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MU Orchestra Prepares for 'Into the Woods'

Erin Fralick
Staff Writer

Musically-talented Manchester staff, students, and professionals from surrounding areas gathered upon invitation to form this year's orchestra pit for Manchester University's musical production, "Into the Woods". Music professor Debra Lynn conducts the orchestra pit and selects the students who are best fit for the orchestra.

Senior MacKenzi Lowry was invited to be a part of the orchestra for Manchester's musical production. Lowry is a music education major and the percussionist of the orchestra. She is no beginner to orchestra pits for musicals, as she was involved with all of the musicals in her high school and one other at Manchester.

Lowry plays the bass drum, bells, the xylophone, wind chimes, chimes, electronic drums, the snare drum, the suspended symbol, the tom-tom drum, the triangle and the brake drum. "I'm playing a percussion part that has at least three players worth of music, and I'm only one person trying to cover it all," she said. "So it's a little bit interesting."

Rehearsals for the orchestra began Apr. 3, and the musicians received their music for the show a week prior. The orchestra will have a total of four rehearsals before opening night.

Most of the rehearsing was done individually. "I think the orchestra is doing quite well, especially for only our second rehearsal," Lowry said. "Everyone in that orchestra is extremely talented and extremely hard-working, and I hope I'm doing them justice."

While the musicians learned their music well enough on their own, playing with the rest of the orchestra and the cast for the musical had its own share of problems. "You might think 'Oh this little run is really easy,' but wait until you get cued into where it's supposed to go," Lowry explains. "It's a lot more difficult when you add the whole production together." She notes that while the music may not be technically challenging, that it is difficult in other aspects.

Dr. Pettit Says 'Goodbye' to Manchester

Carly Kwiecien
Staff Writer

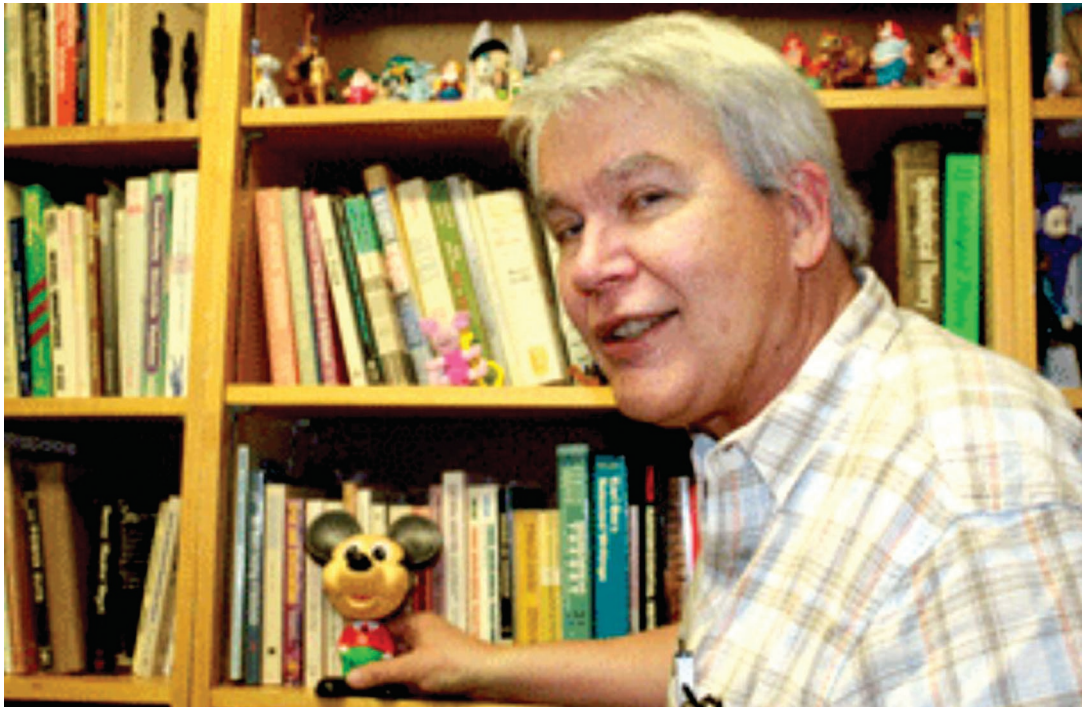
Dr. Robert Pettit has been a professor of sociology at Manchester University since 1981, and at the end of this school year, after 34 years, Pettit is saying "goodbye" to Manchester.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and religion from Baylor University and went on to receive his Master's degree in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School. Pettit then entered a doctoral program in religion at Claremont Graduate University in California.

