and record labels, the Trackless band members were overheard discussing papers they had to write over topics like the History of Constantinople, and like any overworked student, were jokingly offering to pay someone to write the paper for them. It seems that the fame and notoriety has not gotten to Trackless's heads.

Fort Wayne Ballet Performs for MU Students

Ariel Smith
Staff Writer

A new kind of athleticism was brought to Manchester University on Thursday, Nov. 15, when the Fort Wayne Ballet came to show off some excerpts from its rendition of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker," their annual performance for the holiday season.

The performance also featured pieces from other shows the Ballet had done previously, including "Cinderella" and "Rodeo." The ballerinas seemed to glide across the stage with little effort, their costumes glittering under the lights. From the young children to the young adults, each piece was beautifully done.

The Fort Wayne Ballet is the only professional dance company in Indiana as well as one of the nation's premiere dance academies. They perform several shows each year that take a lot of time to put together and coordinate. Lucia Rogers, one of the principal company dancers as well as the Academy Coordinator and Lower Level Curricular Coordinator, described the process of putting a show together. The younger children begin auditions and rehearsals first, just working on the one show that is coming up. The company dancers and "pre-professional" students however, may be working on many different dances. "The thing about dance is



ON POINTE Several ballerinas perform one of their pieces as the Fort Wayne Ballet came to Manchester University on Thursday, Nov. 15. The Ballet gave attendees sneak-peeks of their rendition of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker," an annual holiday tradition, and of other shows like "Cinderella" and "Rodeo."

Photo by Randa Gillespie

that you are constantly learning new rep, but it's not a matter of learning new rep and losing the old, it's building upon so you have this library to pull from," said Rogers when speaking about a piece that she had not performed in about a year.

Much like other sports at Manchester

University, the dancers have practice every day as well as cross training outside of practice, such as Pilates and yoga. Rogers also explained that the company strives to show that everybody can dance. The company does many other types of dancing besides ballet, so the performers must be ready for anything.

Unlike most other sports, ballet does not have an off-season for the company. They perform seasonal shows all year that, as Rogers explained, keeps them busy and in shape. The visit to Manchester University was like another practice for the company; it was also not their first time here. "Whenever you

have opportunity to perform and share your art with someone else and hopefully inspire some young ones, it's always a fantastic thing," said Rogers about bringing their performance to MU.

The repertoires that the dancers have for their classical pieces such as "The Nutcracker" are based on classical

dances. These pieces are very similar whether performed by the Fort Wayne Ballet or another company in Chicago or New York. The more contemporary pieces that they performed were choreographed by David Ingram, another principal company dancer as well as the men's division coordinator and choreographer, and also by Tracy Tritz, another faculty member at the academy.

Auditions for the Fort Wayne Ballet are open to the community. They do want most beginners to have a grip on the fundamentals of dance and be in classes, but anyone can audition starting at the age of six. The school is made up of about 250 students and the teachers often go into other Fort Wayne community schools to work with students that are interested in dance. "We want every child to have the opportunity to be able to use dance and movement to express themselves," Rogers said.

Inside: Alpha Mu Gamma ~ Todd Green ~ New Athletics Site



Around Campus



Alpha Mu Gamma Inducts Students, Professor

Kyle Lahman
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Nov. 18, nine students and one professor were inducted into Alpha Mu Gamma, a foreign-language honor society. The ceremony took place in front of an intimate gathering of family, friends and colleagues in the Academic Center auditorium.

The student inductees were honored for their excellence in studying Spanish, German or French. The 2012 Alpha Mu Gamma class consists of Alma Butts (Spanish), Sarah Carman (Spanish), Aubrey Conard (French), Allison Harper (Spanish), Ted Maldonado (German), Paula Rodriguez (Spanish), Marie Stump (Spanish), Matthew Suderman (Spanish) and Natalie Szymkowski (Spanish).

According to Alpha Mu Gamma faculty advisor Lynne Margolies, the new members were selected based on three criteria: AMG members must be serious students of language, with a high GPA and a letter of recommendation from a language professor.

In addition to the student inductees, professor of English Beate Gilliar was inducted as an honorary member of Alpha Mu

Gamma. Gilliar was honored for her help in creating the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) minor at Manchester.

The impact Gilliar had on students studying

had on their studies and life after college.

Chris Hindsley, a French teacher in Warsaw, described Gilliar in three words –“energy, enthusiasm, and exuberance” – and detailed how

als” –advice that she used to shape her own teaching style.

Sarah Plew, a 2012 graduate, lauded Gilliar by calling her “selflessly generous” and “fervently kind.”

Gilliar. Colleen Hamilton and Kate Brelje, graduate students in Wisconsin and Colorado, also praised Gilliar from a distance. How fitting that these students could not attend because their foreign language

a warm round of applause from those in attendance; it truly was a special occasion.

Gilliar and the student inductees join the nationwide AMG family. A foreign language honor society founded in 1931, Alpha Mu Gamma has more than 300 collegiate chapters, each operating under the belief, according to its website, that “foreign language is the key to unlocking doors to other literatures and cultures.”

