

FEATURES

SPARTAN SPORTS

Spartan Baseball Projects Striking 2016 Season



Men's Spartan Basketball Ends Season at Home

AROUND CAMPUS

Fashion Club Discusses Trends across Cultures

Page 3

Manchester Welcomes New Assistant Spanish Prof.



Assistant Prof. of Spanish, Juan Jesús Payán Martín

Erin Fralick
Staff Writer

"When you get lost, that's when you get stories, because it's a conflict you need to solve," says Juan Jesús Payán Martín, visiting assistant professor of Spanish. Martín is halfway through his first year at Manchester University, where he has been teaching Spanish language classes as well as European literature.

Martín grew up in Cádiz, Spain, where he studied music and literature. He formed a poetry society called "the degeneration of '98," which was a play on the organization "the generation of '98," a group of poets that gathered in 1898. Martín's poetry society would gather to drink coffee and discuss poetry, helping them prepare for their future careers as writers. Martín has published a book of poetry in Spain and is also included in an anthology of poets located in his province. "Everything I do in teaching comes from poetry," Martín said.

He grew up in an environment that supported music; his father played the organ and encouraged him to take up an instrument as well. Martín plays the guitar and studied music at an institute in Spain that was founded by the composer Manuel de Falla. When Martín was enrolled in the institute, he found himself bored with playing scales and so he jumped from playing at a second-year level to playing at a sixth-year level. "If I listen to something, I can play it immediately," he said.

SEE NEW PROF., PAGE 2



'Hold a True Friend with Both Hands'

Manchester University Holds Memorial Service for Brook Dagnew, Nerad Mangai and Kirubel Hailu

Oak Leaves Staff

Near Cordier Auditorium's stage graced by the flags of Ethiopia and Nigeria, floral tributes, and photographs from happier times, students, faculty, staff, alumni, community, friends and family members gathered on Wednesday night to honor the lives of three Manchester University students who died early Sunday morning following a car crash on I-69.

Nerad Mangai, Brook Dagnew and Kirubel Hailu were returning from a visit to Ball State University and Taylor University, along with four other students, when they had a flat tire and were struck by another vehicle while they were outside changing the tire. A fourth student, Israel Tamire, is being treated at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. Three other students, Nebiyu Alemu, Amanuel Gebreyohannes and Dagmawi Tadesse, were not physically injured and returned to North Manchester. All of the students were from Addis Abba, Ethiopia,

except Mangai, who was from Jos, Nigeria.

As Campus Pastor Walt Wiltschek welcomed the gatherers, he noted that "grief unites us across the sea." But he offered solace too, telling the grieving attendees that "our fabric is torn, but the threads of community draw around the holes."

That community was evident tonight as speakers lovingly remembered their students and their friends.

Michael Dixon, director of Intercultural Services, told of how he felt like a father looking for his children as he sought to learn what happened to the seven international students who drove to Muncie and Upland over the weekend.

Anthea Ayebeze recalled Nerad Mangai's humor (the "worst humor," she said, fondly), her laughter, and the ineffable quality that sparked someone in a grocery store to offer college student Nerad \$10 to help with her purchases.

Nebiyu Alemu read a letter from Kirubel's best friend, who flew from California to attend

the memorial service. He offered his "best man" speech, because he had planned to speak at Kirubel's wedding one day. In it, he noted how much Kirubel loved Manchester.

Ruth Woldemichael, Biniam Tadesse and Dagmawi Tadesse all spoke in remembrance of Brook, who had nicknamed himself BK. "We teased him so much about that," Bini said.

Ruth met Brook when they both arrived at Manchester. They spent that first day together, and became fast friends. She called him her "brother."

Bini, Brook's roommate, remembered how much they had in common, even the same coffee drink—a "white chocolate mocha." Dagmawi remembered he thought that Brook was an 8th grader instead of a first-year college student when they met, but after getting to know him, realized that BK was, in fact, "perfect" as himself.