"At the time, my interest was in intersection of religion and society," Pettit said. "It was then that I discovered Peter Berger, a sociologist who is what I call my patron saint of sociology. I applied to doctoral programs in sociology. My first choice would have been the school where Peter was, but I ended up at Columbia University in New York. Fortunately, my second year there, Peter came up to Columbia as a visiting professor so I had the chance to study with him after all."

After completing his doctorate, Pettit taught in Oklahoma for a couple of years and then moved to Lafayette to finish his dissertation and apply for teaching positions.

Soon after, Pettit received a phone call from the chair of the department of sociology and social work at Manchester College and accepted their offer of a one-year



Sociology Professor Dr. Robert Pettit

position. He continued on this one-year position for four years. Then, Manchester was looking to hire a tenure track position that Pettit did not fill; so, after four years, Pettit took a year off and was on the lookout for other teaching positions.

"I was in New York attending the American Sociological Association Convention that August when I got a call from my wife who said the dean at Manchester was looking for me," Pettit said. "They were in desperate need of a sociology professor after their recent hires fell through. I've been here ever since."

This was right around the

same time IPFW hired Pettit as a part-time professor. He continues to teach Principles of Sociology, a night class at IPFW.

"Even though I am retiring from Manchester, I will continue to teach the night class at IPFW," Pettit said. "I can't imagine giving up my professional role and identity cold turkey. So I will still have a classroom. I will still have students. I will still have a course to teach. I will still be able to call myself a college professor."

Although Pettit will still be a professor at IPFW, he will miss Manchester's community the most.

"I can't imagine finding a better fit for myself at any school

anywhere than here at Manchester," Pettit said. "In many ways, it is a real community of people who care about one another, who believe in the values of this institution, faith, service, peace and social justice and share their commitments. This community can't be replaced, so I'm going to have to find other ways to fill that hole."

He will also miss his January Session trips to Disney that he has been taking every even-numbered year since 1990.

His fascination with Disney is strong. He grew up a "Disney kid" and his love for it has grown ever since.

SEE PETTIT, PAGE 2

Students Travel Around the World in Four Hours

Karen Kanyike
Staff Writer

Excited chatter, the aroma of delicious food from all over the world, cheerful laughter and bright colors made the International Fair, held on Sunday, April 10, a culturally vibrant journey to various countries around the globe. The fair took place in the main gym of the Physical Education and Recreation Center.

The gym was beautifully and carefully decorated with flags from different countries and international fabric with intricate patterns and designs. Most of the food stations and information booths were lined up along the walls of the space with the dinner tables, laid with green, red and white linen, taking up the middle area. The stage, where the various cultures were brought to life through music and dance, was set at the back of the gym.

The fair began with a few remarks from Grammy and Dove Award-winning singer and songwriter/producer, Rudy Currence, who served as emcee for the event. This was followed by a cultural dance representing eastern, central and western Africa; captivating performances by SAYAW: Philippine Dance Company, Indianapolis Minyo Dancers (Japanese) and Fort Wayne's Pipe and Drum Band (Scottish). The most moving performance was a dance tribute by Dagmawit Alemu, a first-year biology and political science major from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She performed an endearing Ethiopian dance to celebrate the lives of Nerad Mangai, Brook Dagnaw and Kirubel Hailu, three Manchester students who lost their lives in a car crash earlier this spring. A few of the international students joined her and this roused a lot of excitement from the crowd.

Alemu was one of the host students of the event. She helped prepare a variety of Ethiopian dishes and talked about her experience preparing them. "The International Fair was so much fun in the kitchen, behind closed doors where we would fight with everyone to try the food," she said. "It felt like that vibe we had back home [and the process] of getting ready and getting all our cultural stuff to decorate our table was exciting but nothing compares to see all our work come together and see people

enjoy our food and our culture."

Tyler Roebuck, a junior English major, journalism and history minor from Middlebury, Ind., was quite delighted with his experience. "I most thoroughly enjoyed the food, though the entertainment was on point as well," he said. "Sev-

performances by Rudy Currence and Dagmawit's dance tribute to our departed friends." She is eagerly looking forward to the next fair.

A few other attendees provided positive impressions of the event and preparations. "I loved the experience of getting to cook

Namibia, was excited to be a part of the fair. "I had the opportunity to enjoy food, music and dancing from my friends from different backgrounds, here in the Manchester community," he said. "It was also a joy to remember the friends we lost this year."



CULTURAL CUISINE Palestinian food was one of the many dining options available at the Intercultural Fair last Sunday.

eral of my friends either weren't hungry or had to leave, so they gave me their extra tickets. Even so, I left without any extras, so if you do the math, I had far too much food." He especially enjoyed the Japanese Curry, which he described as having "a perfect blend of curry flavor, a sweet, Japanese-style tang, and a teeny bit of heat to round it out."

