

The Oak Leaves

Manchester University Issue VIII - November 15, 2013

Students Gather to Enjoy Founders' Day Feast

Tyler Stevenson
Staff Writer

The dinner line was extra-long last week as Manchester University celebrated its 125th birthday last Tuesday, November 5, with a Founders' Day Feast in the Union's Haist Commons. Students were treated to a five-star, three-course dinner prepared by Chef Chris Fogerty and the rest of the Chartwells crew. The meal was free for students regardless of whether they had a meal plan or not.

As students entered the Union they were greeted with free commemorative t-shirts from Shanon Fawbush, director of Student Activities and Orientation, that celebrated 125 years of Spartan pride. The line to get into dinner wound back around to the Baker's Crust at the Oaks on the east side and was out the door on the west end of the Union. As students got their IDs swiped, tables decorated with magnificent centerpieces of stars and ribbons, candles, and an information card about Manchester's founding surrounded them like an enchanted forest. Students then proceeded into the kitchen to look at, smell and eventually taste what they would be feasting on. They would not be disappointed.

For starters, students could grab a crisp Caesar salad and a healthy choice of vegetables. For the main course, items included juicy steaks, tender

chicken and scrumptious shrimp, all cooked to order and grilled by Fogerty. A baked-potato bar with the all the toppings accompa-

packed to capacity with both on- and off-campus stomachs roaring for food. Senior Trevor Speiser, junior Logan Pancake, and

Speiser commented that this was the best event he had ever been to in his four years on campus. "I think it's better than

one back. It's good to reminisce about old times."

Fieler and Shuler echoed the feelings of many students about the

swering first. Questions ranged from who was Manchester's first president to the name of the first building, from the number



BE OUR GUEST Students filled the Union for dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 5, waiting in anticipation for a hearty meal of either steak, shrimp or chicken at the Founders' Day Feast. This event was held to celebrate Manchester's 125th birthday and kick off a year's worth of activities planned for the university. Both residential and commuter students were invited to the festivities along with members of Manchester staff and faculty. While the wait for food was long, students appreciated the culinary options offered at the Feast.

Photo courtesy of <http://www.manchester.edu/125years/>

nied the main dish. Students could also supplement their gourmet meals with regular dinner options such as grilled cheese and soup or pizza. And even if they couldn't eat any more, a giant half-chocolate, half-white MU-decorated cake was on display to tempt everyone in attendance.

The Union was

sophomore Emily Pleadwell were extremely impressed by the dinner options. These on-campus students were all excited for an upscale dinner experience as well as the free shirts. "Steak and a free t-shirt make this the best dinner ever," said Pleadwell with excitement in her voice.

costume bingo," he said with a straight face.

For off-campus seniors Kelsie Fieler, Sarah Ruff and Brittany Shuler, eating dinner at the Union again brought back memories as well as provided a free meal. "I'm glad I came tonight," said Ruff with a smile. "This was a really good event to bring every-

dinner quality. "This cake is amazing," said Shuler in between bites.

The feast was more than just food, however; students could participate in Founder's Day Trivia through the Manchester's Twitter handle. Students pushed their brains and thumbs to the max to win prizes by an-

of students who enrolled in the first year at Manchester to when did Manchester open. They were even asked when the name changed from College to University. Students were given a cheat sheet, too, as all the answers were on the information cards that adorned every table.

Fort Wayne Ballet Dazzles MU with 'Danza'

Emily Barrand
Staff Writer

There have been many performances this year at Manchester, including comedians, a hypnotist, and even breakdancing roller skaters. However, "Danza," a VIA presented by the Fort Wayne Ballet that took place on Nov. 7, was unlike any other. Manchester students were transported to the ballet, complete with elaborate costumes, music and pointe shoes.

Performers danced repertoire pieces, including classic and contemporary numbers. Along with traditional sounding ballet music, jazz and swing music made appearances as well, allowing a wide assortment of attire. Tutus and leotards found their places on the stage, but so did other garments, such as formal dresses for the girls and collared shirts with suspenders for the boys.

Dancers flawlessly bounded across the stage, twirling and jumping with astounding ease and formation. They made extremely technical choreography, some moves probably taking years to perfect, look completely innate. Lighting varied from single spotlights to backlights, creating the illusion of dancing silhouettes gliding across the stage. Colorful

reds, purples, blues and golds blended and sparked a wide range of emotions, from excitement to somberness, corresponding to the feelings awakened by the music. Some pieces

the Fort Wayne Ballet, loved the performance. "The ballet was a marvelous opportunity to view the arts," she said. "It was a pure enjoyment to see old classmates and teachers

for bringing the ballet to the student body."

After the show's conclusion, students had the chance to ask questions of the professionals. They learned that danc-

reers do not typically hold up late into life. Eight-hour days with one day off each week is typical. Dancers devote a large majority of their time practicing. The pointe shoes that female

wear a pair for eight hours before they fall apart.

The Fort Wayne Ballet has approximately 400 students enrolled in dance classes. "I began dancing when I was three years old," said Rachel Reed, one of the dancers in the performance Thursday evening. Reed is a senior at South Side High School in Fort Wayne. "I love it because it's a great way to express myself. Manchester was fun," she added. "I liked it because it was a different audience and show than usual; most people only see us do ballet and we did a lot of variety for that show."

The Fort Wayne Ballet looks forward to its performances of "The Nutcracker" throughout December, as well as "Romeo & Juliet" in March.



GRANDE FINALE Members of the Fort Wayne Ballet strike a final pose during their production of "Danza" on Thursday, Nov. 7, for VIA credit in Cordier Auditorium. Manchester students, faculty, staff and North Manchester residents attended the event. After the performances were completed, those attending had an opportunity to question the dancers about their work in dance. The Fort Wayne Ballet will soon begin performances of "The Nutcracker" for the holidays.