President Dave McFadden offered words of strength to the grieving friends and attendees. He referenced a tapestry hang-

ing in his office, saying that the horizontal weave might provide the decorative aspect, which is akin to all the visible accomplishments that students might enjoy, or programs that the university offers, but the vertical strands, which remain practically unseen, provide strength and support. That support, he said, is evident in the Manchester community that has gathered to provide strength to families and students and friends.

Throughout the service, Dr. Debra Lynn's Chamber Singers and A Cappella Choir and Friends presented music to lift people's spirits and to offer consolation, including "Nkosi, Nkosi" (Lord, Lord); "Ipharadisi" (Paradise); and "Sing Me to Heaven," by Daniel Gawthrop.

Pastor Witschek closed the service by inviting the gatherers to participate in a call-and-response, with "We Remember Them."

As he began the blessing, he offered a Nigerian proverb: "Hold a true friend with both hands."

MU Swim and Dive Team Make History

Carly Kwiecien
Staff Writer

The Manchester University swim and dive team made history by competing in their first Ohio Athletic Conference Championships in Akron, Ohio last weekend.

The women's team earned 157 total points over three days of competition, placing in seventh place out of seven teams. The men's team tallied 125 points, also finishing seventh.

"The team has worked very hard this year, and this meet provided a great opportunity to showcase that work," said Mike Kroll, head Swimming and Diving Coach. "The Ohio Athletic Conference as a whole is a great conference that provided not only great competition for us, but also provided an atmosphere for us to enjoy and have fun."

One of those who stood out and succeeded greatly was sophomore diver Ally Roskos. On the final day of the 2016 OAC, Roskos earned a 404.25 mark, her second time hitting a mark of 400 points or more this season.

The first time Roskos scored over 400 points was at the



DIVE IN Quinn-Michael L'heureux dives from the starting block.

2016 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Invitational at Franklin College on Jan. 23.

"I went into this meet just hoping to dive well and whatever happened, happened," Roskos said. "I wasn't going to be upset about it, so getting over a 400 again felt very accomplishing."

Roskos will continue her season this weekend at the NCAA Division III Central Region Diving Championships hosted by Denison University of Granville, OH.

"I know it is going to be tough competition this weekend, so my goals are for me to just dive my best and give it my all," Roskos said.

"I don't want to have any regrets after this meet. Even if I don't move on to Nationals, I just want to feel good about my performance."

SEE MAKING HISTORY, PAGE 3

Mozart Meets Mohawks: MU Presents Classic Opera

Sarah Farnam
Staff Writer

Last weekend, the Manchester University Department of Music put on an intimate steampunk opera dinner-theater event that allowed students, faculty, staff and community members to get up close and personal with the opera experience. The event took place in Cordier Auditorium, but only a small portion of the space was utilized. Tables set with bright green napkins and masquerade masks were lined up on the stage, as was the orchestra, the buffet table and the set for the operas. Two operas were performed—one before dinner and one after. Dessert was served during the intermission of the second play.

As guests enjoyed salads and rolls, Manchester University senior Michael Rueff and sophomore Kenzie Hare, alongside retired lab technician Sandy Funk, performed an operatic version of the Dr. Seuss story “Green Eggs and Ham.” Director Debra Lynn referred to this as a “light musical appetizer” before the main course of “Don Giovanni.” Hare sang the classic rhymes with impressive speed and vocal strength. This brief prelude was an entertaining way to invite guests to get their own slice of ham from the buffet, which was being kept hot at the edge of the stage.

The dinner consisted of apricot glazed ham, fresh green beans and sweet potato casserole. After audience members had the chance to mingle and plates had been cleared, the main event commenced.

Actors performed “Don Giovanni” by Lorenzo Da Ponte and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a play in which a dark yet charming

seducer of women, the titular Don Giovanni, learns his lesson for selfishly manipulating his comrades and playing with the hearts of the girls that fall for him.

Giovanni was played by junior Grant Ebert, whose deep baritone vocals made him believable as the enchanting schemer. He and junior Joshua Dold, who portrayed Giovanni’s servant, Leporello, played off of each other wonderfully, packing comic relief in their banter and intensity in their more serious moments. Dold often interacted with the audience by weaving through the tables as he sang. “Any time I can work with Mozart, the wonderful students at Manchester, and the excellent music professors is a ball of a time!” he said enthusiastically.

