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AROUND CAMPUS



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## Grads Share Experiences at Manchester

Guerby Ruuska  
Staff Writer

Near the end of spring semester, Manchester hosts a unique event on campus that brings great culture and history to the school.

“My Experience at Manchester” is an event that gives people an opportunity to listen to the words of graduating students of color, mixed race, or international descent and it gives the international students a chance to talk about their journeys at MU.

“I want those in attendance to hear, first-hand, the diverse stories of our students,” said Michael Dixon, director of Intercultural Services. “Invitations will go out to the entire Manchester community.”

Students planning on speaking are asked to invite anyone else that has made an impact in their lives to join.

The first event like this one was hosted five years ago, and was the creation of Dixon. “I really wanted to give graduating seniors from the Office of Multicultural Affairs a platform to reflect and engage an audience on their experience at Manchester (College) University: the good, the bad and the ugly,” he said. “It was really geared towards the administration, admissions and others who have no idea how a student of color or an international student experiences life at Manchester and in the North Manchester community.”

“This event is meant to be a special time for everyone to share in the experience and celebration of finally graduating,” he continued. “Students compose a 5-7 minute speech that encompasses their holistic experience, from getting accepted into Manchester, the first experience on campus, move-in, to taking college classes for the first time. The point is that listeners will understand and feel where the student is coming from.”

The speaking students then have a chance to give some useful advice to the first years, advice that students may follow for the rest of their college careers and their final goodbyes.

The event will take place Sunday, May 1, beginning with hors d'oeuvres served at 3 p.m. and formal comments start at 3:30 p.m.

# Manchester Professors Rock!



READY TO ROCK? The Otho Winger Experience practices for their big performance Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 in Cordier Auditorium. VIA credit.

Sarah Farnam  
Co-Editor

Although not universally known to Manchester University students, their professors are talented in areas other than literary analysis or marketing prowess. The Otho Winger Experience is a band composed of professors and staff members that first began rocking in 2005. On Tuesday, May 3, from 3:30-5 p.m., the group will perform in Cordier Auditorium. Though the band has many members, three shared the tales of their secret lives as rock stars.

Judd Case, associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication Studies, wears many hats in the band. In addition to strumming both an electric and acoustic guitar, he occasionally takes the microphone. “As a group,

we take turns on lead vocals, and whomever’s knees aren’t knocking loudly enough can find a microphone in front of their mouth,” he explains.

Case has been involved in music since his elementary school days. “In high school, in a desperate attempt to stop bullies from comparing me to Anthony Michael Hall’s character in ‘The Breakfast Club,’ I formed a garage band with my friends,” he says. Since then, he has performed at a variety of events, and explains that he came out of semi-retirement in order to be a part of the Otho Winger Experience.

Dan Chudzynski, director of Marketing, will sing and play keyboard. Chudzynski has played in various bands for almost 40 years. “I’ve played in nightclubs, hotel lounges, proms, wedding receptions, big stages backing up

national acts, the state fair, garages and parade floats,” he says. “I even played a gig on a pontoon boat once.” Over the years, his musical repertoire has expanded. “Listening now to a classic rock station, I find that I’ve played, at one time or another, most of the songs they play,” he says.

Mark Bryant, associate professor of chemistry, plays bass guitar and keyboard for the band. He has a long musical background as well, including 10 years of piano lessons and two years as a music major. A self-taught guitar player, he plays for his church and is in an oldies/classic “rock’n’country” band.

Bryant is looking forward to surprising students who may not be aware that their professors have musical talent. “We have many professional-quality people in the band, and we like putting on

a high-energy show,” he says.

Chudzynski shares Bryant’s excitement. “I like that it shows a different side of the faculty – it shows that they have other interests and can let their hair down in front of their students,” he says.

According to Case, his favorite part of performing for the school is when the students realize that the performance is for them. “We want them to share a moment with us, to feel the power of live music, and to have a great memory of their time at Manchester,” he explains. “There’s a ton of hard work behind the scenes—for us, for the dancers, for the Cordier staff, for Marketing, for the custodians—but none of us would be doing this without the students.”

The three band members confirmed that the set list is top secret. “A splendid time is guaranteed for all,” Bryant assures.