As community members, visitors, faculty, staff and students socialized and ate to their fill, Currence sang and played slow music to keep them entertained during the intermissions. Naa Asheley Nyemitei, a junior sociology major and international studies minor from Dodowa, Ghana, shared what she thought about the event. "My first experience at the International Fair was great," she said. "I enjoyed trying the variety of dishes. My favorite parts of the show were the

with my friends and to see the great community of international students come together for this amazing event," said Cassandra Imhoff, a sophomore business management major from Smithville, Ohio. "Everyone really did a good job!"

Vasin Pasda, a senior economics major and math minor from Surin, Thailand, had a powerful view of the event. "It is wonderful to see international students in North Manchester work tirelessly to create a wonderful event," he said. "The International Fair is our contribution to the North Manchester community. While the tragic accident had happened just more than a month ago, we stood together and moved forward. This event manifested our strength and love to the North Manchester community." Tabo Chata, a sophomore engineering science major from Windhoek,

Michael Dixon, director of Intercultural Services and chief organizer of the fair, talked about what it takes to pull off an event of such magnitude. "It's always a large undertaking," he said. "This is my third fair. There's a lot that goes into it aside from what people see on the outside and so you have to learn to keep a calm demeanor even though you know that sometimes things are not going according to plan."

He conveyed special thanks to Salwa Nubani, a senior biology chemistry major from Ramallah, Palestine, and main student leader of the event. "She's been a great asset with organizing the volunteers and the food," he remarked. He also acknowledged Bethany Biggs, administrative assistant for the College of Arts and Humanities, who helped with logistics, and all the volunteers, faculty and staff who were a part of the process.

Funderburg Library Finds New Homes for Thousands of Books

Carly Kwiecien
Staff Writer

Funderburg Library is one of the several academic libraries across America that is rehoming thousands of books each year in order to reallocate space to best meet the needs of library users.

With the rise of online academic research resources, there is a decline in the readership of print books at Funderburg Library. Last school year, 1,676 books were checked out, which is down several thousand from what was borrowed a decade ago.

“It is now possible to borrow a book from other in-state schools and have it delivered (on average) in three work days,” said Jill Lichtsinn, director of Funderburg Library.

Last year, the library borrowed nearly 800 books from other libraries through interlibrary loan.

“With reduced use of books from the Funderburg Library

collection, quick loans of books from other schools and requests from students for more study areas, it was time to carefully consider how to reallocate space in the Funderburg Library,” said Darla Haines, technical services librarian. “As we withdraw large numbers of books, one of our concerns is that as many of them as possible find a second life outside the library.”

As a result, over 20,000 books have been sent to Better World Books (BWB), an organization that sells books online and then donates some of the proceeds to fund literacy programs worldwide. Funderburg also receives a small part of the profit as books are sold, which is used to add new book titles to the collection.

Only books that BWB identifies as good candidates for resale or donation are sent their way. The books that remain are free to the campus community; students can find them in the foyer of the library for up to a month.

“Funderburg Library began this process over three years ago when we downsized the bound periodical collection and withdrew over 10,000 titles from the social sciences,” Lichtsinn said. “It continued last summer when we downsized the reference collection on the main floor and integrated many of them into the circulating collection. Those projects made room for the computer lab downstairs, Wilbur’s Café and more student study spaces on the main and upper level.”

Over the last three years, close to 46,000 volumes of varying subjects were rehomed or recycled, including those on philosophy, psychology, religion, literature, social sciences, math, science, business and the reference collection.

Librarians choose which books should be withdrawn from the library based on their publication year and how frequently they have been checked out.

“We work almost exclusively with titles published before



Photo by Emily Barrand

HAPPY READING The library offers shelves of free books to students and faculty. Thousands of books have also been donated to Better World Books.

1980 that have not been loaned since 1997, the year our book search and loan process went online,” Haines said.

Specialized book collection software has made it easier for librarians to track book use and locate books that are referred to as “no use” titles.

Librarians then personally review the targeted titles in their subject specialty areas to determine if any of them should remain in the collection because they are still ap-

plicable to Manchester University’s curriculum or are considered classics.

As the rehoming project nears completion, modern language and history books will be available for free in the foyer of the library during April and May.

Do not hesitate to contact Funderburg librarians with any questions about the downsizing of book collections, requesting new print books and repurposing of the library space.

Alpha Mu Gamma Inducts New Members

Stratton Smith
Staff Writer

The Alpha Mu Gamma chapter at Manchester “encourages the competency in foreign languages, and fosters exchange and understanding among different people through language acquisition,” according to Alpha Mu Gamma faculty advisor and Spanish professor at Manchester, Juan Jesus Payan.

