

# The Oak Leaves

Manchester University Issue XIII - February 27, 2015

## Professors Participate in '4 Paws For Ability'

Allie Spillman  
Staff Writer

As students walk through the snow this season, they are likely to see more than just shoe prints on the sidewalks. Service dogs are now leaving their paw prints alongside those shoe patterns as MU continues its trial in the university training program "4 Paws For Ability." Upon completing their training, these dogs will be matched with children with exceptional needs and will perform duties ranging from autism assistance to seizure assistance.

Many will remember Professor Mary Lahman of communication studies leading Etsy, an English golden retriever service pup, around campus and down the halls during fall 2014. Etsy came to Manchester at the age of six months—approximately three and a half in human-years—to begin what Lahman calls Manchester's "first class of puppies with ability and conviction," to echo Manchester's Mission Statement. Similar to the age ratio between dogs and humans, service dogs enrolled in the university training program are expected to graduate in a short three months compared to the typical four-year college experience for humans.

Though Etsy has "graduated" and returned to the "4 Paws For Ability" headquarters in Xenia, Ohio, she has left behind



**PUPPIES OF ABILITY AND CONVICTION** Professor Mary Lahman poses for a photo with Saks, a six-month-old golden lab that she is currently fostering for the "4 Paws For Ability" university training program. The program trains puppies for three months to become service dogs for children with exceptional needs. Professor Sreenath Majumder is also fostering a service pup this semester, a three-month-old golden retriever named Avril.

Photo by Savannah Riley

a legacy. "University students exclaimed that you 'made their day' and that their hearts 'leaped with joy' when you approached them in the hallway," Lahman wrote in her blog post (composed in a letter format) to Etsy. "Many would just get on the floor with you and nuzzle in your fur, as if drawing strength from you. One elementary student, upon learning that you would help a family, exclaimed that you might be coming to his house because his dad needed

help."

While Lahman acknowledged her tears and longing for Etsy's presence after they parted, she also described a "greater good" that motivated her to continue with the program. "You have great work to do," she wrote in her blog to Etsy, but noted that the responsibility belongs to others as well. "There is a huge need for people to help socialize these animals so that they can move on to their advanced training," Lahman said.

Following Etsy's example, a new class of service dogs has emerged at Manchester. Lahman is currently fostering Saks, a six-month-old golden lab and member of the "department store litter." Inspired by Lahman, Associate Professor of Economics, Sreenath Majumder adopted three-month-old golden retriever service pup Avril, named after Canadian singer-songwriter Avril Lavigne, only a few weeks ago.

Despite Lahman's

previous experiences with household pets and Etsy, she tried not to refer to those animals as much when she introduced Saks. "It's like comparing children or comparing students," she said. From an objective rather than evaluative standpoint, however, Lahman did describe Saks as being much more calm than Etsy was, citing her tennis elbow as evidence of Etsy's ability to "get up and go." She was also surprised to see how much more time Saks spends

sleeping.

Majumder, on the other hand, is a first-time pet owner and could not compare foster-pup Avril to another pet even if he wanted to. That being said, Majumder is quickly learning the ropes of pet parenthood. "Avril is very loving," he said, "but she is like a human baby—she cannot speak—and I have to understand what her feelings are." Continuing the baby comparison, he later added: "For the last week and a half, the most common words to come out of my mouth have been 'No, Avril, no.'"

Majumder recalled a recent incident when he was leaving a voicemail for an insurance agent, and Avril starting getting into things in his office. "I had to end the call, and when the lady called back she said, 'you didn't say anything to me; you just started talking to someone else, saying no, Avril, no.'"

In the time it had taken Majumder to tell this story, Avril had found a pack of tissues and was quietly ripping them apart at his feet. Majumder bent over in his office chair to clean up, and when he turned his head from the trash can back to the remaining tissue bits, Avril embraced her "retriever" breeding and stuck her head into the bin, creating yet another mess.

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## Career Services Hosts First 'Career Closet'

Rachel Laing  
Staff Writer

An important element to making a good impression is the clothes that someone wears—which is why Career Services launched Manchester's first Career Closet in anticipation of the spring Career Fair.