Photo by Maia Marusak

had clear messages, while others could be interpreted in a variety of ways according to individual viewers.

First-year Paige Swary, former dancer with

doing what we love most. I give a standing ovation to the performers for working so hard to perfect the ballet that was performed. I also appreciate the school

ing isn't nearly as easy as the performers made it look. The dancers shared insight on the incredible physical stress they are put under, and how dance ca-

dancers wear (which cost between \$50 and \$100 for each pair) are made by wrapped layers, much like paper maché with fabric, and dancers are lucky to

Inside: Dia de los Muertos, Spartan Basketball, Student Op-Ed

Around Campus

Hispanos Unidos Celebrates Dia de los Muertos

Ayana Ishiyama
Staff Writer

Hispanos Unidos (HU) hosted El Dia De Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, in the Intercultural Center on Monday, Nov. 4. The students learned about the custom of the day as well as enjoyed the special food of the ritual in Latino America.

HU showed the students an educational film about El Dia De Los Muertos on YouTube. People celebrate past lives of the deceased by decorating graves with colorful flowers and white skulls and offer food on the graves on the first Sunday of November. The Day of the Dead is mainly practiced in Mexico as well as other Latin American countries. Pan de Muerto, Bread of the Dead, is the typical food of the Day of the Dead. The souls of the dead are believed to come back to the real world during this month.

The members of the HU's executive board from Mexico shared their experiences of the Day of the Dead with the students. Martin Garcia, a sophomore biology and chemistry major, remembers that he went to his great grandmother's grave with his mother and grandmother on El Dia De Los Muertos when he was a child. "I found it interesting that

the food that we put on the altar couldn't be eaten by anyone because it was a

food that his dead family members liked most beside the pictures of them

the water just evaporated." Sara Hafner, a sophomore accounting

in America is not what the ceremony should be like," she said, "because we

students' appetite. After learning about the ritual, the famished students made a long, wall-like line for the food in front of the table. HU offered El Dia De Los, the traditional bread for the Day of the Dead. The round-shaped bread has a cross figure on the top, which represents the bones and body of the deceased. Other than the bread, the students also enjoyed chips with hand-made, colorful Mexican sauces that Mexican students made: guacamole, quieso blanco, salsa and quesocon chonizo. The Quesocon Chonizo (white melt cheese with Mexican sausage) and the guacamole (made of avocado, cilantro, salapanos, onion and lime) disappeared from the table quickly.

Valgas hopes to embrace Manchester students to learn about Latin cultures. "In that way, Hispanic students will not be strangers to students anymore and feel more comfortable to be around and talk to them," he said. HU's president, Jasmine Marine, who is a senior elementary education major, is willing to welcome everyone at the HU meeting, no matter what his or her ethnicity is. The HU meeting is held on every Monday at 9 p.m. at the Intercultural Center.



A LIVELY GATHERING Students filled the Intercultural Center on Monday, Nov. 4, to celebrate El Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, with Hispanos Unidos, who hosted the event. Several traditional Mexican dishes were served for attending students to enjoy. Members of HU's e-board shared stories of their own experiences celebrating the Day of the Dead with their families.

Photo by Maia Marusak

respect for my great grandmother," he said.

The story of Alejandro Valgas, a senior marketing major, aroused a lot of laughter from the students; his grandmother put a glass of water and

and told him that they would eat the foods while they stayed on the earth. "I realized that the water surface kept going down in a few days," he said. "I used to think the soul drank the water, but now I realized

major, said that her family had a small ceremony for the Day of the Dead with a candle at home on Saturday, Nov. 2, because her grandfather died a year and a half ago. "What we do for the Day of the Dead

don't have close Mexican people and we can't physically go to a graveyard to celebrate the day."

From the beginning of the meeting, Mexican foods prepared on the table stimulated the

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Classic Christmas Play To Be Performed at MU

Thomas Webster
Staff Writer

Many of us know the classic Charles Dickens' story "A Christmas Carol," but many of us could not memorize and play all of the different characters in it. This is the difficult task that Joel Froomkin, Manchester University's theatre director, is undertaking.

Froomkin is performing a one-man show in which he plays all 18 of Dickens' characters as well as the narrator. He wanted to do "A Christmas Carol" to bring to life Dickens' words. "Dickens' narrative writing is wonderful," Froomkin said. "He is witty and sarcastic and so much fun." And much of that narrative is lost with a stage or television version of the story. "The dialogue is there, the story is there, but the author's turn of phrase is lost," Froomkin said.

Froomkin does not anticipate any problem keeping the different voices distinct from each other. "I'm always asked how I do not get all of the voices confused, but in my head they couldn't sound farther from each other," he said. Growing up in a British colony (Bermuda), Froomkin developed an affinity for dialects, particularly British ones. Indeed, Froomkin notes that he is much more comfortable onstage manipulating his voice rather than playing someone closer to himself.

The Ghost of Christmas Present has emerged as Froomkin's

favorite character to play. Froomkin describes himself as small in stature, so playing this giant is something fun for him. "I'm not a big guy, so getting to embody a ten-foot loony Scottish giant is a hoot," Froomkin said with a smile. He sees this part as a "little bit like Shrek."

Although the voices may not confuse Froomkin, he acknowledges that the hardest thing to keep track of during the performance is the height of all the characters. "The Ghost of Christmas Past is supposed to be diminutive so Scrooge always has to look down at her, and she has to look up at him," Froomkin said. "And for Christmas Present he's twice Scrooge's size, so to be honest, where to look is a lot harder for me to remember than what sounds to make!"

One-man shows are becoming a normal occurrence for Froomkin. "I've now done quite a number of these one-man performances—"Dracula," "Treasure Island" and "Sleepy Hollow" among them," he said. "But none of them come close to how much I love to do A Christmas Carol." Since Froomkin is new to campus this semester, he thought that this show could be a way to introduce himself to the campus as well as the community.