Though the sets were simplistic—no more than a few props on stage at a time—the costumes and makeup made up for any lack of flash. Holding true to the steampunk-style, actors donned classic Victorian corsets and waistcoats paired with steampunk-inspired goggles, crimped and voluminous hairstyles, and bright, abstract face paint around the eyes.

None of the performers used a microphone, which is the norm for operatic performances. However, the talented students belted out their lines clearly for the audience. Even more impressive was their ability to rapidly spit out the quickest pieces of dialogue in song while remaining in character. Though the cast only performed about 65 percent of the full “Don Giovanni” opera, the performance lasted for about two hours. The cast kept its energy high, their voices strong and their audience entertained.



DINNER AND A SHOW Students and community members perform “Don Giovanni” in Cordier Auditorium. Courtesy of Debra Lynn

MU History Department Welcomes Professor Ganesan

Caitlin Doyle
Staff Writer

Battles, wars, kings and legacies are evident throughout history, but the new assistant professor of history Uma Ganesan focuses on a more specific topic: modern South Asian history, colonialism and women’s history. These all stemmed from her life in India, where she lived until she entered graduate school at the University of Cincinnati in 2004. Ganesan graduated with her

PhD in 2011, teaching afterward in several states, including Kentucky and Pennsylvania, before accepting a position at Manchester University.

Since coming here, she has worked with the other professors in the history and political science department to introduce new courses that complement her expertise. For instance, she taught a course on China and East Asia history this fall and also has a year-long course for world history. She

has planned a critical connections course available to juniors and seniors for next spring, which focuses on contemporary international women’s rights and how those rights are affected by society.

Ganesan was excited to talk about her future classes at Manchester. “One of my colleagues proposed traveling for January 2017, which sounds very exciting!” she said. “I would love to be a part of that, but probably not until 2018 and onwards.”

Ganesan’s enthusiasm can also be seen in how she treats the students that she teaches. Cody Stewart, a junior accounting major, was in one of her first classes — China and East Asia history. “Professor Ganesan was very helpful when I would ask questions about her class,” he said. “She was also great about giving extra review questions for the final.”

Ganesan’s passion for history stems from her own childhood in India. Her dissertation focused on modern South Asian history—an Indian reform movement during the 1920s and 1930s—with three secondary topics of the British Empire, Women’s studies and Chinese history. Although modern Asia does not tie into her dissertation, Genevan says that she took an introductory course on China and “really fell in love with it.” This broadened her Asian history expertise.

Ganesan decided on Manchester because she felt it was the right fit for her. Before her campus visit, she had never

been to Indiana. “I came here [to learn about the area] in December, around Christmas,” she said. “It was completely quiet, there was not a soul on campus; I told myself not to be discouraged.” But after

meeting faculty members who had not yet left for the semester break, Manchester’s appeal increased considerably, solidifying her decision to accept the position.



Assistant Professor of History Uma Ganesan

NEW PROF. FROM PAGE 1

Although he chose to pursue literature, Martín still plays music and even tries to find ways to incorporate music into his lessons.

Martín has experienced many adventures before coming to the United States, where he completed his graduate work at UCLA. Whether it be experiencing snow for the first time in Siena, Italy, or cultural differences with public transportation in Lima, Peru, Martín has story for every place he’s travelled. However, the most memorable story details his trip to the Andes Mountains. Martín and friend were going to camp by

the mountains, and, in order to get there, they both needed to take the bus. Martín could only describe the overcrowded bus “like a scene from a movie.” According to Martín, one man was even carrying a chicken.

When they reached their destination, Martín and his friend were dropped off in a small village where the only visible people were drunk men with missing teeth, missing fingers or a combination of the two. All of the buildings were closed, and it was then that Martín and his companion found out that there was no bus going through the village. The pair decided to walk to another village in search of a bus.