Senior English major Erica Graphman was in charge of the event, which ran for a two-week period in the Success Center. Students could go to the back of the center where several racks of both professional and business casual clothes stood, ready to be picked through. There were also charts telling students information like appropriate heel heights for interviews and what clothes don't make the cut for professional dress. A room usually used for test taking doubled as a dressing room.

Many students stopped by to pick up professional dress clothes to wear to the Career Fair or just to have on hand. "The whole goal of the Career Closet was to educate students about professional dress and to provide students access to clothing they may need, but cannot afford," Graphman said. "Career Services noticed a dramatic difference in the amount of students who wore professional dress to the Career and Internship Fair."



**SUIT UP!** Recently, Career Services launched Manchester's first "Career Closet," during which students were provided with access to professional and business casual clothes that they may need, but are unable to afford. The clothing items, which were donated by faculty and staff members as well as by the North Manchester community, were displayed on racks in the back of the Success Center for nearly two weeks. In addition to providing students with professional attire, the Career Closet intended to educate students about professional dress for interviews.

Photo by Savannah Riley

Kalie Ammons was one of the students that snagged something to wear from the "Career-Fair Appropriate" rack of clothing. "I got a fitted pinstripe suit in black and white," Ammons said. "I'm always on the hunt for new po-

sitions, whether they're internships or possible careers, and I've been using the same suit for a few years now. I was hoping to find some variety."

The clothes were donated by members of the North Manchester

community, as well as faculty and staff. While it was an excellent opportunity for students, the size selections appeared to be a little thin—literally. Ammons pointed out a deficiency in diversity of sizes in the professional clothes. "The

largest size they offered in suits were a 12, which I can fit in about a third of the time," she said. "It was miraculous that I found something that even remotely fit." Still, she was grateful for the Closet. "Sure, it was difficult to find something,

but it never hurts to look," she said.

Junior Peyton Miller was glad for the chance to look for professional clothes as well. "I was able to get a business skirt, matching jacket and dress shirt," she said. "Recently, I have been looking into business clothes to prepare for life after college."

Miller noticed a bit of lack in variety of sizes as well. "There was definitely a nice selection, but there were not a whole lot of options in the smaller sizes," she said. "This was super impressive for the first one Manchester had, though."

In looking at the business casual selections, it became apparent that many of the options might serve their intended purpose. "The colors and cuts for their 'casual' selection were clearly meant for much older women, and many of them I wouldn't consider business casual," Ammons said. "I've learned that khaki pants and polo shirts really only count as business casual at a middle school football awards dinner, and that seemed to be a lot of what they were offering."

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**Inside: Opera Sampler, Minecraft Club, Spartan Hoops Teams**





# Around Campus



## Chartwells Updates Dining Opportunities

Jessica Klemm  
Staff Writer

Silk soy milk is now being offered at Haist Commons in addition to updates such as napkin dispensers, condiment dispensers, chicken options, plus something new added on to flex dollars.

Soy milk at Haist commons brings new options for those with dietary options. “It’s nice that the school is bringing in a lot more food options for people,” said Rachel Ulrich, a Sociology major. “It’s a good thing. A lot of people can’t drink dairy milk.” Some students on campus haven’t been able to consume any sort of milk that the campus offered until now. Tucked into a corner by the waffle makers now sits a soy milk dispenser that offers two flavors: vanilla and chocolate. Soy milk is also being offered at Sisters’ Café.

You don’t have to have a dietary issue or preference to drink soy. “Soy milk offers 50% more calcium than 2% milk, as well as offering between

6–7 grams of plant based protein per serving,” said Chris Fogerty, executive chef for North Manchester campus. “The plant based protein is not only easier to digest, but offers a good source for vegans as well.” Soy milk is produced by soaking dried soybeans and grinding them in water. It’s a stable emulsion of oil, water and protein. Soy milk offers the same amount of protein as cow’s milk and has little saturated fat and no cholesterol.

Also seen on campus are the new napkin dispensers that resemble toasters. The dispensers have replaced the small wire baskets that also held the salt and pepper shakers. “I like the changes to the napkins, but I feel like they should have instructions on the side to show how to pull the napkins out,” said Alex Young, a junior Bio-Chem major. “Otherwise, you tear them.”