Manchester’s own Mu Gamma Chapter was founded in 2001, with, according to Margolies, the goal of “providing scholarship and promoting peace and understanding through language.”

Current Alpha Mu Gamma officers at Manchester University are ShaNell Brazo, President; Hayley Weagant, Vice President; Taylor Daggett, Secretary; and Kayla Wiseman, Treasurer.



LINGUISTIC RECOGNITION Nine Manchester University students are applauded after being inducted into Alpha Mu Gamma, a foreign language honor society, on Sunday, Nov. 18. The students inducted were honored for excelling in studying foreign languages at Manchester, while Dr. Beate Gilliar, who was also inducted, was recognized for her work in creating the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) minor.

Photo by Maia Marusak

foreign language at Manchester was apparent from the moment students began reading testimonials. Both current and former students lavishly praised her as they talked about the profound impact she

her unique teaching style shaped his own method of instruction.

Nicole Brubaker, the current Spanish teacher at Manchester High School, said that Gilliar “sees students as individu-

Plew then read the prepared testimonials from former students who could not be in attendance. Natalie Collar, who is teaching English in Japan, said that she was “eternally grateful” for her experiences with

studies have taken them as far away as Japan. In the middle of all the praise, Gilliar stopped the adulations to say, “If I didn’t know any better, I would think I’d died.” Her comment was greeted to

MU Reaches Semi-Finals of AICPA Competition

Devin Clark
Staff Writer

Accounting students who were members of Manchester University’s “Team America” were one of the 20 teams of the entire nation to participate in the annual AICPA, or the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant, competition.

“Team America” made it to the semi-finals in the AICPA competition, which challenges a team of four to come up the smartest accounting solution to a specific theme. In 2010 the issue dealt with sustainability and in 2011 the competition was over fraud and forensics. This year the competition wanted the students to advise a fictional presidential candidate on a platform to solve America’s financial woes and come up with the best advice for the president.

“The first round consisted of us as a group writing a 1,000 word proposal paper,” said Garret Kautz. “We were then selected as one of 20 finalists in the country. In the semifinals we had to take our original proposal and

discuss it in more detail in a 5–6 minute movie. After the video was submitted, the judges picked three schools to move onto the finals which are held in Washington DC.”

“Team America” was advised by Heather Twomey, associate professor of accounting and business and led by Nick Barbknecht, senior, who was also the team’s captain. Following Nick was Jared Allen, senior; Garrett Kautz, senior; and Lauren Gazdick, also senior.

Being the team’s captain, Barbknecht said that it was a lot of work for the team. The advice the students would give the president would be to propose transforming taxation in the United States by eliminating income, payroll and corporate taxes. Instead, everybody would pay a flat value-added tax on everything except food and health. The students believed that doing this would decrease federal spending by 25 percent.

There are 20 teams of four students competing to get into one of three top spots in order to compete for the grand

prize of \$10, 000. Manchester’s team did not qualify into the top three, but it meant a great deal to the team just to make it that far.

“We didn’t get to be one of the three teams that made it into the finals, so as Ricky Bobby says in ‘Talladega Nights,’ if you’re not first you’re last.” Barbknecht said.

Even with the not the desired outcome the team wanted, Kautz still had a positive outlook for other students who are considering trying to become a part of the new team to compete for the \$10,000 grand prize. “I think this is a great way to show the talents that Manchester students have,” Kautz said. “It is free publicity for the school’s accounting program.”

Not only will students help provide Manchester with a good reputation for its program, but Kautz also said the competition helped him gain more knowledge about the subjects discussed during the meetings prior to the competition.

Corrections

In our Nov. 16 article on the Middle Eel River Initiative, the explanation that described the process of draining water from the barn roofs at the Metzger Farm was inaccurate. The water from barn roofs is collected in an underground drain (French Drain). From this underground drain, the rain water is directed to a larger open drain and then on to a stream. This practice keeps separate rain water from the cow manure and eliminates the possibility of any manure flowing into an open stream or county drain. According to biology professor Jerry Sweeten, this kind of conservation practice is very expensive and illustrates a strong commitment by the Metzger Farm to manage manure from their dairy herd and to keep streams in the area free of any potential pollutants.

Also, in the same issue, the picture that accompanied the story about Professor Watson, Gilliar, and Slavkin’s FYS classes traveling to Chicago showed Professor Barb Burdge’s class, which went to Chicago on Nov. 8 and visited several places related to the LGBT community in the city such as the Howard Brown Health Center (as pictured), the Center on Halsted, and Women and Children First bookstore.

The Oak Leaves regrets these errors.

The Oak Leaves

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Around Campus



Green Gives Intricate Performance at Manchester

Heather Elson
Staff Writer

Todd Green, a one man band, serenaded about 50 audience members with a stage full of instruments from around the world at Cordier Auditorium Tuesday night. Green goes on tour with his instruments including his Oud (Middle East) and Sarangi (India), both of which are part of the string family, and his Mocseno, a type of flute, from South America.