The event also functions as a fundraiser for the theatre budget. Many improvements have been made to Wampler auditorium that have taken

up much of the budget this semester, so audiences members are welcome to leave a free-will offering at the door. "I thought this would be a way to give back to the community and get people excited about seeing more theatre on campus," Froomkin said. "The audience letting me share it with them is really an emotional experience; they are the ones giving a gift to me."

Froomkin's performance can be seen Nov. 21 in Wine Recital Hall at 7 pm. The performance is appropriate for anyone over the age of 7.

Around Campus

MU Student O'Donnell Interns With Matrix

Cole Kellogg
Staff Writer

Imagine the joy of helping a couple through one of the most gratifying experiences ever, the birth of their first child. Manchester University fourth-year student Morgan O'Donnell enjoyed this experience when she spent her summer as a medical intern at Matrix Pregnancy Resource Center.

Matrix is a private, Christ-centered organization funded by donations. It is a not-for-profit with the mission to offer alternatives to women considering abortion. They provide education and support throughout the course of pregnancy.

As an intern at Matrix, O'Donnell was extremely involved. She performed pregnancy testing, taught parenting classes and was heavily engaged throughout the office. O'Donnell also assisted with women's exams, including limited ultrasounds and STI testing. She helped with their annual fundraising walk as well.

O'Donnell felt the best part of her job was being the one that performed pregnancy tests prior to

scheduling the client for a free ultrasound. "Being next to them as they saw the baby for the first time

continued. Her interest is obstetrics, so this opportunity at Matrix fit well into her plans.

pregnant. "My favorite was seeing twins for the first time," she said. "It melted my heart and I knew that

North Manchester. In January, she will be travelling to Nicaragua for a medical practicum and when the

the director of Matrix. One of the nurses at her hospital gave her an opportunity by recommending her and setting her up with the program.

"My plan is to work for Matrix for one year while I am applying to PA school," O'Donnell said. "I can give back to them and help with whatever I can after I become a Physician's Assistant!"

This August, O'Donnell was able to attend a Global Leadership Summit. "It was awesome and taught me a lot about myself and being a leader in the community," she said.

According to O'Donnell, Matrix did well to help their patients with facets of pregnancy that aren't medical. "Every three months our clients were able to go to the clothing room and get 3-4 outfits per child, formula, toys, books and more for free," she said.

At Matrix, O'Donnell formed friendships with coworkers and relished the opportunity for such critical experience in obstetrics. "I loved waking up and going to work every day," she said.



PROVIDING A HELPING HAND Manchester Senior Morgan O'Donnell meets with a couple at the Matrix Pregnancy Resource Center where she is currently working as a medical intern. Through her internship, O'Donnell has been able to work one-on-one with patients while also developing administrative skills while in the office. Photo by Savannah Riley

was awesome," she said.

"My future goal is to attend Physician Assistant School so this was a great start to obtain direct patient care," O'Donnell

O'Donnell saw pregnant women aged 13-50 while at Matrix. She could perform ultrasounds as long as the patients were between 6-14 weeks

this was exactly what I wanted to do in the future."

O'Donnell will be heading back to Matrix very soon, because Fall 2013 is her last semester in

trip ends, she will be working full time with Matrix.

By working in an emergency room for the past two years, O'Donnell made a connection with

Year-Long Events Planned for MU's 125th Year

Alexandria Spillman
Staff Writer

Manchester University celebrates its 125th birthday in November 2014, and the 365 days leading up to MU's special day will be filled with opportunities. The planning committee is still working out the details, but numerous events have been selected and await further development.

The Founder's Feast on Nov. 5 kicked off this benchmark year in Manchester's history. Hundreds of students stood in line, some for nearly the full two hours, smelling savory steaks, sweet cakes and hearty soups. While students indulged in their feast, some participated in a trivia competition about Manchester's history via Twitter in the hopes of winning sugary prizes.

Up next in the list of pre-birthday events is a holiday tea party that will be held in the Union in December. This tradition of five-years standing will serve as a way to celebrate the holidays with alumni and friends of the community while highlighting Manchester's history.

Spartan spirit will likely appear more than just at special events, however. "When we were talking about the theme, we discussed a number of options, and we decided that we have a lot to celebrate," said Melanie

Harmon, MU's executive director of Development. The committee then selected 12 of Manchester's core values to emphasize and paired one with each month. "For example, in November we will celebrate gratitude; December, giving; and January, diversity," Harmon said.

Celebrations such as 101 Days to Commencement as well as Commencement itself will likely have a similar feel as they have in years past, but the 125th year theme will be tied in.

Also, at the end of May 2014, alumni will return to campus to celebrate their milestone reunions with their classmates while commemorating the 125th milestone of the school.

The festivities will not stop when school lets out, however. For many years Manchester has sponsored the fireworks for the community during July 4, and this summer will not be a quiet one either. Fireworks will light up the sky while individuals from the university celebrate this special anniversary with the community with sweet treats like cupcakes and other baked goods.

When school begins once again and athletics are well underway, Spartans will experience yet another opportunity to recognize MU's approaching birthday. The planning committee has decided that the theme for Homecoming 2014 will be the 125th anniversary, but de-

tails are just now being discussed.

"I'm really excited for the year-long lead-up to Homecoming," said Rachel Laing, sophomore English Education major. "The fact that they're already starting to plan for something that's almost a year in the future is really making me wonder what they're doing that needs so much planning," she added with enthusiasm.

The beginning of November will be overflowing with excitement, however, just like a young child counting down to his or her big day. There will be a VIA on Founder's Day in November 2014 in which the speaker will highlight the history of Manchester and its accomplishments.