They trudged from vil-

lage to village, eventually catching a ride in the back of a fruit vendor’s truck. The truck brought them to a village where the ground was so hot, the people were cooking their meat in pits they had dug in the earth. In that village, Martín and his friend were able to find a taxi driver that would take them back to the city; the only catch was that they had to ride in the trunk. “I thought I was being kidnapped,” Martín said about the experience.

Through this experience, Martín came to the conclusion that getting lost allows a person to find the best stories, a concept that might also influence the authors he teaches.

Oak Leaves

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

Editors-in-Chief
Emily Barrand and Sarah Farnam

Design Editor
Jafet Garcia

Chief Photographer
Savannah Riley

Web Editor
Kalie Ammons

Faculty Advisors
Jeri S. Kornegay, Fall '15
Dr. Katharine Ings, Spring '16

Staff Writers
Keith Berry, Caitlin Doyle, Sarah Farnam,
Erin Fralick, Karen Kanyike, Carly Kwiecien,
Aaron Lloyd, Zach Newcomer,
Guerby Ruuska, Kody Smith, Stratton Smith

Delivery Manager
Claire Mumma

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

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

To contact the editors:
oakleaves@manchester.edu

Printed by the Columbia City Post and Mail

Fashion Club Discusses Trends across Cultures

Aaron Lloyd
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to learn about the different fashion trends from around the world? The newly formed Fashion Club will invite you to do just that, as it studies fashion throughout the globe.

Fashion Club was formed in order to think about how fashion plays a significant role in society. “It’s all about studying trends and concepts that dramatically impact our culture,” said Shereen Antony, a junior accounting and economics major. “Fashion is more than a shallow showing of clothing, but has roots that can and do upturn our society. Fashion Club is a place for people to gather together who are interested in learning and sharing about how fashion, in all its facets, does exactly that. Fashion is a powerful tool that can grab hold of a society and change it—for better or worse.”

Antony, along with her fellow club leaders Cassy Dibley, Ashton Krider, and president, Precious Bounphiasi, held their first Fashion Club meeting in February. Antony said that her favorite example of fashion is how baggy jeans became popular for men. “Some say it started with inmates having baggy pants because they weren’t allowed to have belts,” she said. “Then, prison fashion spread into mainstream fashion by those who were protesting inmates not being allowed to wear belts.”

Like other clubs on campus, Fashion Club has certain items on their agenda to discuss each meeting. On March 2, for example, they will lead a session on arm-knitting a scarf, charging attendees \$3 for the first ball of yarn

and providing the second one free of charge. Other topics that they are planning on covering are helpful details like how to sew on a button and how to tie a neck tie. They also want to talk about past, current and future trends, and not just the popular ones, but also the controversial trends. They want to have fun by asking whether man-buns are acceptable and whether leggings are a satisfactory replacement for pants, but will also examine the larger social implications—often involving gender, race and class—behind those issues.

Fashion Club also wants to include men in their discussions—because fashion is not just for women. “We had a few men at our first meeting and we love them dearly for coming,” Antony said. “Fashion isn’t a ‘girl thing.’ We aren’t sitting around putting on makeup and doing each other’s hair. We want to talk about all kinds of trends. If it is a ‘girl trend,’ then we want male opinions and vice versa. We also would love to cater to all genders and so we are welcoming of suggestions on how we can do that.”

For those of you on the verge of attending Fashion Club, Antony has one message for you: “I love you.” She would also tell you: “Isn’t it cool that you are a part of fashion? That by wearing what you wear, even if it is the t-shirt and sweatpants you went to sleep in, you are making a statement and you are expressing who you are. And that when you look back, say through your Instagram pictures, you get to see who you were in that moment simply by the clothes you wear.”

Fashion Club meets on Wednesdays, from 8-9, in ACEN 146.



Painting by Jafet Garcia

TRES CHIC MU’s Fashion Club encourages students to join them in talking about the latest trends.

Career Closet Helps Students ‘Dress to Impress’

Karen Kanyike
Staff Writer

With the Career and Internship Fair just around the corner in March, students are looking for professional attire, which is usually very expensive and difficult to obtain in a rural community. Where can students find affordable, professional options?