He plays all the musical numbers without any additional help, using an on-stage recording system to continue the sound of a certain instrument as he begins to play another, while also using his voice. All the different musical cultural numbers were played to enhance the audience's music perspective and show how music can bring different cultures together in harmony.

The concert was the second of two events that Manchester University's Office of Multicultural Affairs offered for VIA credit. The earlier event called "Todd Green Lecture" brought some students back for the concert. "I wanted to hear all the

instruments," said Hannah Miles, sophomore.

Green began his concert with an introduction to the different types of instruments that he would

night, the audience traveled around the world with Green's help. He led them through many different musical styles such as Spain, South America,

he used a variety of native instruments, including strings, Yali Tanbar, Kanan and wind Ney from the Middle East.

The music was



MUSICAL MAGIC Preceding his concert on the evening on Nov. 27, Todd Green gave a lecture on his music and the different instruments he uses. At his concert many students were exposed to various types of music that wove into a pleasing performance.

Photo by Alexah Parnin

be playing throughout the night. As Green started to play, he took the audience into the world of Chinese music, playing instruments such as Gu Zheng, harp, and Xiao, flute.

Throughout the

Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, and Great Britain. "My favorite musical style that he presented was one towards the end that was Asian," said Donnie Watkins, first year. Through the different musical styles,

very peaceful and so soothing that some members of audience became very relaxed and fell asleep peacefully in their seats. Though she did not fall asleep, Joyce Bangel, sophomore, felt very calm

throughout the concert. Other members of the audience drifted into a daydream state. "I thought the music was very insightful," said Kourtney Jennings, sophomore. "During certain points, I imagined being Mulan or a belly dancer."

Even with some members contentedly asleep, other audience members stayed focused and alert to the different musical styles. "There was not a part I did not like," said Justin Rule, sophomore. "I liked it all, except my seat could have been more comfortable."

The concert was never dull and brought a wide variety of students from music lovers to those who love learning about different cultures. Green kept the concert moving in a fluid manner so that when an instrument needed to be

tuned, he would bring up how Indiana has a different humidity volume than down-south, where he typically performs.

He ended the concert by reading a poem called "The Music of Life" that he wrote in his book called "Sparks from Life's Flint." The poem captured the mood of the concert by reflecting on all the different cultures around the world that came together through music and let go of the discrimination.

Through his music, Todd Green gave Manchester's audience a great show and without words showed how music can combine differences and let human kind come together as one. For more information on his instruments, concert tours, books or Todd Green himself go to www.toddgreen.com.

"Unless we as a culture strive to raise our consciousness we will continue to lower standards, down the pit, that's bottomless. There's no better place to start, to heal our spiritual strife than to know the kind of music, that leads to truth, a Renaissance life."

An excerpt from Todd Green's poem "The Music of Life" from his book "Sparks from Life's Flint"

Grammy-Winner Daniel Belcher Invited to Sing

Lauran Gady
Staff Writer

Grammy Award–Winning operatic baritone and former student at Julliard, Daniel Belcher, presented a solo recital Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Wine Recital Hall.

Approximately one year ago Dr. Debra Lynn, the music department chair, saw Daniel Belcher's name as a Grammy-winner and thought of the close friendship they had as undergraduate students at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. Lynn was also the pianist for his very first opera performance. "It was cool for me that I was in that with him," she said.

Belcher has come to North Manchester two times since then. He spent some days in September but was not able to stay very long due to a strenuous opera schedule that he performs all over the world. "He loves to come and doesn't get to teach a lot because he is on the road so much," Lynn said.

Belcher typically goes to a few high schools within an hour's drive to visit classes, sing a couple of numbers, and talk to the students about careers in music. "He is very compliant when answering questions even when

it comes down to things like 'What car do you drive?'" said Lynn with a smile. Belcher also usually does either a recital performance or some type of master class where singers come and sing for him in front of class and he gives them a mini voice lesson.

"This is very scary for the singer to do, but Danny is very nice about it," Lynn said. He is now very in demand with local schools and because of limited time the schools that request his presence and teaching first are the ones that get to see him. Last year a master class was offered by Lynn and Belcher for high-schoolers before the Indiana state solo and ensemble music contest, where 15 or 20 minutes is devoted to each student for voice improvement.

"This is the kind of teaching that is kind of exhausting for the instructor, and when we had 14 students sign up I told Danny that he did not have to give lessons to all of them and that we should choose 5 or 6," Lynn said. "Danny just said put them all on the sign up list and we'll go until we're done. He did a four-hour master class with only one bathroom break for himself and was just as energetic with the first person as he was with the last. That's why we all love for him to come he really just gives

all of himself."

Belcher is very well-known for premiering new works that have been written with difficult opera parts. "Many think of operas in terms of Mozart and Beethoven and in other words composers that are decomposing, but that's not true many composers are still writing operas and need people to premier these difficult works," Lynn said. "Daniel is able to look at new material and interpret it well even with no recording to reference."

