



# The Oak Leaves



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## MU Hosts 17th Annual 'Research Symposium'

Students present research papers, posters on a wide variety of topics

Allie Spillman  
Staff Writer

More than 43 students presented research Friday, April 24, at the 17th Annual Research Symposium sponsored by the Dean of Academic Affairs. Topics ranged from feminism and fairy tales, to the evolution of the Girl Scouts of America; from bacteria degradation, to the keynote study featuring dance and peacemaking.

Students presenting research in the Academic Center did so in one of three 15-minute time-slots and were allotted five minutes to answer questions from a classroom of their peers. Presenters during the poster session in the upper deck of the Jo Young Switzer Center were able to have more of a conversation with their listeners who floated from one poster to the next, and often answered questions as they arose.

While the broader goal of the Student Research Symposium is to allow students and faculty to collaborate and for students to gain experience presenting to their peers, three awards were offered this year. The 2015 Jo Young Switzer Writing Award was given to senior English and psychology major Allison O'Neal and senior psychology major Alivia Benbow for "Comparing Student and Instructor Views of Teaching Evaluations" and the poster award went to senior psychology major Rehab Dahab on "Dissociating Remembering from For-



**SPEAKING AND SMILING** Amanda Hendricks, a senior history major, gives her presentation on "Adaptation at its Finest: The Girl Scouts of America" during Manchester's 17th Annual Student Research Symposium on Friday, Apr. 24. At the symposium, more than 43 students presented research on a broad range of topics, such as bacteria degradation and feminism in contemporary fairy tales.

Photo by Savannah Riley

getting in Recognition-Induced Forgetting." Rachel Ulrich, a senior sociology and peace studies major, was awarded the honor of giving the keynote address, a feature that was introduced this spring. Ulrich was chosen by the Symposium Committee following a round of auditions. Winners also received a monetary reward from the Office of Academic Affairs. Their names will be displayed on a plaque in the upper level of the JYSC.

Of course, not all students could win, but many of the presenters seemed appreciative for

the opportunity to share their hard work.

Senior English major Emily Krabach, whose study featured feminism and contemporary fairy tales, was grateful for an opportunity to dive further into a topic she already enjoyed and observe her own progress. "The most meaningful part of my research," she said, "was revisiting some of my favorite stories and applying the analytical skills and theories that I have learned as an English major."

Krabach then reflected on works she read before college and has

now revisited in her final year at Manchester. "The difference in the way I regarded these works at two different points in my life highlights the growth I have made as a reader and as a writer during my time as an English major," she said. "In a sense, this project became a culmination of not only my skill and what I had learned in my last four years, but also of what I love and enjoy—fairy tales and feminism."

Like Krabach, senior communication studies major Ellyn Sallee also expressed gratitude for the opportunity. Sallee, who

presented on the portrayal of body image in Meghan Trainor's hit single "All About That Bass," specifically noted the confidence and skills she gained in the process.

"It is a remarkable feeling," Sallee said, "to have a professor acknowledge the hard work that you have done and be proud of you. Manchester University is all about helping you become the best you possible. That happened for me at the symposium. It has helped me to mature and be professional. It has encouraged me to work hard and test my limits of

capability. I feel like with this experience, I can carry it with me through life and continue to show people what I am capable of and how much I know."

Senior sociology major and keynote speaker Rachel Ulrich felt similar growth and expects to use her new skills in her future work with nonprofit Girls Inc. and abroad with Brethren Volunteer Services.

"I think the experience of presenting as the keynote speaker will help me later on," Ulrich said. "The more experience I have presenting, the better public speaker I become—and public speaking skills are almost always useful. This experience also allowed me to develop stronger skills in effectively communicating specific kinds of information to wide variety of people."

Ulrich also noted some of the more difficult aspects regarding the symposium, specifically being the keynote speaker.

"Part of the process of being the keynote speaker involved getting constructive criticism on how to improve my presentation from a member of the symposium committee and my research advisor. Working with this constructive criticism was sometimes challenging because it required me to address the suggestions of others while still staying true to the research I did and still taking ownership of my work. It felt a bit like what I imagine a peer review process entailing. This was challenging but very valuable learning for me."