"I'm disappointed that I'll miss this VIA," said Todd Eastis, senior Religion and Sociology major, "because celebrating Manchester's history is an important part of knowing who we are as a community." Just a few days later on Nov. 8, the birthday event will be held at the Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre. "Entertainment has yet to be determined," Harmon said, "but this will be a very significant event." The birthday of the North Manchester campus will be discussed heavily, but the younger sibling College of Pharmacy will be acknowledged as well with no less spirit and affection.

Shepherd Busy Planning Future Alumni Events

Louise Magiera
Staff Writer

Jennifer Shepherd is no stranger to the Manchester campus, as she is a 1984 graduate with a degree in secondary education-speech. Now she is the executive director of alumni relations as of March 2013. "It's been really exciting to be back," Shepherd said. "I'm constantly reminded of the value of my education that I received from Manchester."

She received a master's degree in higher education administration and student personnel from Kent State University, has taught in high schools and has also served as principal and assistant principal at Greencastle, Warsaw and Rochester high schools.

Shepherd is keeping herself very busy on campus planning fun events for current students and alumni to attend. Events on campus such as Homecoming, Found-

er's Day and 101 Days on Campus for first-years take place because of Shepherd's hard work. Her biggest goal for alumni is to have them stay connected to Manchester through philanthropy.

Alumni may believe that Manchester only wants a monetary donation after they have graduated. Shepherd wants to correct this way of thinking. "I want to help alumni understand that my focus is getting their time and talent," Shepherd said, "whether that is through volunteering, tutoring, being a mentor or coming back to Manchester and giving a talk to students."

Shepherd also wants alumni to network and stay connected to each other. She notes that through the power of social media, alumni can stay better connected by checking out the alumni Facebook page, Twitter feed, LinkedIn profile, Pinterest, newsletters and Manchester magazine. She says

that one of the best ways to network is to attend one of the many events planned for alumni each year. "I want to make sure people use their network," Shepherd said.

Shepherd has planned events such as tailgates at football games that provide alumni with this opportunity. One upcoming event for alumni is meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings in Warsaw, Ft. Wayne or Mishawaka to watch the Manchester vs. Butler basketball game on Dec. 9 at 7:00. In the spring, Shepherd is planning a trip for alumni to go to Chicago to watch a Cubs game. Alumni can view upcoming events and register for them online at <http://www.manchester.edu/oca/alumni/>.

Shepherd hopes that current students understand the value of alumni donations to Manchester. Through monetary donations many things on campus, such as the new Wilbur's café or student

scholarships, are available because people have donated. "I want students to know that these things exist because someone else gave," Shepherd said.

In the future, Shepherd hopes to have a new and improved means of reaching out to alumni to have them involved. She is currently working on a new system to have alumni stay connected with the help of Career Services and the Office of Volunteer Services. This new system will provide alumni with an easier way of staying connected and have the option available to help promote Manchester at various events, such as career fairs.

Shepherd truly understands the value of a Manchester degree and how it helped her throughout her career. "My Manchester education provided me with the opportunity to find what I was good at and to do it," Shepherd said. "Manchester teaches us to find who we are and do

it well and to also make a difference where ever we are."



STUDENTS TODAY, ALUMNI TOMORROW Manchester's new executive director of alumni relations, Jennifer Shepherd, is an alumna herself. She hopes to encourage alumni to return to campus to participate in various events and to socialize with current students. Photo provided

Around Campus

Videographer Carter Captures Essence of MU

Tyler Roebuck
Staff Writer

Do you have a burning passion inside you? How would you like to engage your passion every day and pay all of your bills with it? Sounds like a dream come true. For Manchester's new Videographer and Photographer Lucas Carter, this is exactly what happens.

Carter was born in the small town of Matthews, IN, which he says has a population of "250 on a good day." When he started college, Carter was tentatively going into engineering. After a while, he felt the need to change. "I knew I was doing it for the money, and not because it was what I felt like I was driven to do," he said. In his mind, he knew he would rather be "happy and broke than rich and miserable."

Carter has a passion in him to tell stories. "You do not get to do much of that in engineering," he

said with a smile. "Photo is engrained in me from the start. My grandfather was an amateur photographer, who passed it to my mom." Carter is the first in his family to do photography for a career, and he still has many of his grandfather's old cameras, including one brought back from WWII.

After receiving a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts for Photography from IPFW, Carter did freelance photography for various organizations such as the IPFW Athletic Department, Reilly Foundation and the American Legion. His senior thesis, which is still in production, is a feature length documentary entitled "Why I Fight." It is about three professional fighters, and its intention is to dispel the myth that those involved in professional fighting are violent people. Carter started the documentary in September 2011.

He ended up at Manchester "by chance." While pursuing a Master's



PHOTO OP Lucas Carter, MU's videographer and photographer, has become a ubiquitous presence on campus this semester. As a member of the marketing department, Carter has been snapping photos and taking videos of campus life.

Photo by Savannah Riley

Degree in Communications at IPFW, he received an email from a former professor emailed him about the job opening. "I was doing the grad school route to stall," he said. "I was having a hard time find-

ing positions. The market is insanely competitive." In some cases, Carter was in competition with seasoned photojournalists with 20 years of experience. When his former professor emailed him, he jumped

on it. "I was not looking for a job, but it came open and I went for it," Carter said, adding, "you have to show them you want it."

Now that Carter is in the job, he is still working hard. He works for the marketing department, and does a little bit of everything. Since he started, he has covered the Founders Day Feast, various sports and Homecoming, to name just a few events. Homecoming was during his first weekend, and he put in nearly 65 hours of work, taking an "insane" 10 days to put together the video package for the event.

Despite the work, Carter loves his position. "People say that horribly abused phrase 'when you love what you do, you never work a day in your life,'" he said. "Even when I was freelancing, I'd say that I have one-to-two bad days a year."