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra is performing some wonderful Christmas numbers from The Polar Express and Disney's The Christmas Carol (with Jim Carrey) that will also be a nice complement to Daniel Belcher's performance. Scott Humphries, the director of instrumental studies and conductor of the symphonic orchestra at Manchester University also works closely with Daniel Belcher during his time spent at MU. "There is no pretentiousness even though he's a big star in the operatic world," Humphries said. "He relates well to others and is approachable. I think that's why he really enjoys our music department and has so willingly come back, because we are so approachable and caring towards students as well."

MSO Gives Musical Opportunities to Students

Amaber Leavel
Staff Writer

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra offers something special to the student musicians of Manchester University. The orchestra, unlike many of its kind, gives students the opportunity to play side by side with professionals. From woodwinds to brass to strings, the MSO is a place for students to hone their musical talents.

Senior Rachel Nowak has been a violinist in the MSO since her first year at Manchester, and attributes her personal growth to the learning opportunities available. "I have gotten better personally with the help of the professionals sitting next to me," Nowak said. "I sit next to the first chair violin and she's taught me a lot." On her favorite memory of the MSO, Nowak looks toward the future. "This year I'm auditioning for a senior solo for a concerto competition in the spring, so if I end up getting the solo

that'll be my favorite part," she said.

As for the upcoming concert, Nowak is excited for the pieces they'll be playing. "This year the piece is Hodie, which is a really long piece, but it's also very beautiful," she said. As for her favorite in the concert, it's the ever classic "Polar Express."

Tyler Krempasky has spent the last four years at Manchester juggling his time between two very different hobbies: baseball and the violin. The two differing pastimes have given him perspective. "Whether you're an athlete or a musician it builds character, you're going to put everything you've got into it," he said.

Picking up his violin in the fourth grade, Krempasky got an early start in music. Since joining the MSO during his first year, he especially enjoys the comfort of knowing his peers around him. "You get to know the players better and get a sense of what their own styles are,"

he said. "The conductor, Scott, does a great job, and now four years later I know his counts well enough that I don't even have to look at him."

MSO, has been playing since the sixth grade. Although she's had many years of experience, Loos emphasizes what Manchester has taught her.

of musicians," she said. "Growing up, my middle and high schools did not have an orchestra so I missed out on learning how to play an instrument

with large ensembles."

During a previ-



IN PERFECT HARMONY Student members of the Manchester Symphony Orchestra have the ability not only to hone their own musical skills while at college but to have the opportunity to do so alongside professional musicians. MSO will showcase their talents at their next performance, "This Day," on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Photo by Alexah Parnin



Around Campus



MU Choirs to Sing ‘Nine Lessons, Carols’

Charlaine Grosse
Staff Writer

On Dec. 7, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Manchester University’s Chamber Singers, Cantabile women’s choir and guests will present the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 113 W. Main St., North Manchester.

The tradition of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols came from England and is traditionally followed at Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music are combined with readings from the Bible.

“This event is a worship service combined with a concert,” said Dr. Debra Lynn, associate professor of music and chair of the music department. Cantabile, an auditioned ensemble composed exclusively of women, will be there to captivate your ears. “I get to hear a lot of young girls, so it is refreshing to hear women singing here,” Lynn said. Chamber Singers, which is composed of 18 members, men and women, and is the most select group of campus, will sing along with a trio of guest singers composed of Daniel Belcher, David Moan and Eric Reichenbach.

Belcher, the 2011 Grammy Award–winning per-

former of the best opera recording; Moan, an alumnus and singer with the Detroit Opera; and Reichenbach, a physician at the Manchester Clinic, are going to interpret a piece called “The Wise Men,” a composition by Lynn. “It’s a premiere, and that is always a little nerve-wracking, but exciting,” Lynn said.

“I compose as often as I can,” she continued. “It is an important creative endeavor for me. I especially enjoy writing for musicians I know personally, because it allows me to take their personal singing or playing styles into account. For instance, I know David, Eric, and Danny very well—and I know their voices well. I know the way their voices will blend and which ones will stand out more in certain registers, so I can compose for them in a way that plays to their individual strengths as singers.”

For the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service, the choirs are directed by three student conductors. Adam Ousley is conducting the piece with the Chamber Singers, along with Angelina Jung and Erica Reffitt, who are conducting one piece each with Cantabile. Ousley will also conduct a selection from the Messiah: “Glory to God,” composed in 1741 by George Frederic Handel.

The tradition of holding this service at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church started three years ago, featuring Robin Gratz, an organist who is also the recently

retired director of Manchester University’s Funderberg Library. “We started to celebrate this tradition at Gratz’s church because their sanctuary is a good acoustic space for this event, and they have one of the better organs in the community,” Lynn said. It is also the church where Robin is organist, so that was a logical choice, since he was the organist for the event.”

Alex Drew, senior vocal performance major at Manchester University, section leader, student conductor and bass in the choir will be singing a solo, but that does not seem to worry him. “I have done so many concerts before that I’m used to it now,” Drew said. “Plus, I am not the only one to have a solo; we are about five singers.” They started rehearsing one month ago and they meet twice a week. “Both ensembles are singing difficult music, but they are rising to the challenge well, as usual,” Lynn said/

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Christmas service is definitely appreciated by the community. “I have received very good feedback; I even received emails asking if we were doing it again this year,” Lynn said.