## False Threat Leads to Lockdown on Campus



**SEARCHING FOR A SUSPECT** At approximately 10:48 p.m. on Friday, Apr. 24, Manchester University initiated a campus-wide lockdown after several calls were made to local police by a person that claimed to have stabbed his roommate and to have broken into the Administration Building with a gun and explosives. Students on campus were instructed to take shelter in a safe place while Campus Safety and several local police agencies searched the Administration Building. After it was determined that nobody was inside the building, authorities conducted a door-to-door search through the residence halls. In the end, no stabbing victim was found, and at approximately 3:14 a.m. the lockdown was lifted. As a result of the hoax, Manchester held a private gathering at Petersime Chapel for student counseling sessions on Sunday, Apr. 26. Currently, the university is offering a \$2,500 reward to anyone that knows who is responsible for making the false threats.

Image courtesy of wane.com

Inside: Peace Week, Gender Neutral Restrooms, ICPA Winners

# Around Campus

## Art Auction, Tree Planting for MU's 'Peace Week'

Jessica Klemm  
Staff Writer

Manchester University held Peace Week April 20-26 with the theme "A Solid Foundation for Change." One source of the theme was Manchester's mission statement to graduate people "of ability and conviction who draw upon their education and faith to lead principled, productive, and compassionate lives that improve the human condition."

The week held many different activities for the campus and North Manchester community. There was the keynote speaker, Sarah Thompson, an executive director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, which is an international multifaith organization committed to building partnerships against violence and oppression. She spoke of "Moving Toward Conflict: Connecting Struggles for Self-Determination Around the World," at Cordier.



**PLANT FOR PEACE** Students help plant the new pine tree behind the Jo Young Switzer Center. Manchester hosted many events between April 20 and 26 to celebrate Peace Week; the theme this year was "A Solid Foundation For Change." In addition to the tree-planting ceremony, there was an art auction (proceeds went to the charity Change for Change), a Yom HaShoah chapel service and a "Food for Thought" dinner in Oakwood Hall followed by a Power Hour in the Intercultural Center.

Photo by Allie Spillman

There was also a Yom HaShoah service at the Petersime Chapel on campus on April 23 to remember those that were lost in the Holocaust. The peace pole in the front of the Chapel was also replaced with a new one.

An art auction was one of the bigger events of the week. It was a one-day silent auction that took place in Link Gallery. The items in the action were donated by students, faculty, and students from the International Center. Pieces ranged from wood pieces, paintings, photography and ceramics. The money from the action will be going toward Change for Change, a charity for those who have been left homeless after ISIS attacks. Phil Keim, 2014 graduate and Peace Studies Coordinator, came up with the idea of having an art auction. "I got the idea after watching the news of ISIS destroying hundreds of year old statues and art museums," Keim said. The pieces that

were open to auction had ranges of 2 dollars to 20 dollar bids. The highest bid by the end of the day was seventy-five dollars. Keim plans to organize another auction in the future and get more of the community involved. "There are lots of great artists in the community, not just on campus," he said. There were a handful of people who participated in the silent auction, even less so when it came around for the live auction.

A tree-planting ceremony also took place behind the Jo Young Switzer Center on April 22 in 30 degree weather with snowflakes falling. Students could help plant the tree by shoveling dirt.

The last event was the "Food for Thought" dinner at Oakwood on April 26. The dinner had Professor Lasser there to lead discussion on the subject of "Is War Necessary for Peace?" There was also a Power Hour at the Intercultural Center.

## 'May Day Weekend' to Bring Yearly Festivities

*Students look forward to campus-wide celebration before final exams*

Collin Groves  
Staff Writer

With the stress of finals closing in on students as Spring Semester comes to an end, Manchester

Activities Council (MAC) intends to alleviate some of the collegiate pressure through planning a multitude of events during May Day, with festivities beginning earlier this week and

continuing throughout the weekend.