Alpha Mu Gamma, the honor society for modern languages, celebrated its 75th anniversary of the association this year, along with the 15th anniversary of the chapter’s presence at Manchester. Alpha Mu Gamma is the first and largest national collegiate foreign language honor society, with over 307 chapters across the United

States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

On Sunday, April 3, Manchester students, faculty and parents celebrated the induction of eight new members, along with the induction of an honorary member, Spanish, German and English visiting professor Shane Thomson.

Payan, the leader of the association, energetically hosted the ceremony. “In 2001, our department of modern languages created the Mu Gamma chapter to support our students, celebrate their success and promote peace and understanding through language,” Payan said. “This (ceremony) is a moment of joy and celebration.”

Students studying Spanish, French and German are honored within the association. The

ceremony also included three personal speeches by students concluding their journey at Manchester this semester, instilling wisdom to the inductees. German study-abroad student, Franziska Kulbel, was among the speakers. Manchester is the third school she has studied at during her time abroad (she also attended a high school in Iowa and the University of Kent in England). “As of now, I’m one of the only European students and the only BCA student,” Kulbel said. “Coming here was a great experience because I got to leave my comfort zone. It’s fun as soon as you embrace it.”

Also among the speakers was senior Kandace Terry, who student-teaches Spanish at Huntington North High School. “It seemed just like yesterday that I started to

move my things into Garver Hall to begin my time at Manchester,” Terry said.

Like Kulbel, Terry spoke of her time studying abroad, highlighting her experience with being “stuck waist-deep in the mud with the BCA director in Ecuador.” Her journey from high school all the way to finding her career path—teaching—was also recognized. “I had a teacher in high school that showed me what it meant to be an outstanding teacher and opened my eyes to a whole different world,” Terry said. “Just like her, I found a love for this language and just want to share it with those around me. What better way than to teach what you love?”

Katie Skeen, senior political science and economics double major spoke at the event as well,

highlighting her study abroad experience in Strasbourg, France. “I was surrounded by students from India, Japan and China,” she said. “I struggled to understand their accents, let alone while they were speaking French. For the first time, I was the minority.”

Shane Thompson was stunned when he was unexpectedly named as an honorary member of Mu Gamma. As Thomson held back tears, he filled the room with joy and gratitude.

The eight students inducted were Ingrid Garrido, Christopher Holston, Mackenzie Kempton, Leif Pallo, Cheyenne Ramsey, Leah Smith, Kandace Terry and Donnie Watkins. Following the ceremony, President Dave McFadden extended handshakes and kind words to the new members.

‘Oak Leaves’ Staff Brings Home Journalism Awards

Oak Leaves
Staff

The “Oak Leaves” received seven state-wide awards in this year’s Indiana Collegiate Press Association

(ICPA) contest. Faculty advisors were Dr. Katharine Ings (Spring 2015) and Jeri Kornegay (Fall 2015). Editors were Andrew Ellam and Emily Barrand (Spring 2015) and Emily Barrand, Kalie Ammons and Sarah Farnam (Fall 2015), with

Jafet Garcia (design editor).

Here is the complete list of awards for 2015:

First Place: Best Breaking News Reporting: Sarah Farnam and Karen Kanyike: “Hate Scrawl Spurs Swift Reply”

First Place: Best Illustration: Savannah Riley, Jafet Garcia, Emily

Barrand, and Kalie Ammons: “Allies Show Support for Pride Week”

First Place: Best Themed Issue: Staff: The Joak Leaves 2015

Third Place: Best Non-Deadline News Reporting: Collin Groves: “MU to Reinstall Gender-Neutral Bathrooms”

Third Place: Best Sports Page:

Kody Smith, Zach Newcomer, Tanner Forsythe, Guerby Ruuska, and Jafet Garcia: “Spartan Sports”

Third Place: Best Overall Design: Jafet Garcia, Kalie Ammons, and Emily Barrand: “November 6, 2015”

Third Place: Best Sports Photo: Savannah Riley: “Half Court”



Oak Leaves

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THE WRITE STUFF Oak Leaves staffers placed in several categories at the Indiana Collegiate Press Association Conference

PETTIT FROM PAGE 1

“As I got older, I became more appreciative of the artistry, the technology, the advancements as well as the heart for Disney,” Pettit said.

He continued to read and expand his knowledge about Disney by collecting every book about Disney and attending conferences. “When I was in graduate school, there was a two week conference about the art of Disney held at the Lincoln Center where there were animators, past and present, historians and movies being screened that had not been made public for years,” Pettit said. “This conference gave me hope that Disney was a perfect object to study as well. Once I became a sociologist, Disney became a perfect case study for American culture and society.”

Pettit has published study guides to accompany documentaries about Disney and has presented

at the Popular Association Conference.