Students Utilize ‘Career Success’ VIA, Expo

Kari Cottingim
Staff Writer

Motivational speaker Caroline Dowd-Higgins opened the “Career Success” VIA with valuable information about job opportunities based on her past and present careers. Following her presentation, students could speak with professionals from a variety of careers.

Students in the audience reacted well to Dowd-Higgins’ positive voice and messages. She had a motherly character as she called participating students “my dear” and “darling.” While these are not very businesslike terms, students responded positively. “She was very strong in her presence so students took her seriously,” said Brittany Lakey. She gave advice on subjects such as what to wear to interviews, using appropriate manners, and how to shake hands, gaining credibility for these aspects as she demonstrated them well in her presentation.

Some of Dowd-Higgins’ best advice for Manchester students was the positive aspects of obtaining extra skills with a liberal arts degree. “I loved Caroline Dowd-Higgins’ speech about the benefits of a liberal arts education,” said Hannah Schutter. “It made me very confident that I will be able to hold

many different careers upon graduation.”

Indeed Dowd-Higgins has experienced firsthand the need for these

brought it to a halt and she had to make sudden life changes. She started to refocus on all of her skills and what she liked to do

sional development coach at Indiana University, she hosts her own weekly radio broadcast, she is a public speaker, and she is the

When Dowd-Higgins’ presentation was finished, the students were invited to attend a career exhibit where they could

Dowd-Higgins was available at the career exhibit to discuss her career paths with students and answer their questions. She was just as energetic at her station as she was on stage. Giving her advice with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. She likes her job because she likes helping people. “I love it when someone finds confidence” Dowd-Higgins said.

First-year students had the task of conversing with a minimum of three people about their careers. They could visit a station based on their interests in a future career or curiosity about a position they were matched with on a career-interest survey they filled out before attending the event.

The career survey had a variety of topics that ranged from music to science and to the military. The student rated each topic according to their interest in it and the survey came up with the best careers it could find in its system for that student according to their interests. “I thought they were accurate,” said Lacy Emery. “They’re definitely something to look into.”



CAREER DAY Students line up and wait for their turn to speak with professionals from a variety of careers during the “Career Success” VIA and information fair on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at Cordier Auditorium. Prior to the Career Information Fair, motivational speaker Caroline Dowd-Higgins lectured students for VIA credit. Dowd-Higgins gave students tips on several career-related topics, such what to wear to interviews. She also stressed the advantages of graduating with a liberal arts degree.

Photo by Kellen Wilkening

skills during an abrupt career change.

Dowd-Higgins followed her dream career of being an opera singer into Europe, loving her work until Europe’s economy

in order to decide what step she should take next. Dowd-Higgins now pours her talents into her many occupations. She is a blogger for the Huffington Post, a career and profes-

author of the book “This is not the Career I Ordered.” You can find more information about Dowd-Higgins and her many activities on her website <http://caroline-dowdhiggins.com>.

discuss job opportunities with business men and women who work in them. “I thought it was cluttered, but beneficial” Lakey said. “I felt comfortable asking the people questions.”

Holiday Travel Takes Students Far, Wide

Kaitie Kemper
Staff Writer

With holiday break quickly approaching on Dec. 13, many Manchester University students are anxiously awaiting their journeys home. While some are traveling by automobile to their Indiana residences, others are flying overseas to enjoy a few weeks of relaxation from rigorous coursework. However, one common thread ties a multitude of MU students’ holiday plans together: family. Manchester University junior Jeries Khayyat is flying home to Ramallah, Palestine, to kick off his holiday break. His family is having their first reunion in three years. Before he gets to Ramallah, he will gather for a “pre-union” with older relatives and cousins in Amman, Jordan. Then, he will cross the border into Palestine for a night before venturing to Bethlehem to visit more extended family in order to join them in mourning his late aunt.

Christmas Eve is a big to-do for the Khayyat family. “On Christmas Eve, we all meet at my house [in Ramallah],” he said. “We have the Christmas tree set up, we put the presents there, and then my mom cooks the main dish and salads, and everyone brings whatever they cook. Then we listen to music, we dance to the Tarab—which is traditional Middle Eastern music—we laugh, watch movies, drink, eat, and then take pictures.”

On Christmas day, Khayyat and his family indulge in numerous feasts, and the Khayyat men go around wishing a “Merry Christmas” to friends and family. This Greek Orthodox practice can take up to four days to complete. After celebrating the New Year, he is flying to Dubai to spend time with his immediate family. From there, the Khayyats are taking a yacht on the Gulf Sea from Dubai to his sister’s house in Abu Dhabi. Following this excursion, they are driving to a resort in the desert in Oman. They will be going out to the tents near the resort for a night filled with artistic henna drawing, belly dancers, music, singing, and bonfires.

Khayyat, who says that his Christmas gift is his plane ticket home, is excited for his vacation. “Basically this year is going to be family getting reconnected and having a good time together,” he said.