The new dispensers have small panels on the side for advertisements. To advertise on the side of these dispensers, contact either Nancy Gjertson, director of Dining Services, or Diana Stephan, administrative assistant, at extension 5289. Advertisements will be displayed for a week.

Wilbur’s has also undergone a huge change. They’ve changed their look and set up, but the smaller changes are also just as grand. They now offer grilled and breaded chicken, for those who want to have a healthier option. Wilbur’s has also stopped serving ketchup and mustard packets but now have two large dispensers for students to pile on the condiments. “The dispensers are going to be more environmentally friendly when compared to the packets they used to hand out,” said Emily Wells, an environmental studies and English major. “Plus, the packets weren’t always enough and I felt bad whenever I took two packets.”

Flex dollars, the money that is attached to student meal plans, have also changed. The money can be used to buy extra meal swipes or get a cof-

fee at Sisters’ Café. Before, if the Flex dollars were not used by the end of the semester, they would not roll into the next one. Now, however, the Flex that wasn’t used during a semester will roll over until the end of the school year. “It’s nice that the flex rolls over now, said Cally Miller, a sophomore Biology major.

“The change saves us money by it going from semester to semester.”

Denise Yocum, production manager, says that Chartwells tries to change something each semester, be it small or large. “We change the things that students ask to change,” she said. “Everything we do, we do for the

students. We always takes suggestions.” Students can offer these suggestions by filling out a suggestion card that can be found in front of the cashiers. Students can return those cards in marked boxes by the cashier or at Haist Commons by the juice dispenser.



**GOT MILK?** Haist Commons displays a new Silk soy milk dispenser, containing both vanilla and chocolate milk. Dining services across campus have received several additional changes, from updated napkin and condiment dispensers to a new Flex dollars system. Instead of expiring at the end of the semester, Flex dollars now roll over and can be used until the end of the school year.

Photo by Savannah Riley

## MU Students Served 3-Course Opera Sampler

Kalie Ammons  
Freelance Reporter

The Opera Workshop January Session class paired with Chartwells Dining last weekend to provide three

nights of delicious food, beautiful voices and compelling storylines for MU students and community members.

The audience sat on the Cordier Auditorium

stage and munched away at a crisp salad as the cast and crew prepared their own stage on the raised orchestra pit. Professor Debra Lynn introduced the first opera of the night,

“Chip and his Dog,” a story of a group of neighborhood kids playing dress up in their garage, and the trials of the little dog (Josh Dold) that demanded to be brought to the pompous princess (Erika Reffitt).

“This was probably the easiest of the three operas to learn and put together,” Lynn said. “The difficulty in it for us was getting the actors to think and act like kids during every minute onstage.”

The opera was followed by the main course of an all-you-could-eat buffet of spaghetti, chicken parmesan, green beans and breadsticks. As onlookers filled their plates, the stage transformed from a dingy garage to an elaborate 19th century British city, where the drunkard and opera namesake Christopher Sly (Michael Rueff) took the stage, fleeing from the creditors Peter Turph (Clayton Marcum) and Henry Pimpernell (Grant Ebert) and alehouse hostess Marion Hacket (Ashley Dobrzykowski) he had been terrorizing all his life.

“‘Christopher Sly’ is perhaps one of the most vocally taxing and musically challenging operas I’ve ever directed,” Lynn said. “It is rarely performed, in fact I could not find a recording of it anywhere -- there aren’t even amateur recordings of excerpts on YouTube -- so, that is one indication of how insanely difficult a work it is. It is certainly not part of the ‘standard’ operatic repertoire.”

After a tanner (RaeAnne Schoeffler), hunter (Mark Huntington), miller (Hamilton Sadler) and fisher (Jacob Archibald) find Sly unconscious in the town, they are ordered by a Lord Royale (Adam Ousley) to bring him to his chambers and make Sly believe that he is a lord. The lord steals the stage as he continues on with his ridiculous plan, pushing others around him to partake in the strange act. Eventually, Sly wises up and leaves the Lord’s home with his valuables and two mistresses Lucy, (Kenzie Hare) and Anna, (Angelina Jung).