He has also been a long-time supporter of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists, the TRI-Ess Society for the Second Self and was one of the first sponsors of Friends for Sexual Awareness, a group now known as United Sexualities.

Since the 1980s, a group of transgender individuals from Chicago have ventured to Manchester University to educate students about different sexualities.

“They have served as a bridge for our students who don’t have access to resources on campus to get the information they need,” Pettit said. “They have done research, they’ve read up on their literature and have lived on both sides of the gender divide. They have become colleagues and good friends of mine.”

Pettit has always been very committed to United Sexualities, and has attended the drag show at Manchester University for many years.

“I finally relented to student requests and I am going to be in the drag show this year,” Pettit said. “It seemed like a good idea and I agreed to it, so that is going to be my swan song to Manchester and go out with a splash. My choice and decision to do this was one of great love and affection for United Sexualities and the students who have been in it over the years.”

Once Pettit retires, he looks forward to dedicating more time to his hobby of recording radio shows, movies and documentaries.

“One of my major tasks will now be to start watching everything I have recorded over the years,” Pettit said. He is also eager to spend more time with his family.

NCAA Interns Share Insight with Sports Management Students

Kody Smith
Staff Writer

Students from Spartan Sport Management were recently given an opportunity to listen to a lecture from professional interns from the NCAA. Zach Lange, who works with the compliance and eligibility of Division I and Division II athletes, and Michael Hupf, who works with the compliance and organizational support of Division I athletes, spoke to Manchester students in the ESS 307: Sport Organization and Leadership class. The topic was based on the governance structure of the NCAA.

“We were in the week where we covered the inter-collegiate athletic system,” said sport management professor Dr. Sun Kang. “We covered how the structures of the NCAA worked together with the board of directors, with Zach and Michael covering what they did on a day-to-day basis. Not only was eligibility of the athletes discussed, but everything that goes into the NCAA athletic system.”

A primary source of discussion was a new structural concept in the NCAA, which sees student-athletes in major Division I conferences having a say in how

the teams are governed before, during and after athletic seasons. Students received a hand-out of the official document regarding the announcement, with Lange and Hupf breaking down what went into the decision-making process.

“New people were added into every single committee,” Kang said. “They discussed a new weight system in the governance policy where bigger Division I schools have more of a say in decisions than smaller Division I schools, with the larger institutions, such as Texas A&M getting four points per one vote, while smaller schools get one point per vote.” Students would then talk about the potential problems surrounding the big schools garnering more of a say in decision-making processes in Division I. However, the changes could have been seen as necessary due to the influences the school has on other surrounding schools.

Following the visit from the professional interns, Dr. Kang does not see any assignments or projects to follow, instead just letting the students enjoy what was available to them in class. “It is difficult to get officials from the NCAA to talk about what they do internally for the organization,” Kang said. “Having someone come to Man-



Photo courtesy of Professor Sun King

BUSINESS LUNCH Sports Management majors dine with NCAA professionals.

chester from the NCAA opens up the possibility of different channels of discussion in class.”

Six students enjoyed an informal lunch with Lange and Hupf to further dive into the sub-

ject following the class. “It was a great opportunity to not only further cover the contents, but to also network with the individuals from the NCAA,” Kang said. “A lot of students have a vague idea of what

goes into jobs within the organization, and they were able to see what exactly individuals accomplish as a person, and it was great for the students to get that experience second-hand.”



EXPLORATION & EVOLUTION Wenig-Horswell's pieces will be on display through September.

Former Goshen Art Professor Displays Work in Gallery G

Caitlin Doyle
Staff Writer

Judy Wenig-Horswell's art, as represented in media from jewelry and sculptures to ceramics and watercolors, is currently on exhibit in Gallery G of the Jo Young Switzer Center (JYSC). This retired art professor from Goshen College has a strong Manchester connection: She studied with then-history professor David Waas on a faculty trip to Kenya, Zimbabwe and Malawi in the 1990s.

Since she retired from teaching in 2009, Wenig-Horswell has had more time to devote to developing her own artistic style further. “It has been exciting to return to painting and to ceramics in a more serious way,” she said. “I discovered that, while I did not actually work in these media much during my teaching career, I observed and learned many things through my teaching experiences and environment that have en-

riched what I am now doing in all media.” Wenig-Horswell said she is starting a new work that will be a series of rings and more ceramic sculptures.

Her advice to other artists would be to “get feedback from instructors, classmates and others and listen carefully.” But she notes: “In the end, you will have to decide what to keep that is important for you from all this.”

“Keep a record of your work in all media and levels of competence,” she continues. “Ten, 20 years from now you can look back and see how you have grown/evolved and sometimes, see the kernel of the essence of your work.”