The Office of Career and Professional Development hosted its second annual Career Closet, an event that ran from Feb. 15–19 in the Jo Young Switzer Center, upper level. “The Career Closet is a week-long opportunity for students to come to the JYS Center to get free, professional clothing,” said one of the student assistants, Donnie Watkins, a senior communication studies major from Kokomo, Ind. “The Career Closet is in preparation for the Career and Internship Fair that will take place in March.”

The idea for this clothing giveaway was devised by Erica

Graphman, former career and professional development intern and now social media content specialist in Admissions. “In order to be successful at the Career and Internship Fair, it is important to look and dress professionally,” Watkins said. “We recognized that some students did not have the means or funds to obtain professional clothing, so we wanted to find a way to provide them with the necessary tools for success.”

A good number of students took advantage of this event. Within the first day, over 50 students went to choose clothing they needed. The student assistants usually take on the task of organizing the clothing and attending to the customer’s needs. This year, it was Watkins’ turn to coordinate this event. All of the clothes were donations from faculty, staff and community members.

Curtis Stump, a sophomore pre-pharmacy major from Boggstown, Ind., was pleased with



2nd Annual CAREER CLOSET

the idea of the career closet. “It’s a great way for students who need professional dress to get it without paying hundreds of dollars,” he said.

This is the second time the Office of Career and Profes-

sional Development is hosting this event. The reviews and student responses last year were quite positive. “We were not sure how the event would go, but it turned out to be very successful,” Watkins said. “After analysis of last year’s

event, we were able to figure out what needed to be improved. This year, we were able to provide more clothes, as well as more variety. Even though the clothes were donated, we still received a large variety of sizes, colors and styles.”

MAKING HISTORY FROM PAGE 1

Amongst the other female competitors, first-year Jamie McBride finished fourth in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:51.76), third in the 200-yard individual medley (2:32.1) and participated in the 200-yard medley relay team for a fourth-place finish.

First-year Nichole Von-Holten also competed in the 200-yard medley relay. Additionally, she placed fifth in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 3:08.61.

The women’s 200-yard freestyle relay team of sophomore Annika Harley and first years Von-Holten and Annika Barce and junior Ashton Krider finished with a time of 2:01.6, leading them to a seventh-place finish.

The 400-yard medley group of Barce, sophomore Emily Clark, and first-years McBride and Mikki Goetz finished with a time of 4:31.91, also earning a seventh-place finish.

Individually, Goetz swam a 6:00.4 in the 500-yard freestyle to top the previous record by three-thousandths.

In the men’s competition, first-year Andrew Hinds swam a 2:03.85 in the 200-yard individual medley. He finished third place in

the 100-yard breaststroke in 64.66, and finished for a top eight mark in the 200-yard breaststroke.

First-years Guerby Ruuska and Quinn-Michael L’Heureux finished in the top eight in the 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard individual medley relay.

The men’s 400-yard medley relay team of first-years Hinds, Ruuska, L’Heureux and Nathan Koch placed sixth with a time of 3:52.75, breaking the school record by three and a half seconds.

With the season completed, the swimmers and divers are reflecting on their accomplishments.

“Looking back on the season, I’m glad I joined the team because I’ve made a bunch of new friends and I’ve really established a group that I can call a family at Manchester,” Koch said. “I also think of this year as an adjustment year. I’ve been so used to jumping from team to team with no set amount of yardage in practice that I’ve been unable to settle to a certain program. I was finally able to get that this year and I know it’s going to help me progress even further next year.”

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED



\$5 per published photograph

Contact oakleaves@manchester.edu for more information



SPARTAN SPORTS

Spartan Baseball Projects Striking 2016 Season

**Kody Smith,
Zach Newcomer**
Staff Writers

Following a 26-15 overall record and a 17-10 record in the HCAC following the 2015 season, the Manchester Spartans baseball squad looks for further improvement after a strong campaign last year. Additionally, the team is projected to

finish third in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) preseason standings. “We haven’t discussed the preseason ranking and I don’t think that many of us care about it a whole lot,” said senior first-baseman Tailur Szarenski. “It has very few implications on the season because it does not take into consideration outside factors such as injuries that could alter the year.