## Tournament Benefits Men’s Soccer Team, ‘Play for Jake’ Foundation

Carly Kwiecien  
Staff Writer

The shining sun and cool breeze set the tone for a beautiful afternoon on the soccer field on Sunday, April 24. The Three-V-Three Soccer Tournament was open to anyone ages 15 and up to compete for the title of Three-V-Three Soccer Tournament champions.

The tournament hosted 12 teams that consisted of high schoolers, current Manchester University students, alumni and parents. Each team paid a \$75 entry fee to participate, which helps to fund the men’s soccer team’s Jamaica Work Camp trip that they take every four years. The tournament helped the team raise just short of \$1,000.

“This [was] a great opportunity for us to raise funds and allow others to compete on campus in a fun and competitive environ-

ment,” said Corey Brueggeman, men’s soccer head coach.

The games consisted of 12-minute halves. This bracket-styled tournament lasted for over four hours.

Students from Professor Ryan Hedstrom’s Event Management class were busy serving burgers, hot dogs, cookies, drinks and more at the concession stands. They also sold T-shirts and scarves and collected donations for the Play for Jake Foundation, an organization that was created in honor of LaPorte High School football player Jake West. West died at football practice in 2013 due to an undetected heart condition.

The money raised will provide middle school and high school students with heart screenings to help prevent sudden cardiac arrest.

Sophomore Macy Bischoff heard about Jake and the

foundation on Facebook and introduced it to her class when deciding what organization should be this year’s recipient.

“I saw the article [about Jake West] and when I read it, it really just hit home,” Bischoff said. “I was a football manager for my high school at the time and my stepdad just had surgery to fix the same issue. My senior year of high school, I raised \$1,300 for the foundation and wanted to keep promoting it to help save other lives.”

Freshman Josh McCoy participated with his brother, cousin, father and two friends. He enjoys playing soccer, but he also enjoys helping others.

“It felt amazing doing the thing I love while benefiting others, especially when I know for certain that it’s for a good cause. The Play for Jake Foundation and the team trip to Jamaica are both very important to many people,” McCoy

said. “I know that the foundation will certainly save lives, and the team trip to Jamaica helps people who are in need. I was glad to be a part of these fundraisers, and the help they will provide, no matter how small my impact may have been.”

The men’s soccer team also contributed their time to the tournament. They kept track of the scores for each game, acted as referees and ran after the balls when they were kicked out of bounds.

“I think the best thing about the tournament was watching people from different areas and of all different ages playing the sport that I love on a day with beautiful weather,” said sophomore soccer player Michael Cheesman. “The field was perfect and the temperature was about 70 degrees—it was almost picturesque. I just loved

SEE TOURNAMENT, PAGE 2

# MAIN VIEW



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## Staff, Students Plant Trees to Commemorate Those Lost

**Erin Fralick**  
Staff Writer

On April 22, staff and students gathered to watch the ceremonial shoveling of dirt so that both the three new white oak saplings and the memories of those who have passed away can grow on. The planting took place between the Administration Building and Funderburg Library.

Philip Keim, the peace studies coordinator, organized the event. He began with a speech, making sure to thank everyone involved in the process. The speech covered a brief history of Earth Day, such as its origins in 1970, and the conceptual significance of trees all around the world. "In so many traditions and cultures, trees are symbols of physical and spiritual nourishment, transformation and liberation, sustenance, spiritual growth, union and fertility," Keim said.

The heart of the speech was when Keim talked about the significance that these three trees

would have for the Manchester campus. "These trees we are planting today carry more significance than some other plants around campus," he said. "We honor those we've lost in the last year, in our own lives, and those we may not have known as well but have impacted our community during their time at Manchester."

"Just as the tree filters air and holds soil together, the individuals who left us this year brought refreshing perspective to our lives and bound us together in friendship and love," he continued. "I hope these trees nourish the campus community, transform the landscape in a positive way, and liberate our sorrow by reminding us that life is extraordinarily beautiful, strong, short and fragile."

Kim then led the people who wished to pray in a short prayer. After "Amen" was muttered by the small crowd, the students contributed to the ceremonial shoveling of mulch. The trees had already been planted to ensure that they would remain healthy and live for a long time.