Beyond her artwork in galleries, she is making art through the Goshen Jewelers' Guild (GJG). This group was created in April 2012 to complement other art guilds in the area. They began with 10 members and now have a total of 12 full members with 24/7 access to the studio. They also have access to the offered classes at half

the cost. The amount of associate members has doubled from two to four in the past three years as well. An associate member has no studio access (mostly because they have their own), but they do wish to support the guild. The classes offered in fabrication, enameling, or lost-wax casting are normally done between four and six times each year.

The guild strives to give back to their community as well. At the Goshen Farmers' Market, members show or sell their work, including member-made ornaments as part of a fundraiser. Last year, all proceeds from the sales were donated to the newly established Goshen Youth Arts Organization.

Wenig-Horswell expects membership in GJG to continue to grow slowly. “It will be a mix of persons who are interested at various levels in adornment or metal-working,” she said. “I want GJG to maintain a foundation of support for these varied interests while also broadening exposure to tools and techniques.”

Noffsinger Pursues Digital Storytelling MA

Aaron Lloyd
Staff Writer

Students admitted to graduate school make good stories. And senior English major Caleb Noffsinger is taking that one page further: this fall he enters the digital storytelling master's program at Ball State University.

The Elgin, Illinois native is excited to take the next step to further his education. “I will be devoting more of my time honing my skills in fields that I find interesting, fields not available at Manchester,” he said.

Noffsinger worries most about the graduate course load interfering with his other new commitment. “I will be working in an assistant position at the same time to help cover the costs of grad school, but I am positive that I can balance my schedule,” he said.

Noffsinger also looks forward to the challenging, quick-paced graduate courses. In just

two short years he must prove his knowledge with a thesis or creative project. It's something that he says is both exciting and stressful.

With his time at Manchester almost up, Noffsinger realizes he will most miss the students, faculty, and bond that this community shares. “The nice thing about Ball State is that I am close enough to come and visit for a weekend if I want to,” he said.

As a gamer and movie enthusiast, Noffsinger knew his dream jobs for years. Writing screenplays or scripting for video games top the list things he would love to go into. “Both have been a passion of mine, and both have been an ideal dream job for a long time,” he said.

As for extending his education even further after graduate school, Noffsinger says it all depends on what jobs he looks into after he graduates from Ball State. He says he wouldn't be against taking his education a step further to the PhD level.



Senior Caleb Noffsinger

Political Science Students Go for MPA

Sarah Farnam
Staff Writer

Political science majors Jake Burns and Jordan Lett are preparing to further their education in graduate school.

Both seniors are planning to utilize their degrees in political science in different ways. Lett, who has an additional major in economics, is planning to attend Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Burns, who added on a communication studies minor, has not made a definite decision, but is seriously considering Indiana University Bloomington.

If he does attend IU, Burns will be enrolling in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) in order to re-

ceive his Master of Public Administration (MPA). “I'm leaning toward IU because they gave me a really awesome scholarship, it's in Indiana still—3.5 hours away from home, and it's the number-one ranked school in the country for my program,” Burns said.

Once he receives his MPA, Burns plans to go into bureaucratic work. “As boring as it sounds, it's something I've always wanted to do. I'd like to live out east in Washington DC or something like that,” he said.

Lett also plans to work towards an MPA; however, he will complete his with an urban policy concentration. He believes that IU-PUI is the perfect place to further his education. “They are one of the few schools I found with a master's program that offered scholar-

ships,” Lett said. “They're nationally ranked; even though it's a satellite campus, they're 42nd out of 272 universities for the program. They have a lot of noteworthy alumni, and a lot of the faculty here really respect the school.”

As far as his future is concerned, Lett has laid out a few options for himself. They include either going straight into work in a career involving state politics, or going to graduate school again to earn his doctorate. “I'd like to teach at a small school like Manchester,” he explained.

Though the two have been accepted into impressive graduate schools, it took them a lot of time and effort to do so. “There's a lot of preparation that I don't think most people actually think about

until last minute,” said Burns, who began preparing in early September.

The most helpful step for Lett was speaking with Manchester University faculty and his advisor. “They have an idea of what kind of schools are out there, and which ones have good credentials,” he said. “Being such a small school here, our professors know what our interests are, so they have a good idea of what schools would best fit our personality.”

Despite the hard work, they are both excited for the next phase in their academic lives. Burns in particular is looking forward to new opportunities, adventures, and building off of the education that he received at Manchester. Lett is ready to take classes on policy and

environmental law—two topics that he loves to learn about.

As Burns and Lett prepare to graduate, they look back upon the ways in which Manchester has helped prepare them for graduate school. “I think Manchester has taught me how to be a leader inside and outside of the classroom,” Burns said. “A lot of other universities can teach you how to be a leader outside of the classroom, but being a leader inside of the classroom does matter and it makes a difference.”