Senior Laura Lichauer is flying to England for three weeks to see her mother after spending five years apart. “We’re going to go to London, Bath and Cardiff,” she said. “Harry Potter opened up all their sets for touring so we have to get to that. We’re also going to go to the Dr. Who Museum, and we’re thinking about traveling up to Liverpool.” Lichauer, who hasn’t seen her mom’s side of the family in England for 13 years, says that they are doing a lot of family reunion activities as well.

Sophomore Paula Rodriguez is flying home to Quito, Ecuador. “We have dinner on Christmas Eve,” she said.

“We have turkey, and we’ll just have a big gathering: all the family, cousins, everyone. For New Year’s Eve we have a dinner, and then Jan. 1 usually people go party.” Rodriguez explains a traditional Christmas in Ecuador. “Most of our people are Catholic, and they pray an everyday prayer nine days before Christmas,” she said. “What they do is pray every day and thank God until Christmas. We have the Christmas tree and then you have a figure of Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the three kings, and that’s where you pray. That’s a religious thing, and it’s also very traditional.”

First-year student Guy Webb is driving home to Greenwood, Ind., before hopping a plane to the Sunshine State. “I plan on relaxing at my house, and then going down to Florida to see my grandmother for a week or two,” he said.

Fellow first-year student Katie Skeen is driving home to Anderson, Ind. for the holidays. “We make gingerbread houses every year,” she said. “We make cookies and we deliver them to the high school and local relatives, and we shop until we drop. We also watch ‘National Lampoon’ over and over.”

Skeen doesn’t hesitate to mention her favorite part about her vacation. “It’s just being around family,” she said.



Around Campus



Opinion: What Has ‘Black Friday’ Become?

Askley McClintic
Staff Writer

Black Friday has become a holiday of its own, leaving Thanksgiving behind as an option for those who are desperate for a good deal.

According to the Washington Post, more than 17 percent of the American population was expected to sacrifice family time or pass on the turkey entirely in order to go shopping. Stores used to open their doors dawn of Friday morning in earlier years, and then midnight in recent years. Now, stores, such as Wal-Mart, have started their deals at 8 p.m. Thanksgiving evening to increase sales and revenue. This has cut into people’s evening meals and get-togethers, forcing bargainers to choose between great deals and great memories.

However, an alternative to trampling through stores has emerged that allows consumers to find the balance between shopping and family. On-line shopping increased 20.7 percent this year with smartphones accounting for 16.3 percent of total shopping sales (Trend Hunter). The Apple iPad was the most-used technological device, reaching 10 percent of all online shopping. Smartphones and other mobile devices have made shopping easier and more accessible for those who either want to pass on the adrenaline rush of running through stores or who cherish the precious moments of Thanksgiving festivities with family members.

Even though they may be distracted by hunting for deals on the internet, I personally would rather have that family member present than abandoning for a bargain. It’s not only consumers that Black Friday affects. Employees must miss out on their own family festivities as well. Target employees started an on-line petition against Target stores opening at 9 p.m. Labor protestors gathered outside a Wal-Mart to condemn their labor practices (The Washington Post).

Like other holidays, Black Friday has a designated date every year. CNN contributor Bob

Monday, were created by retailers and embraced by consumers. If we did not embrace this day, it would

ing the doors to let them in. This year, a Wal-Mart shoplifter in Georgia was detained by employees as

Why do we disregard others’ lives in order to save pennies on a meaningless object? This is what consumerism has done to humanity.

So the question remains: is Black Friday ultimately worth it? It seems ironic and contradicting that as the economy worsens, the total amount in sales and revenue of stores increases year after year. It is possible that this is helping America come out of recession, but those who cannot afford such luxurious things spend more than they have thus resulting in deeper credit card debt, etc.

Black Friday deserves its name entirely. It has caused deaths, debt and disregard for others, our selves, and our families. The consumer has been consumed by consumerism, but it looks like this misguided holiday will be around as long as people have money to spend.



Photo courtesy of <http://news.yahoo.com/holiday-shopping-season-off-record-start-215624082--finance.html>

Greene states that this so-called holiday exists “solely to sell merchandise.” He continues: “It celebrates nothing; it commemorates only itself.” In contrast to other holidays, Black Friday, along with Cyber

not exist.

In the past, it has caused unnecessary and depressing deaths. In 2008, a Long Island Wal-Mart employee was killed in a stampede of customers as he was unlock-

he was leaving the store. The employees put him in a choke-hold type position and ultimately caused his death (The Christian Post). Many other incidents have occurred including pepper spray, fist fights, etc.

Spartan Athletics Reveals New Web Design

Jacob Ray
Staff Writer

Manchester has joined the ranks of ESPN online with its newly designed athletics website. Not only does it appear more eye-catching and modern, but it’s more efficient, with information placed in easily navigated categories. The website also helps students connect directly to Manchester’s Twitter and Facebook pages. It even offers a live stat postings, live audio and live video of game, in order to keep off-site students or family informed on the Spartans game days.

The mastermind behind this project is Sports Information Director Mark Adkins. “I think the university was looking for something crispier, something fresher,” he said. For many colleges in Division III or Division II, a cutting-edge athletics website is expected. When prospective student athletes begin looking for a college, almost always the first place they’ll look at is the website. “Even some high schools are doing this,” Adkins said. “It’s the way of the future.”