The May Day festivities have had a place every year on campus for several years, with the same events occurring

each May Day. "It's basically been a tradition," said Shanon Fawbush, director of MAC. "May Day has been a celebration since the college has been here."

The queue of events began with a bonfire that took place last night near the intramural softball fields. Today at 5 p.m., the Trike Race will take place, followed by the Airband music mash-up performances and the One Hit Wonder lip syncing at 9 p.m.

Tomorrow morning, the Mud Volleyball Tournament will take place along with the Drag Show occurring later that night at 8 p.m. in Wampler Auditorium.

Most of the events, which are coordinated and effectively planned by MAC each year, gives students involved a new perspective of the exciting events. "MAC members are placed on committees before the semester begins," said Cole Kellogg, junior, vice

president of MAC, and committee member planning the Airband/One Hit Wonder event. "I volunteered to help wherever I was needed for the May Day events."

Along with MAC events, other groups on campus have plans for May Day, such as United Sexualities, who is hosting the Drag Show tomorrow night. Additionally, the Swim Club held activities on Wednesday. As long as the events planned do not conflict, May Day is open to all events that are planned by student groups to ensure that the student body can attend all the festivities.

"These are probably the biggest events all year," Fawbush said. "All students have to do is take advantage. They don't have to choose which event they want to enjoy."

Based on how past years have gone, the turnout for the events has been decently large, with

most of campus attending the events. "Airband has always been an event with an amazing turnout," Kellogg said. "We always fill the bleachers on the side of the press box completely, and we do not expect this year to be any different."

But regardless of how many students go, those that do will experience events steeped in Manchester tradition and designed to take the edge off of upcoming finals. "May Day is a time to take a break from the stress of academics as final exams are looming," Kellogg said. "After a year of hard work, May Day is a large scale university-wide celebration for students to enjoy together."

### The Oak Leaves

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## May Day Weekend 2015 Schedule of Events

### Friday, May 1

**Trike Race**  
Garver U, 5 p.m.

**Airband**  
PERC, 9 p.m.

### Saturday, May 2

**Mud Volleyball**  
Mud Pit, 10 a.m.

**Drag Show**  
Wampler Auditorium, 8 p.m.

# Around Campus

## MU to Re-install Gender-Neutral Bathrooms

*All-inclusive 'Potty in Peace' initiative providing safe facilities to students*

Collin Groves  
Staff Writer

Although Manchester's campus greeted the new academic year in September by introducing gender-neutral bathrooms, anonymous complaints in April 2015 filed under the concept of gender equality led to a short-lived debate about whether or not the bathrooms would be suitable for Manchester University's campus.

The design and implementation for the bathrooms began in 2014, with cohesive decision-making on the part of the President's Cabinet, the Office of Student Development, and Physical Plant, which met due to "Operation Potty in Peace," an initiative created by current alum Darcy Robins and Student Development and Operations staff. From there, plans were drawn up to place bathrooms around campus.

"First, the residence hall lobby bath-

rooms were changed, and then the women's bathroom on the second floor of the Academic building and third floor of the Science Center were converted to gender neutral," said Haley Steinhilber, sophomore, and secretary for United Sexualities. "The locations were picked based on whether the location had a high population of students and didn't require too much construction and inconvenience."

The logic behind their creation was to allow non-gender-conforming students to feel comfortable, safe and free of harassment in bathrooms free of gender labels. Hence, the bathrooms shattered social boundaries regarding gender and provided a neutral space for all faculty, staff and students in Manchester's buildings.

"This is inclusive and a respectful approach that is congruent with the mission and values of Manchester University," said Professor Barb Burdge of

the Department of Sociology and Social Work.

However, last month an anonymous complaint was sent to the Education Office of Civil Rights regarding the overall ratio of men's restrooms to women's. The complaint accused Manchester of having fewer gender-specific restrooms for women than men. That lack of equality brought in Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sexual discrimination within governmentally assisted educational institutions or programs and it also restricts discrimination based on gender identity and stereotypical concepts of masculinity or femininity.