Lett believes that Manchester prepares students for both professional and academic futures. “The programs here are excellent—they're very rigorous, and the faculty here always want to see their students succeed.”



Spartan Baseball Heats Up in Cold Weather

Zach Newcomer
Staff Writer

The Manchester University baseball team is just over the halfway point to their long season, amassing a 13–11 record, 7–4 in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference play. The Spartans are sitting in third place in the conference, with 16 games left in the regular season. During the month of April, the squad has a 4–3 record, outscoring opponents 57–38 in that span. The team's series last weekend against Earlham College went in favor of the Quakers, who won two of three games. The contest on Saturday was pushed back to 5 p.m. due to inclement weather, which has been a reoccurring theme this season for Manchester.

While playing in the series against Bluffton University on Sat. April 2, over the course of a nine inning game, both teams faced a couple weather delays that halted action. "The Bluffton game was the



IN FULL SWING Senior Sean Knepper hurls the ball to another Spartan.

most ridiculous thing I have ever been a part of," said sophomore pitcher Taylor Kopplin as he recounted the series of events during the game. "One minute it's sunny and 45 (degrees) and the next you can barely see because of the wind and snow. After 10 minutes it's sun-

ny again and it was just a repeating cycle." With the assistance of three delays, the game lasted nearly four hours. The team was able to come out with a 16–5 victory over the Beavers, with no help from the unforgiving Indiana weather.

The Spartans have sever-

al key players helping the offensive attack this spring. First-year Tyler LaFollette is batting with a .415 average and has an on-base percentage of .506 in 18 games this season. Senior Sean Knepper is showing power this season by belting five homeruns so far and earning a .635 slugging percentage. Junior Tailur Szarenski is showing why he was awarded all-HCAC first team last season by smashing four homeruns and driving in 25 RBIs, while leading the team with 36 hits in 24 games.

From the mound, Manchester is getting great efforts from their young pitching staff as they set into a weekly routine and pitching rotation. Kopplin leads with eight starts and 51.1 innings pitched and has compiled a 2.81 ERA over the course of the season. With 39.2 innings pitched, sophomore Brandon Eck garners a 4.99 ERA in seven starts. Junior Mason Neuman has two saves out of the bullpen for the Black and Gold in 12 appearances.

Helping aid the young pitchers this season is a list of three goals. The first goal is to have a WHIP (walks and hits per innings pitched) under 1.5. This means having less than 1.5 baserunners per inning. The next goal down the list is to accumulate a first-pitch strike percentage of 60 percent for the season. This will help lower opposing batting averages if the pitchers can maintain that goal. Last, the pitchers want to keep 3–0 counts under 15 percent for the season; this will help pitchers last longer in games and potentially keep more runners off the bases.

"The team has met or exceeded expectations to this point," he said. "Age is a non-factor for expectations."

Manchester begins a weekend series at Hanover College starting at 4 p.m. tonight. On Saturday, the doubleheader begins at noon, with the third and final game of the series to follow shortly after, weather permitting.

MU Track & Field Battle Elements, Competitors

Guerby Ruuska
Staff Writer

Manchester University's track and field teams have had a rough start to the season due to poor weather, but despite the conditions, the Spartans had a strong first showing at Hanover College last week.

"The weather was really terrible at the meet," Coach Brian Cashdollar said. "But what I saw in the athletes was their ability to compete despite the weather. We had some big performances considering the conditions."

Junior distance runner Tiffany Harber (Columbia City, Ind.) started the meet strongly for the Spartans. Harber ran away with a victory in the women's 10,000 meter run while sophomore thrower Jacey Cauhorn (Kendallville, Ind.) followed up with a victory in the women's discus throw. While her team was having a strong first showing, distance runner standout Mariah Jordan (Fort Wayne, Ind.) was competing at a DIII national meet at Washington University.

"We knew that Mariah had the ability to run that well in the 10,000m," Cashdollar said. "She has performed very consistently all year. That consistency is what gives opportunity for big performances."

On the men's side, first-year sprinter Austin Coughlin (Fairland, Ind.), raced to a 3rd place

finish in the men's 100 meter dash while in the longer distances it was junior Connor Bresnahan (Portage, Mich.) who placed 5th in the Men's 10,000 meter run. Junior jump specialist Ramsen Bet-Nimrod (Rochester, Ind.) had an impressive showing by placing 3rd in the men's high jump.

The Huntington Invitational was cancelled due to poor conditions, leaving the Spartans with one meet under their belt while most teams have already had three. Despite the weather, Coach Cashdollar has the teams focused and ready for this coming week's meet at DePauw University.