The website includes rotating photos with the current top sport stories linked to them, a Spartan video section that allows visitors to view current highlights, a section

for new recruits to browse for information on Manchester

includes a link for alumni to follow about the “Friends of Manchester University

The actual page designing was done through PrestoSports, an

and Yale. A few Manchester students also assisted, especially Katie Gonzales, who did the time-consuming task of sizing all photos to correct website format. Brianna Martinez was also a large help in typing up bios of coaches and players for the website.

The website itself is up and running and anyone can go check it out. “Coaches have told me they like it and administrators say they really enjoy it,” Adkins said. “Parents are also giving me good reviews and people are finding things for us to fix, which is good.” Adkins is hopeful to have these last couple bugs worked out in the next two weeks, just having to get coach headshots with their bios and Manchester record books on the website. It’ll be relief, seeing as the project was started at the beginning of August.

However, the break will be short, because sport seasons change quickly, necessitating a change in what sports appear on the highlights reel and new calendar changes.



MOVING ON UP Manchester recently unveiled its upgraded athletics page, which includes live stat postings, live audio and live video, as well as rotating photos with recent stories linked to them.

Photo by Vivien Carter

chester athletics, and a link to the Campus Store. The new sports page even

Golf Outing,” which is a fundraiser for Spartan Athletics.

online web-design company whose client list includes Penn State, Butler

‘Play of the Week’ Awarded to MU’s Scribner in Week Four

Brock Ireland
Staff Writer

Manchester University Defensive End Jon Scribner, a sophomore from Huntertown, Indiana, received national honors and HCAC Play of the Week honor on Sept. 26 at the end of week four of the football season.

In Manchester’s game against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Scribner intercepted a pass in the third quarter. So why the special honors and Play of the Week honor for a simple interception? Scribner’s play

was a diving one-handed catch. During the play, the defensive end pinned the ball to his helmet to complete the catch. Although the Spartans narrowly lost the game to Rose-Hulman, Scribner proved that the Manchester football team has a fighting spirit that can’t be held down.

Scribner felt that he was only doing his part to advance the Spartans. “I saw the ball coming across the field and went for it,” he said. “All I could think was catch the ball,” said Scribner. Although he felt honored to be awarded

with some recognition, Scribner says he would’ve traded the play for a win in a heartbeat. “We go out as a team with the goal to go 1-0 every week, staying focused on what is at hand,” he said.

The voting for HCAC Play of the Week happens on social networking sites. Facebook and Twitter served as the main sources for the majority of the votes. In week four, the voting was as close as it ever has been. In the running was Manchester’s Scribner with his diving interception and

a player from Defiance. In the final vote, Scribner pulled ahead with 601 votes while the Defiance player had 595 votes. This made Scribner the HCAC Play of the Week for Week Four, a pretty impressive feat for a sophomore.

Manchester is extremely proud of the season that the Spartan football players have had. With an impressive season ending at 6 total wins and 4 losses. Manchester football is proving that they are a force to be reckoned with in their conference.

October Athletic Training Student of the Month



Peter Kowalczyk

Hometown: Chicago, IL
Future Plans: Physical Therapy School
Activities: Student Health Assistant, Treasurer of MUATC



Spartan Sports



Harlem Wizards Entertain Spectators at PERC

David Lloyd
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to see your chemistry professor drain a three-pointer? Maybe watch your chef dribble up and down the court expertly? Or maybe even see your dean dunk?

If so, then maybe Friday night was a disappointment for you (although they did perform admirably). In front of a packed gymnasium of students as well as faculty, Manchester Activities Council helped Manchester University welcome back the Harlem Wizards, an exciting basketball and comedic act to take on a Manchester team comprised of faculty and students alike, including chemistry professor Jeff Osborne, Chef Chris Fogerty, and Dean Glenn Sharfman, as well as referee Michael Dixon.

Although Manchester University put up a strong fight (and was probably helped by numerous five-and-ten-point basket opportunities), the Harlem Wizards pulled away with the victory. Helped along by players such as “Broadway,” “Road Runner,” and “A-Train,” the Harlem Wiz-



DUNKALICIOUS A member of the Harlem Wizards dunks during the team’s performance on Friday, Nov. 30. The Wizards, a basketball and comedic act, played against a team comprised of Manchester students and faculty during Friday’s event, which was hosted by MAC. The MU team put up a strong effort, but ultimately fell to the Wizards.

Photo by Felicia Nichols

ards put on a tantalizing show and kept the crowd enthralled through laughter just as much as they did for their dunking and dribbling displays.

Katrin Muser, a member of Manchester Activities Council, was a part of the movement to get the Wizards back to Manches-

ter. “The high school I did my exchange year at had them and it was great, as well as their YouTube videos,” Muser said. “They were here six or seven years ago, and we’d like to have them back again.”

The students were able to get involved during sign-ups at lunch, where

the winners were drawn, as well as “Knockout” and “Hot-Shot” competitions during Midnight Madness.