The work environment contributes to Carter's love for his job. "To

see a university truly invest in not just me as a person, but in the tools I need to use for my job meant so much to me," he said. "As an artist, it's a swift kick in the teeth to work for a client that doesn't value what you are doing."

Looking back, Carter's hard work through college helped him achieve his current position. "I was not the normal 19 year old college kid," he explained. "I turned down invites to all the parties and pushed 16-to-18 hours a day related to photography." Examples of this were watching lighting seminars online over lunch and listening to podcasts while driving to and from places.

Through hard diligent work, Carter has landed a staff job where he is not concerned that he will come in to find himself unemployed, which is rare in the journalism industry. He truly loves his job, and, as he likes to say, "I pay rent with a camera."

Garcia Works at Summer Research Fellowship

Cole Kellogg
Staff Writer

It is not a common occurrence for a first-year in college to earn a prestigious fellowship. Thousands of college students apply to do research every year in the United States. To be chosen is to be considered elite in your respective field. Martin Garcia, now a Manchester University second-year, was one of those elite biology-chemistry students selected for a research fellowship this past summer.

Garcia was granted a research fellowship to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Boise State University for the summer of 2013. There, he worked with several other chemistry students from around the country and world. Each student researched their subject in depth, in preparation to present their information to their peers and at numerous conferences around the country.

Garcia was in Boise from May 26 until August 9 conducting his research. A typical week for him at Boise State began with a research seminar linking biology and chemistry students first thing on Monday morning. At this seminar, two students would present the culmination of their studies. On Tuesday, more presentations were given which linked chemistry and mathematics students. On Thursday mornings, professional development semi-

nars took place.

"These were speakers or Boise State professors teaching us how to present our research, get into grad school and apply for jobs," Garcia said.

The rest of each weekday was filled with time for students to research their respective topics. Garcia worked with Dr. Eric Brown of Boise. All of his work was focused on the unusual metal dependency of peptide deformylase. His interest in this subject came from the discovery that in its most active form, peptide deformylase contained a different metal than previously thought. He hypothesized that this unusual activity was linked to the different geometric coordination preferences of iron and zinc. Garcia's time at Boise was spent testing this theory.

The students involved in the fellowship were treated to a good time outside of the lab. "A comedian performed, I met an astronaut, and I got to walk on the Oregon Trail," Garcia said with a chuckle. The researchers also got to go white-water rafting as well as camp during their time at the university.

At the end of the summer, the students presented their research at various conferences. Garcia has presented his work already in Washington, and will travel to the ACS National Conference in Dallas as well as a conference in Kentucky.

Garcia began the process of application for this fellowship early last winter. His submission date for can-

didates was February 15. He and eight other elite students were selected to participate out of over 150 applicants. A stipend of \$5000 was awarded to Garcia for his work at the summer research fellowship.

The Independent Colleges of Indiana recently recognized Garcia as a first-generation high-achieving scholar. This organization distinguishes 31 students that have worked hard and are turning their dreams into reality. Winning this award entitled Garcia to a \$2,000 check to help cover the cost of school. On top of this, each student gets to choose a favorite high school mentor to receive \$1,000. Garcia chose to give the money to his high school chemistry teacher, John Sherrick.

"Mr. Sherrick was a very influential person during my high school career," Garcia said. "He opened the doors to the magic of chemistry. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for his ability to install a great fountain of knowledge in me during his AP Chemistry course."

"My summer internship at Boise State University showed me that there is more to science than just being able to do well on tests," he continued. "I was fortunate enough to experience scientific at a very young age, which has changed my view of science dramatically," he added with a smile. "I am very thankful and fortunate to have had such a great experience."

Op-Ed: VIA Requirement Should Be Reduced

Cody Goble
Staff Writer

I would like to begin this article with a disclaimer. In no way at all do I hate the Values, Ideas, and the Arts (VIA) programs, nor do I harbor any ill will toward anybody associated with VIA. In my 3-and-a-half years at Manchester University, I have attended 30 programs, and while I cannot claim to have liked (or even remember) all of the presentations, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed many of them. From classical pianist Karam Saleh's recital during my first year to this semester's showing of "Shakespeare Behind Bars," I have found something worthwhile, something that actually kept me in my seat besides the fact that I am required to attend a certain number of VIA events in order to graduate.

Oh, but right there I just hit upon the subject of this opinion piece and the main point of my complaint. I believe that the amount of VIA programs needed for graduation should be lowered.

For those that do not know, all students en-

rolled in the baccalaureate program at Manchester University are required to attend five VIA programs for every semester of full-time enrollment. That comes to a minimum attendance of 40 programs needed to graduate. That amount seems a bit high to me and I am not alone in that sentiment.

"I think the VIA requirement should be lowered, if not completely eliminated altogether," Senior Hunter Snapp said. "No other university that I am aware of requires students to attend extracurricular speakers, and honestly, I do not think most of the students even pay attention if they weren't already interested."

Snapp mentions a common complaint about certain attendees at the VIA events. While it cannot be said that an entire audience at a VIA event is uninterested, clearly some could not care less. This might just be my opinion, but when people are forced to do anything, especially sit and listen to another person speak, a high level of interest cannot be expected.

And is this re-

ally what we want for an audience at VIA event: a gathering of uninterested students, only there because the possibility of not graduating looms over their heads? Yes, this policy does fill seats, but it fills them with apathetic bodies. I believe the speakers and presenters deserve more than looking out over the audience and seeing that. Also, what kind of message does it send about Manchester when the speaker looks out into the crowd and sees half a crowd sitting with bored faces?

"Eliminating the VIA requirement would reduce the amount of attending students to a manageable level and would create a more respectful environment for the visiting speaker if all of the bored, uninterested students did not attend," Snapp said.