"We never try to maximize our team performance until the HCAC championships," he said. "Competing at 100 percent in a number of events is difficult to recover from, so we want to make sure that our athletes come away from meets with bench marks of performance but at the same time have the ability for their bodies to continue to develop within their events."

With limited chances to make conference standards, MU will look to put up some big performances at DePauw where Cashdollar and the rest of his staff have prepared the team for some great performances. The Spartans will have one last shot after that on their home turf when Manchester hosts its own invitational on April 23.



MAGIC JOHNSON Double zero Adrian Robbie Johnson guards a player.

Basketball Rookie Receives Awards

Keith Berry
Staff Writer

First-year point guard Adrian Robbie Johnson was the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference's Freshman of the Year as well as the Great Lakes region Freshman of the Year, an honor issued by D3 Hoops organization. The first-year guard had an astounding 2015–2016 season. According to muspartans.com, Johnson tied the program's first-year scoring record with 473 points, the most for a first-year player since the 1978–79 campaign, almost 40 years ago.

As soon as he scored his first basket, Johnson looked like he would be a problem for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference because of his impressive game. He led the Spartans in scoring with an average of 18.2 points a game and was ranked third in HCAC play. Throughout the regular season,

Johnson tacked on several games of 30 points or more. He also led the team in steals with 50, leading the category in HCAC play. According to muspartans.com, Johnson wound up sixth in assists among HCAC leaders with an average of 3.7 per game.

"I am just happy that my parents are proud of me and that I can rep Indianapolis in a big way," Johnson said. "To me this just means that I had a really good freshman year and I have to continue my sophomore year and so on." Johnson, a quiet kid who likes to hang out with his friends when not spending time in the gym, has been playing basketball since he was two years old in his local Community Center. As his parents got him more involved, the Indianapolis native took more interest in the game around the second grade.

During the preseason, Johnson didn't really have different

goals from what a typical first-year player would. "My expectations for the beginning of the year were to just do the best I could," Johnson said. "I just wanted to help the team win games and do everything Coach Good and Coach Wood said."

Looking forward to next year, Johnson talked about how he felt about losing key players such as seniors Matt Brown and Brady Dolezal. "With losing key players, it basically makes everyone's role on the team bigger and more important," he said. "We just all need to step up and accept the challenge among all the others we [Spartans] face."

Johnson plans on winning a Player of the Year award for the next three years. However his main focus is on securing at least one conference championship during his career at Manchester University. "We need that ring," Johnson said.

MU Softball Prepares for Tournament

Stratton Smith
Staff Writer

Coming off of a two-game split against the Mount St. Joseph Lions, the Spartans softball team has its eyes set on the conference tournament as the players move to 14–8 overall (3–3 in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference).

With the conference tournament right around the corner, the Black and Gold believe they have the ability to make the tournament, though it may be a battle. "I think that the conference tourney is up in the air for everyone," said senior captain Mackenzie Williams. "I believe that we need to have at least ten wins in order to get in because it is going to be a tough tourney this year."

Sophomore pitcher and outfielder, Mallorie Jennings, has great respect for the other teams within the HCAC, but has faith in her own team. "I think that the conference overall is pretty strong this year, but I believe we have a great opportunity to make the tournament," Jennings said. "We have seen how great our offense can be, which, I believe, makes us a pretty strong threat. As both a player and a team we just need to get more con-

sistent offensively and defensively in order to get the sweeps we need to make the tournament."

Anna Schillinger, junior pitcher, added: "As long as our bats are coming through, then I think we have the ability to beat everyone we play."

The Spartans have had a boost of confidence ever since their spring break play in Fort Myers and Naples, Florida. "We had a great run in Florida this year going 8–2," said Williams. "That was a great confidence boost for the team and it really opened the team's eyes to what we could actually do. The team has never given up this year, which is great. We think that we can win every game, even going into the 7th inning when we are down."

Leadership for the Black and Gold is a great foundation for their season this year. "Mackenzie Williams is our team captain and I believe many of us look to her for leadership," Jennings said. "Being a senior and a previous all conference player, she knows what it's going to take for us to be successful come tournament time."

Williams added: "Everyone on the team is a leader at some point during the season and it really helps out the team. Working hard



HITTING IT OFF Senior Ashley Stahl steps up to the plate and is ready to swing.

in practice and everyone having the same end goal on the team is helping us get into a good position come tournament time."

Schillinger agreed. "I think everyone has a big role in this

team and each player has their own leadership qualities."

Team pride is another aspect that will hopefully guide the team to a tournament seed. "I'm proud to be a part of a team where

I can see how much support we all have for each other," Jennings said. Schillinger added: "I'm very proud of my teammates so far and I'm excited to see where the season takes us."