"Further, Manchester University policy explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression," said Whitney Caudill, the vice president for University Engagement and the coordinator for Title IX.

Since the filing last month, the primary complaint was dropped and the file has been closed, but questions still remain on how to handle the situation and prevent possible protests in the future. Recently, Burdge has heard more questions than complaints.

"More often, I have heard from students and faculty who weren't complaining, but simply asking questions," Burdge said. "These folks were not necessarily opposed to all-gender facilities; they just didn't understand what they were for or why they were needed."

The university administration, however, has decided that gender-neutral bathrooms are still a necessity for non-binary



**SIGN OF CHANGE** Manchester is in the process of reinstalling gender neutral bathrooms on campus after a setback via the Title IX Higher Education Amendments. While the initial complaint regarding inequality in the number of men's and women's bathrooms has been dropped, the university is investigating how to best incorporate all-inclusive bathrooms in order for every student, faculty and staff member to feel comfortable and safe on campus.

*Photo by Emily Barrand*

members of campus that do not feel comfortable in gender specific bathrooms, but all that remains is where and when to replace them in the campus community.

"The University is now investigating the best way to reinstall and introduce gender-neutral bathrooms in academic buildings," Caudill said. "That process should be com-

plete and in place by the fall semester."

But amidst all the debates and questioning, Burdge sees an opportunity to educate the campus community about the complexities of gender, and the social stipulations attached to it.

"I love getting those questions because they create the opportunity for real dialogue and learn-

ing about gender," Burdge said.

Since the complaint was withdrawn, Manchester University is not required to respond to the charges and no further investigation by the Education Office of Civil Rights.



*Image courtesy of newsarchive.medill.northwestern.edu*

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# Spartan Sports



## Spartan Softball Preps for HCAC Tournament

*Players use walkout songs to generate excitement for at-bats, warm-ups*

Haylee Parrish  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Apr. 25, and Sunday, Apr. 26, Manchester University's softball team faced off against Kalamazoo and Rose-Hulman, respectively.

The Spartans seized victory against Kalamazoo in both matches with a score of 10-2 in the first match and 9-8 in the second. The next day, locked in an HCAC event hosted at MU, Rose-Hulman scored a win with 2-1 and Manchester followed up this defeat with a win of 3-2. As of the release of this issue, this puts the Spartans at an overall 16 wins to 15 losses with a 9-7 in conference tournaments. The games scheduled against Huntington at home on Tuesday, Apr. 28 were canceled due to weather.

For the team, there is nothing quite like the use of a good walkout song to get the players pumped and ready to play. Walkout songs are played before the starting lineup go up to bat or for pitchers taking warm-up pitches before the inning starts, according to senior player Ashlea Nash. "Walkouts are a time period that get that certain athlete excited and pumped, ready to go up to bat and do well," she said. "They are exciting as a team aspect to get to listen to others' songs and get excited for them."

The songs have



**POSTSEASON GLORY** Manchester's softball team earned a berth into the HCAC Tournament in its regular season finale at home on Sunday, Apr. 26, with a 3-2 victory over the Rose-Hulman Fightin' Engineers. After falling in game one of the doubleheader by a final score of 1-2, the Spartans bounced back and picked up a walk-off win in game two after first-year pinch runner Allyson Brown scored the game-winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh inning. The HCAC tournament, hosted by Anderson, begins today when Manchester faces Bluffton at 10 a.m.

*Photo by Savannah Riley*

grown to serve as a sort of tradition for the team. They are the same for every game and are chosen by the players themselves. Any song is fair game to be used as a walkout song as long as it is deemed appropriate and avoids content

that could be considered offensive, such as swear words.

"My pitching walkout song is 'Go Hard or Go Home' by Wiz," Nash said. "Emily Willmann's hitting walkout song is 'G.D.F.R.' by Flo Rida. Mine is used

for pitching, while hers is used for hitting."

While Nash has not had a particular walkout song that has stuck with her or held much meaning to her in her experience on the team, she reflected on the song another player on

the team has. "One of the girls, MacKenzie Williams, has had the same walkout all three years: 'Flower' by Moby. So it is something special to her."