The audience was barely recovering from laughter as éclairs were served. The dessert play of the night was an excerpt from Mozart’s “Cosi fan Tutte,” where the entire cast took the stage as Don Alfonso (Josh Dold) tried to convince Guglielmo (Grant Ebert) and Ferrando (Clayton Marcum) that women were incapable of being faithful. The young men’s fiancées, Fiordiligi (Erika Reffitt) and Dorabella (Emily Lynn) declared their love for them before they went off to war, not realizing that the men had made a wager with Don Alfonso to come back from the war disguised and try to woo each other’s bride.

“While Mozart is not particularly difficult to act, it is quite difficult to sing,” Lynn said. “Recitatives (sung dialogue that moves very quickly) are where most of the plot exposition takes place, and it has to be very clean and precise. Diction is extremely important; otherwise the audience will never understand what is going on in the story. We worked hours and hours just getting the recitatives going so that they sounded

like ordinary spoken dialogue.”

The night then came to an end, and the audience applauded and cheered with full bellies as the cast took their final bow, “Christopher Sly” being a resounding crowd favorite.

“Christopher Sly” contralto and huntsman RaeAnne Schoeffler had this to say about her experience in the operas:

“It was an amazing opportunity that I will remember for the rest of my life. Operas take a lot of preparation, and since you dedicate so much time to your cast mates, it becomes your life for a while. I’m definitely going to miss it.”

Lynn could not contain the pride she felt for her cast: “I feel like everyone comes into the process ready to work hard and learn a lot,” she said. “This cast was no different; they were all very open and willing to give a star effort. . . . Those with more experience are patient with the folks who have less experience. They all take an active role in helping each other learn.

“Every person in the show is challenged by something in the process,” she continued. “Like any group project, everyone has to carry their part of the load and be responsible for a certain percentage of the preparation work. . . . I could not have been happier with their work, and I believe everyone walked away from the experience having learned something new about opera, and about themselves as singers/actors.”

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**Editors in Chief**  
Emily Barrand  
Andrew Ellam

**Faculty Advisor**  
Dr. Katharine Ings

**Photographer**  
Savannah Riley

**Advertising Manager**  
Karly Prichard

**Staff Writers**  
Collin Groves, Jessica Klemm,  
Rachel Laing, Haylee Parrish,  
Samantha Reynolds, Allie Spillman, Loic Youth

**Newspaper Delivery Manager**  
Claire Mumma

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oakleaves@manchester.edu  
For all other concerns please write to:  
oakleaves@manchester.edu  
or  
The Oak Leaves  
604 E. College Ave Box 11  
North Manchester, IN 46962

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### Upcoming VIA Opportunities

**George Kalamaras:**  
**Poet Laureate of Indiana**  
Tuesday, March 3  
3:30 p.m.  
Cordier Auditorium

**Unwritten, Unfinished,  
and Undergrads, Oh My!**  
Sunday, March 8  
3:00 p.m.  
Cordier Auditorium





# Around Campus



## McFadden Stresses Verbal Communication

### MU students encouraged to refrain from ‘Yik Yak’ for a day

Loic Youth  
Staff Writer

“Yik Yak is the anti-Valentine’s day app” were strong words by President David McFadden in his plea to Manchester students to keep away from the social media app at least for a day.

President McFadden sent out an email on Friday, Feb. 13, asking students to resist the temptation of taking to Yik Yak on Valentine’s Day. The social media app that has become a mainstay around several campuses in the United States as well as Manchester, has raised some concerns due to the messages being posted. Such concerns were a factor behind the president asking Manchester students to refrain from using it at least for a day. “As a Valentine’s day gift to yourself and your Manchester family, consider not using Yik Yak tomorrow,” he said in his email.

McFadden believes that Yik Yak has its perks; however, it can become problematic. “I think it’s great for some things, but it seems to be misused



**APP FREE** President McFadden encourages students to build relationships the old-fashioned way. Instead of using an anonymous app, McFadden would prefer to see students communicating face-to-face, which he believes enables stronger connections to develop. Valentine’s Day prompted a campus-wide email urging students to put away their phones and take advantage of the opportunites Manchester presents to build relationships in person.

Image courtesy of [www.bvtack.com](http://www.bvtack.com)

more than it is used appropriately,” he said. “I’m a much bigger fan of social media where your name is connected to your comments. The thing about Yik Yak that I like the least is the way some people like to hide behind anonymity when they whack other people.”