After all, shouldn't it be more about quality than quantity when it comes to VIA audiences?

Of course, not all of those that are not paying attention do so because of boredom or lack of interest. Some are just being good students. "Often when I go to VIA events, I have to bring homework because I

have to get it done so that I can pass a class so that I can graduate," said senior Holly Jantz. "The council thinks that we are being rude but it's really the other way around; they are expecting us to attend these useless VIA events by force to make themselves look good while we actually need to attend class and get homework and studying done."

While I would not go so far as to call the VIA events useless, I understand Jantz's point. Some students do bring homework or other projects to the events that have to get done. No matter how good a VIA is, getting classwork done is usually more important.

However, the current VIA graduation policy not only creates falsely inflated audiences of a lower quality. It also causes inconveniences to the student body, the above homework example being one. "I have to take an extra class because, due to my near full time job, I am not able to attend them," Snapp said. "In addition to the extra class, it also adds more credit hours to the graduation requirement which leaves me

short, forcing me to either drop my minor, or take a summer course to be able to graduate."

I understand that the amount of VIA programs needed to graduate used to be higher, 80 if I am not mistaken, but the amount is still too high if students have to take extra classes or even go as far as to drop a minor in order to still graduate. A program with great events like VIA should not be an inconvenience to anyone, but, unfortunately, it is. I believe that if the amount has been lowered before it can be lowered again, especially if it benefits the student body.

However, some say that the requirement of 40 teaches students important time-management skills. Except that those skills, I believe, are already taught when students have to balance the expectations of college with the demands of a job and then try to maintain sanity with what little of a social life can be salvaged.

Finally, some argue that 40 VIA events only equates to 10 a year. How hard could that be? Attending 10 VIA events a year does not sound that diffi-

cult... until one takes into account the level of compromise that can go into some students' decisions in the first three years at college. For some first years, managing their time away from parental guidance can be difficult. When other things demand their time, they make a compromise and decide not to go to a particular VIA, deciding that they have plenty of time until graduation. Except three years and multiple compromises can go by quickly, and now those first years are cynical seniors desperate for VIA credits. This is an unfortunate scenario, but it can, and sometimes does, happen.

So in the end, I would like to make this written piece more than just a complaint or an expression of opinion; I would like it to be polite request. Please, Manchester, please, lower the amount of VIA events required for graduation. Perhaps getting rid of the requirement entirely would be extreme, but reducing the amount of VIA events needed to graduate down to 20 might be a good compromise.



Spartan Sports

Julio Luevano: Father, Student, Soccer Player

Sara Collazo Romay
Staff Writer

33 year-old Julio Luevano is classified as a "non-traditional" student at MU. "I am okay with that title," he said. "I am not traditional, and I am proud of it." Luevano has been living in North Manchester for ten years, after crossing Mexico's border into the US illegally. "That was one of the most terrifying experiences of my life," he said, "but I needed to get out of there in order to build a future."

When he arrived to the USA he did not speak the language, so he had to start from scratch. "It was so difficult to communicate with everyone around me," he said. "My turning point came when I met my wife; she was so beautiful and I wanted to talk to her so bad. I knew then that I had no other option but to learn the language."

Luevano started his journey in Manchester University last year, de-

clining that it was time to go back to school after a long hiatus. "When I was in Mexico my parents could not afford to send me to school," he said. "Now that I am older, I feel that my time has come." He is majoring in exercise science and is thinking of adopting a business minor. "I want to be a coach after I graduate, maybe I can even get a job here at MU if I am lucky enough," he said with a smile.

However, Luevano's life has never been easy. "Awhile after I got married, Immigration found out about my undocumented situation and deported me," he said. "We had a three-year-old girl and my wife was pregnant with two more months to go, but they did not care." He was sent back to his home town in Mexico, Aguascalientes, and for six months he was unable to see his wife or children. "My wife got sick, but the government denied her any type

of help only because I had come illegally," he said. "It did not matter that she and my kids were from the US." Six months later, Luevano was allowed back in the country, this time with all his documents in hand, and started to work again.

Besides being a full-time dad, husband, worker, and student, Luevano is the co-captain of MU's soccer team. "Before enrolling at MU, I used to go watch the team practice and I remember that one day I asked Coach Good if I could join them," he said with a smile. "He told me that I had to be a student to play, and I felt so stupid."

Luevano continued while laughing: "I told him I would join them some day, but I don't think he believed me then." Now, he is one more in the team. "I love my teammates; they have always treated me with respect and all of them support me and even tell me that I inspire them," he said. "They are a great

help to keep me motivated."

Luevano enrolled at MU to make sure that all his dreams will come true. "All I really want to do is to break all the stereotypes that people create around me," he said. "I want to prove everyone wrong, and teach people that not everyone that crosses the border will become a criminal."



WHO IS JULIO? Julio Luevano, a 33 year-old student who hails from Mexico, plays many different roles besides co-captain of MU's soccer team. He is also a full-time student, husband and father.

Photo by Vivien Carter

Women's Basketball to Host Tip-Off Tourney

Kalie Ammons
Staff Writer

The MU women's basketball team features an impressive range of accomplishments, bringing name-recognition to the campus.

This comes as no surprise with the titles of two-time Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference champions, three-time Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference tourney champions and four NCAA national tournament appearances. The Spartans were picked fifth in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference preseason poll this year, behind Transylvania University (1), Franklin College (2), Hanover College (3) and Defiance College of Ohio (4). The Spartans anticipate the start of their season this weekend.

On Monday, Nov. 4, the Spartans faced Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis (IUPUI) for their first game before the season. IUPUI, the NCAA Division I team hosted the game. "The Spartans held early advantages of 3-1 and 10-9 through the first six minutes inside The Jungle on IUPUI's campus," said the recap out of Indianapolis. "The Jaguars...made a big move midway through the opening frame to lead by 20 with just over six minutes left, MU held steady and trailed only 33-17 with just over five and a half minutes to go before halftime. From there, a 16-3 run by the home side closed the first 20 minutes at 49-20, and IUPUI moved on to an 86-28 decision."