The team's next game is scheduled for Friday, May 1 at 10 a.m.

against Bluffton at Anderson University. This game will be part of the HCAC Softball Tournament. If the Spartans win, they will play again at 4 p.m., and if they lose, they will play an elimination game at 2 p.m.

## MU Spartan Baseball Continues Hot Streak

Andrew Ellam  
Co-Editor  
Samantha Reynolds  
Staff Writer

Manchester University's baseball team was quite busy last Sunday, Apr. 26, as the team was forced to play nearly three full games in a single day against Hanover College.

Originally, the Spartans were supposed to face the Panthers in a doubleheader on Saturday afternoon, followed by a single game on Sunday. However, game one on Saturday was suspended after three innings because of rain. As a result, both of Saturday's games had to be moved, leaving the teams with little choice but to play a tripleheader on Sunday.

As game one resumed on Sunday at 10 a.m., Manchester welcomed a much larger crowd to Gratz Field than they had on Saturday before postponing the first two games of the series. Hanover prevailed in the delayed first game with a 6-4 victory, but Manchester won the next two games by final scores of 8-2 and 4-3, respectively.

In game two, the Spartans were led by an impressive performance on the mound from senior starting pitcher Sean Liedtke, who tossed a complete game and improved his record this season to 7-1. He limited the Hanover offense to only two runs, one earned, on seven hits while striking out seven.

As for game three,

the team picked up a walk-off win in the bottom of the ninth inning when senior second baseman Logan Hug scored the winning run from second base on a throwing error by Hanover.

The fans sat patiently throughout the games, cheering the teams on as they played through three straight contests. "It felt like one never-ending game that just continued on with minimal delay," said Shaylie Mahla, a first-year student that attended the games.

Following the series against Hanover, senior Justin Miller was named the HCAC Pitcher of the Week for Apr. 20-26. During the week, he gave up only one earned run over a total nine and two-thirds innings. Also, he had 13 strikeouts and picked up two wins. He has been honored by the conference in back-to-back weeks, as he was named the HCAC Hitter of the Week for Apr. 13-19.

"It was a real surprise to me, honestly," Miller said. "I threw well during the week, but I knew of a few other pitchers [in the conference] who threw just as well or even better. But being honored by the conference for two weeks in a row makes me feel like all my hard work in the off-season and during this season is paying off."