The misuses of

Yik Yak he talked about are when people post negative messages about other people. He highlighted that the posts that capture his attention the most are “the ones from people who are lonely and putting others down.” Therefore the goal of his email was to encourage verbal communication and build connections; es-

pecially since Valentine’s Day was coming up. “It’s a harder day than many to say ‘let’s hang out together’ because it’s easy to be misunderstood, but that’s all the more reason to connect personally,” McFadden said.

Though the email was predominantly meant for Valentine’s Day, the

president had some extra advice for Manchester students. “Relationships are really important to me, friends, family and colleagues,” he said. “The best relationships that I’ve ever had have developed when we’ve had time to sit and get to know each other well. Manchester provides lots of opportunities to develop those kinds of deep and long-lasting relationships.”

Addressing the students directly, he added: “Spend your time making good friends, not posting anonymously on Yik Yak.”

Tim McConville, a senior communication studies major, referred to Yik Yak as a “mask that people can hide behind.” Though he admitted to having the app at some point, he later deleted it because of the cowardice of people posting anonymously behind a screen. He later on described the app as being “ridiculous.”

However, though the email had good intentions, McConville believes that it was needless because we are all adults and can’t really be told what to

do. “I don’t know if people were yaking a lot on Valentine’s Day but me personally, as soon as I got that email I was like, if I had Yik Yak, I am going to yak a lot more,” he said.

Bertin Gisagara, a senior finance major, has never had a Yik Yak account but says that he saw no reason for the app to exist based on what he had heard of it. He appreciated the president’s email but was slightly disappointed by the fact that the school cannot do much about what people post. “It kind of sucks that the school cannot stop or filter the negative things that are said about people,” he said. Like McConville, Gisagara accepted that it is hard to tell a group of adults what they can or cannot do but he fully supported the president’s email. “Definitely, 100 percent,” he said. “I understand that you cannot really stop people from using Yik Yak but I do not see any good coming from it.”

Both students and the president agreed on one item: Yik Yak would be a better proposition if it was not anonymous.

## Minecraft Club Brings MU Gamers Together

Haylee Parrish  
Staff Writer

For students intrigued by the popular video game Minecraft, there is a new club at Manchester that might be right up your alley. The Minecraft Club, which held its first meeting during the first week of February, strives to bring students together through multiplayer interactions as well as through club attendance. Specifically, it is designed to unite students who might otherwise never interact with each other due to conflicting majors and programs. The Minecraft Club was conceived of by club president Steve Miller and vice president Ben Bolen through the concept of Social-Craft. The club has held two meetings thus far, and over 40 people signed up when it was advertised at the spring Activities Fair.

Stripped down to its bare bones, Minecraft, which was initially released

in 2009, is a game about using blocks in order to create anything that the player can imagine, whether it be a simple home, large-scale castle, or even an entire city. And that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to expressing creativity. The sky is the limit. “It caters to a lot of game playing styles, whether you prefer creativity, the thrill of searching for rare objects, or the player vs. player aspect,” said Erica Graphman, the club’s secretary. “I already knew most of the people in the club beforehand, but playing a game with them is a different sort of interaction. With a game like Minecraft, you can see other people’s abilities, creativity, and innovative ideas which you might not necessarily see in a classroom setting.”

The club meets twice a month in person: on the first Wednesday and the third Saturday of the month, which the club

refers to as Social-Craft. At Social-Craft, the club gathers to play the game, eat and have a good time. For instance, at the club’s last meeting on Saturday, players raced in order to see who could find diamonds the fastest. The winner of the race claimed a gift card. Servers for the club are up on a 24/7 basis so that people may play with each other any time they wish, and there are two servers set up depending on the player’s game preferences.

“There hasn’t been any criticism,” Graphman said. “A lot of people have heard of Minecraft because of its availability on the computer, Playstation and Xbox, and I think that has helped increase awareness and excitement for the club. We have received a few laughs, though.”

Students who are interested may join the club by either showing up to a meeting or by con-

tacting Steve Miller. Meetings are usually held in the evening, though currently there is no set location. “We’re only two meetings in, but so far it’s been fun!”