While these three trees are the newest editions to campus, they were not the first trees planted for Peace Week. Last year, a singular tree was planted by the Jo Young Switzer Center. This tree was also a white oak. However, the first tree was planted more as a memorial for other trees than anything else, as part of an initiative for Sustainable Indiana. Keim explained that the purpose of the tree was "to commemorate our commitment to make amends for the destruction of the planet." This initiative was brought on by deforestation that plagues the environment. According to Keim, about 20 to 30 people attended the first tree planting.

Other Peace Week activities included the Nabka Museum exhibit on the second floor of the Academic Center, Ultimate Frisbee on April 23, the "Celebrating Diversity" workshop and "Nonviolent Direct Action" workshop, a discussion with John Crossan about "The Life of Jesus" and two VIAs: "Faith in the Age of Ferguson" and "Jesus, God and the Imperial Violence."

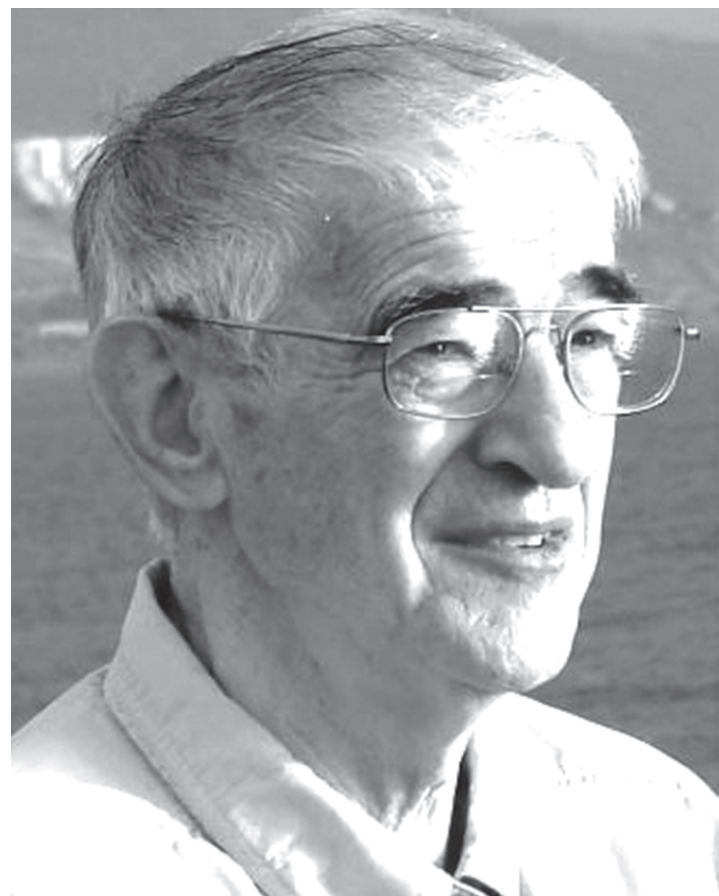


Photo courtesy of Phil Keim  
**PLANTING MEMORIES** Peace Studies Coordinator Phil Keim plants trees with MU students.

## Crossan Sheds Light on Jesus, God and Imperial Violence

**Karen Kanyike**  
Staff Writer

In honor of Peace Week, Manchester University hosted a VIA event led by John Dominic Crossan on



John Dominic Crossan

Tuesday, April 19, at 3:30 p.m. It took place in Cordier Auditorium, where Crossan delivered an enlightening lecture about Jesus, God and imperial violence.

Justin Lasser, assistant professor of religious studies, started by giving a thorough introduction to the speaker, after which Crossan supplied a few more details about his background. He proceeded to give a brief summary of his presentation, along with an engaging visual aid that featured powerful Greco-Roman images depicting important biblical and historical themes and ideas.

Crossan was born in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland in 1934. He was educated in Ireland and the United States, received a Doctorate of Divinity from Maynooth College, Ireland in 1959, and did post-doctoral research at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome from 1959 to 1961 and at L'École Biblique in Jerusalem from 1965 to 1967. He joined DePaul University, Chicago, in 1969 and remained there until 1995. He is now a professor emeritus in its department of religious studies and has written 27 books to date.

The presentation covered a variety of issues ranging from non-violent resistance to violence, the life, ministry and death of Jesus and the nature of the political ad-

ministration and imperial power in the Roman Empire. "Imperial power has been described as a rope with four strands: military power, political power, economic power and ideological/theological power," Crossan said.