The Spartans will officially start their season Nov. 15 and 16 at the Main View Tipoff Tournament, facing Kalamazoo College of Michigan on Friday night un-

der the leadership of Coach Josh Dzurick. Ohio Northern University and Carthage College of Wisconsin will also be making appearances.

In previous interviews, Coach Dzurick has said the chemistry of the team is strong and under good leadership. "There's positives from the veterans and the newcomers," Dzurick told muspartans.com. This is Dzurick's 10th year with the MU women's basketball program, with coaching starting in 2005. Dzurick holds a 122-94 career record. Dzurick also wears the titles of two-time HCAC Coach of the Year, 1998 Tiffin University graduate and holds a master's degree in sports management from Bowling Green.

Ultimate Frisbee Club Strong Feature at MU

Alexah Parnin
Staff Writer

Through the rain and the muddy grass, the sun and

the snow, the Ultimate Frisbee team practices their pulls and throws. Whether they are out on the mall, by Tall Oaks, practicing or

scrimmaging, the team is ready this year with strong hopefuls.

Sophomore Brent Dubois, captain of the

team, explains the game. "The goal is to pass the disc between players, making consecutive passes until reaching the end

zone," he said. "You cannot move when you have the disc in your hands and a dropped disc results in a turnover."

Dubois explained that the game involves two teams of seven players. "Games are usually to a set score total, generally 15, but tournament play can have time limits—75 minutes a game," he said.

When the team is not practicing or competing on home turf, they travel to other schools where the sport is popular.

"Ultimate is a rather large sport, even though it isn't sanctioned, yet," Dubois said. "Almost every college in the area has a team. This year we have traveled to Huntington twice, once for a scrimmage and once for a tournament. We have traveled to Grace for a scrimmage."

"We have only had two wins this year," he added. "This is what most sports would call a 'building year.' Several young players are still learning the game, but the team is looking very promising."

There are two main Ultimate seasons, fall and spring. "Fall season starts right away, with tournaments within the first couple weeks of school," Dubois said. "Spring starts in March and continues through the end of the year. There are some indoor tournaments through the winter, and though MU does not usually compete in them, I would like to start."

There are also summer leagues that competitive players usually take part in, including a large one in Fort Wayne.

The team has two practice areas: the mall and Tall Oaks. Dubois described the positive aspects of practicing in both places.

"The mall is a little shorter and little wider than regulation size, so it's more beneficial to play at Tall Oaks," he said. "Plus we can wear cleats out there, which we cannot on the mall. The one thing we do gain from mall Frisbee is recruiting. People aren't afraid to hop in and play, which has resulted in some valuable players this year."

So far, the year is looking good for the team.

"Supposedly, and I cannot vouch for this since it is only my second year here, the team has not won a game in over three years until this year," Dubois said. "A small accomplishment would be the two wins that we have added to the record this year, which I hope to add to in the spring."

In the meantime, the team is practicing every week, hoping to pull through in the spring.

September Athletic Training Student of the Month



Amanda Toney

Hometown: Richmond, IN
Future Plans: Attend Graduate School for Education
Activities: MUATC, SOL
Current Sports Assignment: Cross Country

October Athletic Training Student of the Month



Janikka Tillotson

Hometown: Brownsburg, IN
Future Plans: Work as an ATC at a high school or clinic
Activities: MUATC, Member of the Softball Team
Current Sports Assignment: Football



Spartan Sports

Men's Hoops Plays in Exhibition Game at CMU

Miro Arguijo
Staff Writer

Falling in exhibition play to Central Michigan University 101-49, the men's basketball team looks forward to a packed and competitive season. Picked eighth in preseason HCAC polls, the Spartans are drawing upon a large first-year class and wealth of experience from returning players to drive forward as a united front.

"We have eleven new players on the team and our numbers are great," said sophomore forward and team captain Jarrod Schrock. "Our practices have been up tempo and we are all able to get more game like situations going throughout our practices."

First-year forward Todd Titus echoed Schrock. "Our upperclassmen set the tone for hard practices and vocally push us," he said. "We are working as hard as we can to improve. It's a competitive game and you have to earn your spot." The exhibition game against CMU solidified the team's competitive spirit. "Even though the scoreboard didn't show it, we are doing a lot of good

things," Titus continued. "While there is no such thing as a perfect team, we will still be working hard to be as perfect as we can become."

Schrock sees some positive features of the team already. "We played very well defensively in the half court against CMU," he said. "They beat us in transition and by putting us in situations we haven't been in before. There has been a lot of improvement already."

The team racked up a total of 28 rebounds in their debut exhibition game. Working together and relying on leaders lend the team the tools for success. "Nate Feitshans, Grant Newlin, and I were named team captains after last season but there are many leaders on the team," Schrock said. "We all hold each other accountable and help each other out when needed so we really learn from one another."

Complimenting the team leaders, Titus recognized his personal lessons. "The biggest thing I've learned from them is that the transition from high school to college is hard,"

he said. "Your hustle has to increase and you have to always be pushing yourself in every way possible."

Entering into his second year as the assistant coach, Dan McNeely also stresses the importance of the team captains. "I expect them to lead by example and through words," he said. "They hold other teammates accountable on the practice courts and relay information to the team from the coaching staff."

In addition to the captains, McNeely also sees improvements and has set in motion recovery efforts moving forward into season play. "Our plan is to get better each and every game or practice" he said. "Each game is like a test, and we want to do better on every test. If we do this, we believe winning will be the result most of the time."