We just need to play hard and keep up the work ethics and team effort to continue our success.”

The success of the team does not surprise long-time head coach Rick Espeset, who is entering his 20th season leading the Black and Gold. He credits the maturing of his players and years of sacrifice they put into the baseball program. “The culture of MU base-

ball has been pretty solid over the last few years,” Espeset said. “It is my hope that the current team remembers what they saw from the recent grads and realize the work and attention it took to see the rewards on the field.”

Espeset is a six-time recipient of the HCAC Coach of the Year award, including 2004 and 2013, when he led the Spartans to

the Division III College World Series.

Manchester enters the 2016 season without the presence of significant players due to graduation, including former third baseman Jordan Nieman, outfielder Kyle Norris, and pitcher Sean Liedtke. Nieman led the Spartan offense in batting average (.412), slugging percentage (.788), on-base percentage (.500), hits (68), and homeruns (14). Norris led the way in runs scored (51), stolen bases (18), and walks (20). Liedtke was one of the top performers on the mound in 2015 for the Spartans, compiling an 8-1 record and 48 strikeouts through 82.1 innings pitched. “Each year, you are going to lose impactful contributors from the previous season,” Espeset said. “You really do not try to replace them; instead you create a new team with its own identity. Each season presents new opportunities and new challenges.”

Although the Spartans are losing key personnel from the previous year, the Black and Gold are returning valuable players who led a successful 2015 campaign. Three senior student-athletes, including catcher Elliott Ford, first-baseman Tailur Szarenski, and infielder/outfielder Sean Knepper were featured in the “College Baseball News” Division III preview. The trio of athletes was recognized as one to watch this season in Division III baseball.

Szarenski was selected as a member of the first team all-HCAC and a third-team selection of the American Baseball Coaches Association Division III all-Mid-east Region. He hit .380 on the season with 12 doubles, four homeruns, and 44 RBIs. Szarenski has a positive outlook on the season. “We can’t replace great players like those that graduated and moved on,” he said. “We just have to find a way to be competitive with the players and abilities that we have.”

Ford, a three-year starter behind the plate, hit .368 with 53 hits last year. He was also a first-team all-league nominee in 2015. Knepper, a first-team all HCAC nominee in 2014, hit .277 with 10 doubles and 20 RBI’s last spring.

Manchester opens the 2016 season vs Heidelberg in Chillicothe, Ohio, on Saturday, Feb 27 at 10 A.M. What will be on the Spartans’ minds? “We have the same goal each year, and that is to win a conference championship,” Espeset stated. “With that being said, we do not primarily focus on winning. We focus on attitude, effort and sportsmanship.”



Senior Elliott Ford, senior Sean Knepper, junior Tailur Szarenski and sophomore Taylor Kopplin sport the Black and Gold.

Three Key Players

Elliott Ford, Senior, Catcher: The field-general returns as a three-year starter behind the dish for the Spartans. Last season, Ford amassed a .368 avg, with 53 hits, 26 RBIs and a .417 slugging percentage. The co-Most Outstanding Fielder for the Black and Gold a season ago returns with a .982 fielding percentage.

Sean Knepper, Senior Infielder/Outfielder: This all-HCAC honoree from last season batted .277, with 44 hits and 20 RBIs. He has played in at least 40 games in each of the last two seasons for Head Coach Rich Espeset.

Tailur Szarenski, Junior, First Baseman: This all-HCAC first team and American Baseball Coaches Association Division III all-Mideast Region third-team selection returns after collecting 63 hits, 44 RBIs, 12 doubles and 4 home runs, while hitting .380.

Taylor Kopplin, Sophomore, Pitcher: Compiling a 4-2 record on the bump last season, Kopplin looks to be the anchor for the Spartans this season. He added 72.1 innings a year ago in 16 appearances, while striking out a team-leading 50 opposing batters.