He continued to say that military power constitutes the legions of the Roman Empire and infrastructure such as roads and bridges, which are also part of economic power. Political power includes the Roman senate, the Roman emperors, and the aristocracy of the Roman Empire while ideological/theological power involves the relationship between the divine and human beings. Crossan's lecture was punctuated by witty jokes and lighthearted humor that helped retain the audience's attention.

Lasser shared some powerful insights about peace and imperial violence. "Jesus' program can only be understood in reference to Rome's program," he said. "The kingdom of God can only be understood as an inversion of the Roman Empire's vision. Crossan argues that early Christianity sees peace through justice whereas Rome sees peace through victory. He challenges us today with the question, 'Is it possible to be a Christian in the American Empire?'"

With military bases around the world, America has

peace because it has victory. "This VIA challenges the problematic notion of 'freedom isn't free,'" Lasser added. "This means you can break freedom in order to preserve freedom. [With regard] to Crossan's understanding of Jesus, one only has peace when we challenge inequalities and the spiral of violence."

Lasser also shared some of the reasons he invited Crossan to Manchester. "He's been an inspiration in my life," Lasser said. "He is arguably the most significant and most influential scholar of the historical Jesus. He shifted historical Jesus research away from the apocalyptic Jesus who announces the end of the world toward the sapiential or wisdom Jesus," he added.

Some students were quite pleased with Crossan's lecture. Sean Rizvic, a sophomore math, philosophy, and peace studies major from Fort Wayne, Ind., shared some of his thoughts and reactions. "The VIA's overall point about people needing to read religious texts critically and through the right historic lens seemed pretty clear," he said. "The comparison between Caesar and Jesus was very new for me, so that's probably what I'll remember best. Other than making good points, Crossan was a great speaker and had an awesome sense of humor," he continued.



## Oak Leaves

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PLANET MANCHESTER

### TOURNAMENT, FROM PAGE 1

spending a day with my teammates, who are like family to me, watching people play the sport we love with the smell of burgers cooking in the air."

The team named "Soccer Without Borders" with captains Carson McFadden, a Manchester

alumnus, and Julio Luevano, a current senior, won the tournament.

The team "Manchester University Futbol Fanatics," which consisted of senior James Turner, sophomores Ethan Foster, Aaron Lloyd and Austyn Rybicki, and first-years Storm Shortt and Pongsaran Sintananukul, won the award for "Most Spirited" team of

the tournament.

"Our team received the Most Spirited award, which is fitting," Foster said. "We have a great group of guys who were just out there to have some fun. We knew we wouldn't be one of the better teams there, so we just looked to get some enjoyment out of the day and donate some money to the cause."

## Woodward Displays Award-Winning Art

**Keith Berry**  
Staff Writer

Senior Blake Woodward's art show, centered around the theme of self-improvement, is now on display in Cordier Auditorium.