**GAME ON** Manchester’s new club, created by its president Steve Miller, invites students to get together to play the popular video game Minecraft. Players utilize creativity, innovation and competition, and can meet other students who share a love of gaming. The club does not have an official meeting location, so interested students may contact Miller for more information.

Image courtesy of [www.kotaku.com](http://www.kotaku.com)

## Service Dogs continued from Page 1

Many dog owners, especially those raising puppies, may sympathize with Majumder and remember their own frustrations with all-too-curious canines, but training a service dog is different from raising a domestic pet. “Your time is not your own,”

Lahman said. “It’s a constant negotiation when you wake up. You find yourself thinking ‘Here’s my day, and now where does Saks fit into it?’ When people have pets, they usually share that duty with the family, but with a service dog, you are the primary

handler. That means you will figure out how to get around with this dog, how to use the restroom, how to navigate stairs, and how to go to a restaurant or the grocery store. It really teaches us about ability.”

Despite the challenges and headaches,

training both of these pups contains an extra silver lining. Both Lahman and Majumder described the joy that Saks and Avril bring to others as being the best part of the experience. “The way they can sense a child in the room is amazing,” Lahman said. “Their

ears perk up, and they are just ready to greet that child. They form a real connection whether it be with an eight year old or an 18 year old.”

Majumder described a similar connection that he sees every day. “For many faculty and

students, in the morning when Avril comes in and starts jumping on their laps is a great start to their day,” he said. “Avril brings happiness and positive feelings to the campus.”

## Career Closet continued from Page 1

After staying open for nearly two weeks, the Career Closet is now closed. Not all of the clothes found new homes with students this time around, but don’t worry. “We are going to see if Blue Jacket Clothing Company, our sponsor for the Career Fair (they let

us borrow the mannequins) wants some of the clothing for their store,” Graphman said. “We might also keep some of the suits for future use in Career Closets.”

Students are looking forward to future Career Closets as well. “I would definitely come again!”

Miller said. “In the future, I hope to donate some clothes for those who need it. Though I did not hear many reactions, I think that this event went over very well and will only improve in the years to come.”

Ammons cites the event as being very helpful

to all students. “The other students I saw there also seemed to be having trouble finding something that would fit or be appropriate, but I think everyone left with something,” she said. “If anything, it’s a good way to help students diversify their wardrobe.”

The effects of students being able to own dress clothes that they might not have had the opportunity to get before are already showing. “Career Services has already received response from employers who were impressed with the level of

professionalism that Manchester students have,” Graphman said. “Respons- es like this provides Manchester University and all Manchester students with outstanding reputations in the business world.”





# The Oak Leaves



## Regular Season Ends for Spartan Hoops Teams

*Women's team advances to postseason, men's team begins offseason*

Andrew Ellam  
Co-Editor

Following last Saturday's games at Hanover, the regular season came to a close for both the Spartan men's and women's basketball teams. While the men's team is nearly a week into its offseason, the women's team has been preparing for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Tournament, which tips off tonight at 6 p.m. when Manchester faces Bluffton in the opening game.

At Hanover, the Lady Spartans fought hard, but they came up short, losing to the second-best team in the HCAC by a final score of 70-77. Nonetheless, head coach Josh Dzurick believes that the team played well. "When you're playing a team as good as Hanover on the road on [their] senior day, you have to really give it your best effort," he said. "We gave a good effort; it just wasn't good enough to beat a quality team." Despite the loss, the team remained fifth in the conference standings, having already clinched its berth into the HCAC Tournament with a 66-57 win at Defiance on Feb. 18.

On the whole, junior shooting guard Justin Kruger is pleased with the team's regular season performance, in which the team finished with an overall record of 13-12 and a conference record of 10-8. "I'm pretty happy with the outcome," she said. "I'm glad that we won our senior night and the [Main View Tipoff Tournament]. Those are all big memories for our team and the seniors."

Dzurick is also satisfied with the team's effort throughout the season. "I'd love to see the record a little bit more on the positive side," he said. "But at the end of the day, it's about getting into the tournament



**HALF-COURT** Senior guard Jocelyn Hamilton crosses into the offensive zone during Manchester's home game against Mount St. Joseph at Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Feb. 14. The Spartans were victorious on their senior day, defeating the Lions by a final score of 60-45. The women's team faces Bluffton tonight in the opening game of the HCAC Tournament. Tip off is set for 6 p.m. at the Clive M. Beck Center on Transylvania's campus.