Junior Lexi Salcedo, another member of MAC, was very excited about the turnout as well as the excitement of the event. “I think it went very well,” said Salcedo of the

night. “For hosting an event like this, I’m really happy about the outcome and the response of the crowd. It was great to see the crowd to get crazy over both teams, and we’d like to host them again.”

In a night punctuated by athletic dunks, mind-boggling dribbling

displays, and creative passing combinations ending in alley-oops, and impromptu appearances by small children on the court throughout the night, there was an influx of wonderful moments. “My favorite part of the night was watching the kid dance in front of the scorer’s table countless times throughout the night,” said Alex Pierce, a junior, in response to one of the unrehearsed appearances.

In front of a diverse crowd of students and faculty, the Harlem Wizards put on a wonderful show. Beyond all the jumping and dunking, the Wizards were an overly entertaining combination of basketball skills as well as a rehearsed comedic act, with players that seemed just as comfortable jumping in the crowd to give Dean Sharfman’s wife a kiss as they did dribbling a basketball. They took surprises in stride, and even gathered the entire group of Manchester students present to the court to get together for some embarrassing dancing. As far as Friday night events go, there will be few as entertaining as this fun-filled night.

Men’s Basketball Looks to Gain Momentum

Matt Harter
Staff Writer

Manchester University men’s basketball began its 2012–2013 season on fire, winning three of its first four games, including a double-overtime win against Kalamazoo College. However, the team followed that up with three straight losses against Trine, Calvin and Hanover.

Despite those three losses, the team is still confident with how they’ve started the season. “I think it’s gone pretty well so far,” said Greg Flores, the Spartan’s leading scorer through the first seven games. “We are young this year and we have played some tough teams.” Manchester has five first-years, six sophomores and one senior.

One of the keys to this season for Manchester is Flores, who is entering his second season with the Spartans. “Coach kind of designated me as a scorer this year and so far, I have been doing that,” Flores said. “He also told me I need to step up on my rebounding and against Kalamazoo I had 13 rebounds.” So far this season, Flores has averaged 15.4 points per game and 3.3 rebounds per game.

Grabbing the rock after a missed shot isn’t something Flores alone needs to get better at. “I’d say our main focus right now as a team is rebounding and controlling the basketball, because recently we have played some teams that have a size advantage, which has been a

problem for a smaller team like us,” said Jarod Schrock, a first-year from Logansport High School.

With a young roster, including five first-years, it will take awhile for the team to get into a groove because of the challenging transition from high school to college basketball. “The style of play is so much different and the game speed is a lot faster than it was in high school,” Schrock said. “I remember in high school, we ran a lot of set plays that usually would just get you that first basket and now it’s more of a transition and motion offense where you are constantly moving.”

Silas Sims, in his second season with Manchester, understands the struggles of transitioning to the college basketball sphere. “It’s a whole different type of game because you are playing against adult, grown men, who know the game, are stronger and run faster,” he said. “My freshman year was tough because I was trying to teach myself how to balance basketball and academics. I think last year having (Jordan) Moss, (Jason) Spindler and (Matt) Morris really helped us because they showed us the ropes and what it takes, and I think Moss did an excellent job with that.” Sims is the third leading scorer for the Spartans with 9.9 points per game and averages 5.7 rebounds, which leads Manchester.

The Spartans use a defense that requires crisp communication between players. “We play a man-to-man (defense) where we switch everything,” Flores said. “I’m

5’10” and I could end up on a 6’8” guy, so it gets hard down there (in the post), but we play help-side defense as well. When the ball is entered into the post, we always have guys that are guarding the wings sit in the middle and dig at the post to try to get them to pick up the ball and have to kick it out instead of making his post move. We’re just trying to make them do something they don’t want to.” The Spartans also employ a 3-2 zone defense when they make a shot.

It can be tough guarding a guy in the post that is 10 inches taller than you, but the Spartans understand they have each other’s back. “We know that Greg can guard a big guy down low, but I know that he always has trust in his other teammates that if the big guy is making a move one way, there is somebody that is going to be there,” Schrock said.

HCAC action continues tomorrow as the Spartans head to Kentucky to take on the Pioneers of Transylvania University. “They are a really good team that is senior-led and they have a lot of returning players,” Sims said. “I know their coach (Brian Lane) does a great job of getting them ready to play.”

Transylvania won the conference title last season and is picked to repeat. “As long as we stick to our plan of pushing the ball in transition, rebounding and not turning the ball over, I think it should be a good game,” Flores said.

MU Women’s Basketball Defeats Hanover



LOOKING FOR AN OPEN SHOT The Manchester women’s basketball team looks to score a basket during its home game against the Mount Union Purple Raiders on Saturday, Nov. 17. The Spartans fell to the Purple Raiders by a final score of 66-50. However, the team picked up its first win of the season on Saturday, Dec. 1, at Hanover, defeating the Panthers 76-73. At the time of publication, the Spartans held an overall record of 1-4 with a 1-0 record in conference play. The team will play its next game tomorrow afternoon on the road against the Transylvania Pioneers. The game is set to tip-off at 1 p.m.

Photo by Randa Gillespie