"Our goals are to integrate the new players into our system, place in the top six teams into our league, be the best teammates to each other that we can, and come to practice everyday and hold others accountable for hard work on and off the court,"



FINDING AN OPEN LANE Junior guard Greg Flores drives towards the basket during a recent team practice. Last Friday, Manchester played in a preseason exhibition game at Central Michigan University (an NCAA Division I school), losing to the Chippewas by a final score of 101-49. Tonight, the team will play its regular season-opener at Illinois Wesleyan.

Photo by Savannah Riley

McNeely continued.

Strong leadership, coupled with high coach

expectations and a young foundation of players, the men's basketball seek to

start of the season strong prove the preseason polls, and critics wrong.

MU Wrestling Opens Season at Michigan State

Keith Berry
Staff Writer

On Saturday, November 9, 2013, the Manchester University wrestling team travelled to East Lansing, MI, for the 2013 Michigan State University Open which began the Spartans' 2013-14 schedule. The MSU Open did not keep track of team scores which means that none of the teams placed in the event.

First-year 174-pound Logan Floor (Sheridan, Ind.) and fellow first-year 184-pound Brian Clark (Wawasee, Ind.) gathered a victory each to lead Manchester University at the MSU Open. The wrestlers have been working hard in practice working on aspects of the sport such as basic skills, endurance, take downs, combinations and getting stronger in general. They have come together to work hard and to make this season promising. MU be-

gins its dual season with a trip to Virginia on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 16 and 17. The Spartans take on Division III opponent Washington and Lee on Saturday and Division I opponents American University and Virginia Tech on Sunday.

Jason Pedigo, a senior from Zionsville, IN, weighing in at 285, has made steady improvements in his development and looks to finish his career with a strong senior campaign. "I hope to improve on a lot of things this season," Pedigo said. "It is hard to say what specifically because there is room to improve on everything." He is looking very hopeful in this coming season and definitely has his eyes on the prize. "What I look forward to the most this season is the potential of having a solid and strong team this year," he said. Pedigo is an ambitious athlete as well. "I have a good amount of goals for this season" he said. "But my main goal is to make it to Nation-

als this year."

Kalib Jackson, sophomore weighing in at 133, is also one of the Spartans' top returners. Through January and February of last season he avenged several early losses and could be in the mix in the Midwest Regional. Jackson concluded 2012-13 with a 16-12 record, while Pedigo also claimed double-digit victories (10). After losing five seniors to graduation last spring, Manchester will be green in 2013-2014, filling seven weights with first-years. Despite their youth, this group is talented and one of the best recruiting classes for Manchester in the last four years.

The Manchester University wrestling team is making their presence known to start off the season. They have plenty of talented wrestlers with great potential and promising futures. The MU community is looking forward in cheering on the team as their season progresses.

Football Awaits Rival Anderson in Final Game



SIDELINE STORY Manchester football's defensive players gather around defensive coordinator/assistant coach Brad Higginson on the sideline during the team's home game against Rose-Hulman on Sept. 28. Tomorrow, the Spartans will play their regular season finale at home against conference rival Anderson. This game also signals the end of college football for 19 seniors on Manchester's roster. Kick-off is set for 1:30 p.m.

Photo by Vivien Carter

Jacob Sweet
Staff Writer

For many players on the Manchester University football team, their season is close to an end, but for some their career is coming to an end. All the seniors have put in years of blood, sweat and tears to make themselves and their team better, including Dyllin

Kennedy, Adam Cantwell, Zach Dashner and Cody Larimore.

Kennedy is happy with his career that started way back when he was a first-year. "Freshman year I didn't start on [defense], but on special teams, so I got to travel, which was a goal," he said. "Sophomore year I finally got to start and last year was a high [with] a

winning record and second in the conference."

Cantwell knows that last season was a huge positive in his career, "As a career we had a lot of ups and downs, last season was the definite high; the low part would be this season," he said. "[This] is the last season with the guys; we thought the season would be better."

Dashner is glad that he got the chance to play college football at Manchester, "[I've] had a pretty successful career, and am glad I picked Manchester University," he said. "I like all the coaches and players; I didn't play [the] first two years, but I wouldn't trade it for anything."

When people start an adventure with some-

thing they often set goals and hope to accomplish them. Larimore gives a lot of praise to where the Manchester University football program has gone. "We have really started building Manchester football, when we got here it was still being built, he said. "It's gotten better [the] last three years."

The attitude towards Manchester football has changed. "When we first got here we [were] always picked low, but this year we were picked top three," Cantwell said.

Dashner is happy on a personal level with what he did in his career. "Being named all conference last season was an accomplishment," he said. "I get to play in the Senior Bowl [this year] in Virginia."

Playing football at Manchester left a huge impact on these four guys. "What I will take away is the bonds and memories with the coaches and players," Cantwell said. "[Those guys] are my brothers out there."

Larimore looks at more than just playing for himself. "[These] guys are my best friends now; it's about putting the team first," he said.

Dashner is going to recall the small things about playing here. "I will remember the relationships made throughout the

years," he said. "After you graduate you're not going to remember the scoreboard, but the locker room; those things stand out to me."

These four guys have been friends since day the beginning of their first year. "Looking back as freshmen we didn't even miss a step; we clicked instantly," Larimore said. "The last three years we have done everything together."

Kennedy agreed. "I can always count on them off the field," he said.

Dashner added: "These guys are great teammates on and off the field."

Head coach Shannon Griffith feels fortunate to have had these players on the team. "They were a big part of our season last year, they have a second-place finish under their belts, which is the highest the football program has finished in a long time," he said.

These four athletes and the rest of their senior teammates will have one more game left in their career at Manchester against Anderson on Saturday where they will try to keep the bronze ball in their possession. The Spartans played Hanover this past weekend and after a very close battle, lost 21-24.