Photo by Savannah Riley

and being ready to play in the tournament. And I'm very happy with where we are at."

Manchester has played in the conference tournament in each of Dzurick's 10 seasons as the head coach, and he believes that playing with a high level of energy will be crucial. "I always feel like the teams that want it the most win the tournament," he said. "You have to be able to play hard for 40 minutes. The extra energy makes a difference in the hustle plays, loose balls and rebounds."

"There's no 'cupcakes' in the tournament," he added. "Everybody is good. We just need to outwork them for 40 minutes." [By cupcakes, Dzurick was using a slang term for weak teams that are easy to defeat.]

Despite the challenges that await Manchester, Dzurick is excited

about the team's chances of making a successful run. "When we're on our game, we're the definition of a team," he said. "We are usually very successful when everybody's executing their roles, no one is caring who gets the credit and everybody's giving it their best effort."

Dzurick also believes that the team's veteran leadership is another one of its major strengths, as five seniors and three juniors on the roster have played in previous conference tournaments. "The younger players can draw on their experience," he said.

Throughout the week, the team went about practice as usual without making any drastic changes to its normal routine. "At this point in the season, it's about fine-tuning what you've been doing," Dzurick said. "You can't get too creative. It's about trying

to get your bodies healthy and fresh, and making sure that you're ready to go."

The tournament, which is being hosted by Transylvania University at the Clive M. Beck Center in Lexington, Ky., will continue throughout the entire weekend. If Manchester defeats Bluffton tonight, they will face Transylvania, the top seed of the tournament with an unbeaten record in conference play, in a semi-final matchup tomorrow afternoon at 3 p.m.

While the women's team has shifted its focus on the HCAC Tournament, the men's team is already looking ahead at next season.

On Saturday at Hanover, the Spartans lost by a final score of 72-83, which ended their season on an eight-game losing streak. "The team played hard and well at Hanover," said former head coach Brad Nadborne. "From a

fan's perspective, I'm sure it was a good game to watch, with both teams really competing. We kind of ran out of gas and came up on the short end."

Despite the team's unfavorable end to the season, Nadborne felt that team made positive strides over the course of the year. "I saw a lot of improvement, both from a team aspect and from certain individuals getting better from the start of the season to the end," he said. "The two players that really come to mind in terms of improvement are Matt Brown and Chase Casteel. Needless to say, they made significant contributions to the team, especially on the offensive end of the court."

Junior forward Keith Berry also had several positive takeaways from this season. "I feel like we were one of the top five teams in the league on the offensive end," he said.

"We stayed positive and we didn't give up."

Nonetheless, Berry believes that the team needs to work on its defense extensively. "Once we get that down pat and put everything together, we'll be one of the top five teams next year," he said.

Nadborne concurred. "The key for a successful season next year will be the improvement that the team makes on the defensive end of the court," he said.

In addition to making improvements on defense, the team looks to develop into a contender for the conference tournament. "I just want to win," Berry said. "I want to help my team get better and help them reach the tournament next year."

Nadborne agrees with Berry. "The goal for next season is to put the program in a position that it will be competing night in and night out at a championship-level," he said.

With the offseason currently underway, the team will be focused on individual improvement. "The team's plans for the offseason are for the players to individually work on their games, getting better as ball handlers and shooters," Nadborne said. "Also strength training is an integral part of offseason improvement and the guys will be challenged to come back in the fall both bigger and stronger."

In the end, the men's team finished with an overall record of 5-20 and a 4-14 record in conference play. They finished tied with Franklin for eighth place in the HCAC.

Additionally, the team will need to find a new head coach for next season since Nadborne has stepped down from the role.

## Students Visit Disney World for Jan. Session



**THE MOST MAGICAL PLACE ON EARTH** Psychology professors Marcie Coulter-Kern and Rusty Coulter-Kern pose for a quick photo with their students outside the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida. The classes visited Disney World for a week during January Session, yet maintained an academic schedule throughout the duration of the trip, with assignments and class meetings held every day. The topics of the classes were leadership strategies, social science and customer service.

Photo courtesy of Professor Marcie Coulter-Kern