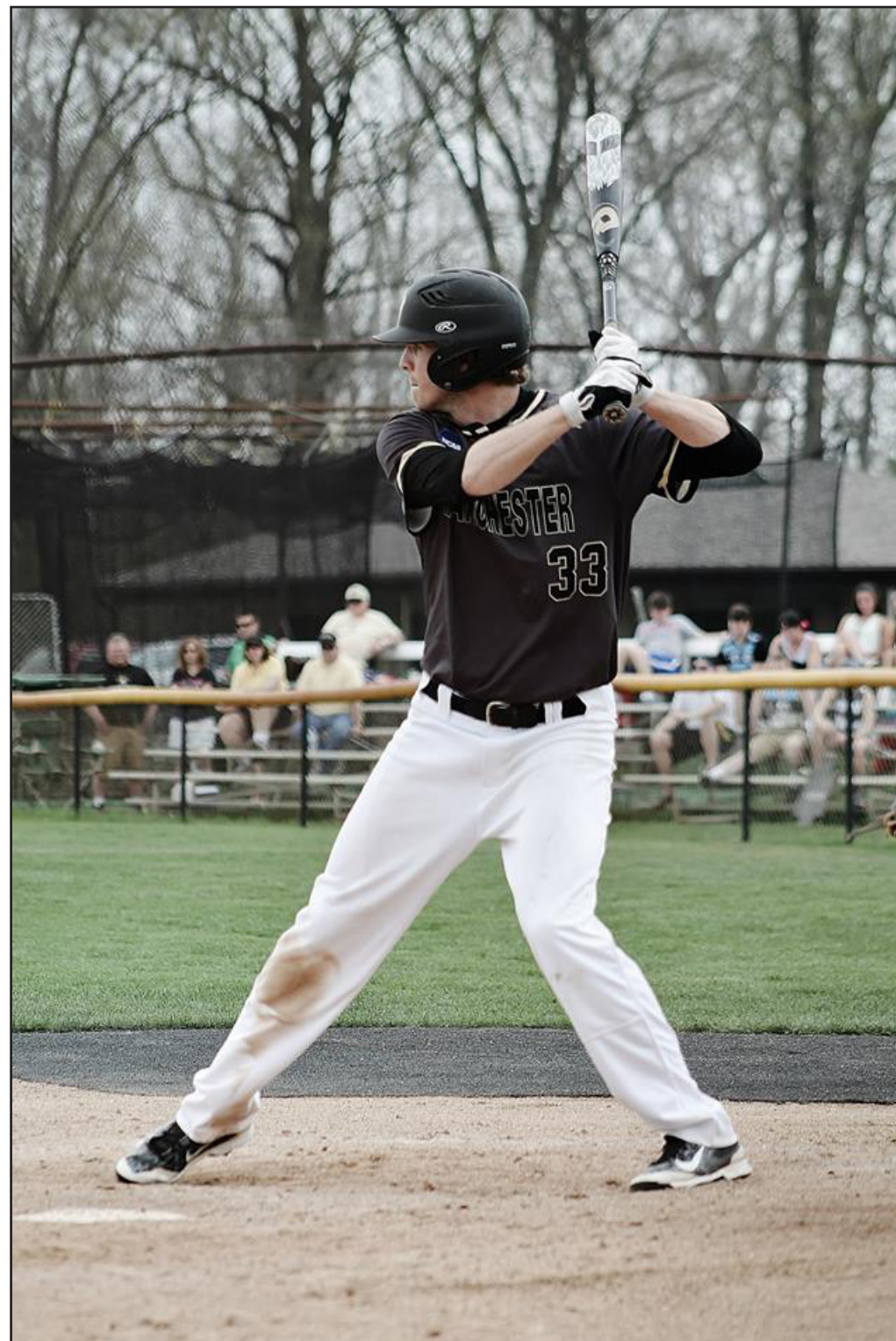
"Also, my teammates have put me in a really good position to succeed," he continued. "Anything I can do to help the team win is what matters most to me."

On Tuesday, Apr. 28, the Spartans traveled to Defiance, Ohio, where they picked up a 10-5 win over the Defiance Yellow Jackets. The team was led on offense by sophomore first baseman Tailur Szarenski, who went 4-for-5 and drove in three runs. Hug, along with senior shortstop Trevor Kimm, also had solid performances at the plate, as Hug had three RBIs and Kimm picked up four base hits, including two doubles.

With the win over Defiance, the Spartans have won eight out of their last nine games. Currently, their overall record is 22-12 and their conference record is 15-9. Heading into its final regular season series, the team is still very much in contention to clinch a spot in the conference tournament. To do so, they must finish at least fourth in the conference standings, and at the time of publication they were in third place.

"We've hit a couple of rough patches this season, but we always seem to find a way to battle through them," Liedtke said. "We've really come together as a team lately, and now we're in a position to reach the conference tournament next weekend."

This weekend, Manchester will finish its regular season with a three-game series at home against the Franklin Grizzlies. Game one is set to start this afternoon at 4:15 p.m., while a doubleheader is scheduled to begin tomorrow at noon.



**LOCKED AND LOADED** Senior right fielder/pitcher Justin Miller awaits the next pitch during Manchester's doubleheader at home against Mount St. Joseph on Apr. 18. Miller has been honored by the HCAC for two consecutive weeks, as he was named the conference hitter of the week for Apr. 13-19 and was selected as pitcher of the week for Apr. 20-26. The Spartans look to clinch a spot in next weekend's conference tournament during their three-game series at home against Franklin this weekend.

*Photo by Savannah Riley*