Quick Facts

- When the Spartans hit the field this spring, there will be a new face on the squad. Bryce Worrell is joining the coaching staff as an assistant coach. Worrell earned a BA in Physical Education from Anderson University in May 2011 and a MA in Higher Education from Siena Heights University in December 2014.
- The Black and Gold are picked third in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) preseason rankings. MU has advanced to the conference

- tournament each of the last six seasons since 2010, and even scored a trip to the Division III College World Series in 2012.
- Two of the top three leading hitters from last season’s team will return to the plate this year for the Spartans. Junior first baseman Tailur Szarenski (.380 avg., 63 hits and 44 RBIs.) and senior catcher Elliott Ford (.368 avg., 53 hits and 26 RBIs.) come back this year as players to watch in the HCAC.

Games of Interest

April 8-9 series at Earlham College: The Quakers are picked second in the preseason HCAC polls. The Black and Gold finished 1-2 against Earlham and bested their opponents in the conference tournament.

April 19 vs Anderson University: The Spartans visit the Ravens after going 1-2 against the rivals during the regular season in 2015. The foes ousted MU 9-6 in the HCAC

Baseball Tournament Championship.

April 29-30 series at Rose-Hulman: The Engineers are voted preseason HCAC first place after finishing last year’s campaign with a 26-16 record. The Spartans split against Rose in the conference tourney, winning the second game in the loser-bracket, advancing to the championship contest.

Points of Concern

Pitching: Kopplin is the sole returning Spartan with substantial pitching experience, having thrown over 70 innings. Juniors Cory Ferguson and Joey Covington are back on the rubber with the most pitching experience behind Kopplin, 37.2 and 14 innings apiece.

Offense output: With Jordan Nieman graduating, Manchester is losing a vital threat from the plate. The powerful slugger led the team in batting average, hits, RBIs, triples, home runs, total bases and hit by pitch.

Men’s Spartan Basketball Ends Season at Home

Guerby Ruuska
Staff Writer

It was a day full of tears for Spartan basketball. However, they were not as much tears of sadness as they were tears of memories and accomplishments when the Manchester men’s basketball team gathered in the Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Saturday, February 20, for a senior day thriller.

MU had a chance to go into overtime against Rose-Hulman when the ball was passed to senior Matt Brown, who fell just a little short.

“I felt a lot of emotions,” Brown said. “I was disappointed in myself for missing the put back to tie the game. I was extremely sad to walk away from Stauffer-Wolfe Arena.”

The 77-75 loss was a sad one for the Spartans, but it was clear that MU basketball was heading into the right direction.

“We are a lot more competitive this year than last,” Brown said. “We were always competitive, but this year we have a drive to win and that stems from our head coach. He drives us to be more than average. He demands it.”

The loss could not put a damper on the celebration for the three senior players—Brown, a physical education major from Ho-

bart, Ind., Keith Berry, a communication studies major from Chicago, Ill., and Brady Doleful, a sport management major from Tipton, Ohio.

Indeed, the celebration went beyond that final home game into potential Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference inclusion against Transylvania last Friday. “Going into the game it was win or go home,” Brown said. “We had to win in order to make the conference tournament. Being the competitor that I am and my thirst for basketball, there is nothing like going into a game with such stipulations on the line. It was awesome to be one as a team and thrive under that type of game.”

Dolzeal cites Friday’s match, when the team “clinched a berth in the conference tourney” as his favorite Manchester basketball moment. “It was cool to see the team come together and accomplish one of our goals we set at the beginning of the year,” he said.

Brown looks to the coming tournament philosophically. “This past weekend, we as a Manchester Community suffered losses of three students due to an accident,” he said. “That loss puts into perspective what is bigger than just basketball.”

Yet he also looks forward to what the tournament can bring



DRIBBLE Senior Brady Dolezal moves the ball down the court in the Senior Day match-up against Rose-Hulman.

to the university. “The men’s basketball hasn’t played in the tournament since they won it in 2011,” he said. “We are the class that did that. More importantly, this tournament gives us a chance to bring some joy to an amazing community that is

looking for something to believe in.”

Berry’s favorite moment of his basketball career took place even farther from home—in Canada, during his junior year. “I loved getting the chance to go out of the

country,” he said. “Playing basketball at Manchester has meant a lot to me because it has helped me develop life-long friendships with people I can count on to have my back.”