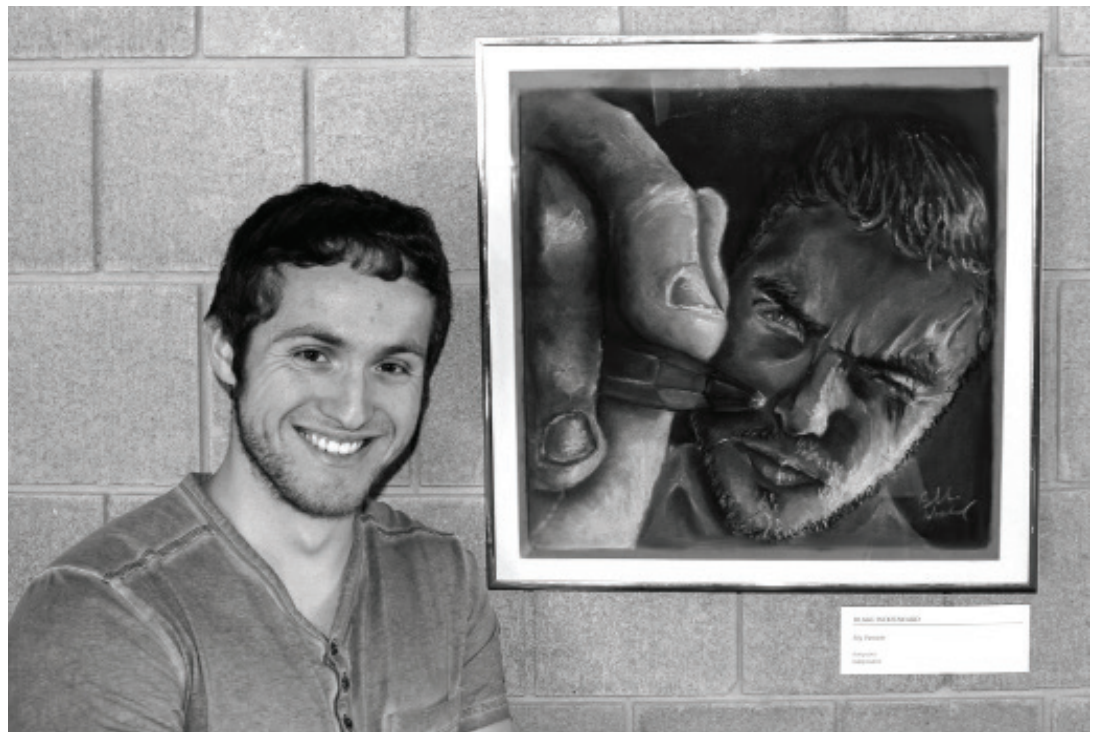
An art major and a native of Hebron, Ind., Woodward says he has been drawing since he was two years old and possibly even before that. He pays respect to his grandfather for being the one that introduced him to create art. "I have several people that influenced me but the most influential has to be my grandfather because he is the one that put the pencil and paper in my hands," Woodward said.

His grandfather is part of his favorite piece of art, called "Works in Progress." "It's me and him and we're drawing each other," Woodward said. "He is making me what I am and I am making him what he is as a person. He instilled that work ethic in me and that is something I can carry with me

throughout my life and something I will never forget."

Woodward began primarily as a graphite or pencil artist. He would draw anything from still life, to nature to portraits. Recently he has become more of a pastel artist which he says is his favorite medium to practice. "Soft pastel is more like chalk," Woodward said. "You can really mess with it like a finger painting and you can get more out of it that way."

Woodward has received various prizes as an artist at Manchester University, winning contests both on campus and off. One of his biggest accomplishments was when he came in second place at the Honeywell Center's 92 County Art Show with his pastel piece "My Passion" and won an additional cash prize. His piece "My Salvation" was also accepted into the 2016 National Pastel Competition in Wichita, Kansas. On top of all of this, he has also designed t-shirts for clubs and organizations on campus in-



**ART FROM THE HEART** Senior Blake Woodward stands beside his piece "My Passion," which was awarded second place at the Honeywell Center's 92 County art show.

cluding some for Garver Hall and the Art Club.

After graduation Woodward plans on going to graduate school after spending a couple years working for his uncle in Kansas to save money. He also wants to take this time to build up his portfolio in

order to gain more experience and get better at his craft.

Outside of art, Woodward enjoys various activities. "I like to play the drums and of course I like to exercise to keep myself in shape," he said. In five years to ten years, he plans on having achieved

his goal of working at either Pixar or Disney drawing cartoons for movies.

His show opened on April 15 and will be displayed until May 15. His reception is on Commencement Day, May 14.



"Eye Am Groot"



"A Glimpse of Chicago"



"A King in the Making"



"Salvation"

## Manchester Introduces New Graduation Schedule

**Aaron Lloyd**  
Staff Writer

This year's commencement ceremonies will be different than in the past. Rather than taking place on the same day, the Baccalaureate Service will be held on Friday, May 13, in Cordier Auditorium and graduation will be held on Saturday, May 14 in the PERC. Another significant change is that there will be two separate graduation ceremonies, one for graduate students and pharmacy graduates in the morning and the other for undergraduate students in the afternoon. In the past, graduation activities would have all taken place on the same day, the last Sunday that students would be on campus.

The events for Friday include program awards and hooding for the College of Pharmacy graduates, dinner in Haist Commons, the Baccalaureate Service, and then the President's Celebration back in Haist Commons. Unlike in previous years, graduates and faculty will not be robbed during the Baccalaureate service. The Friday services will be open to the students and the guests that they bring along.

On Saturday, there will be two separate graduation ceremonies held on the North Manchester

campus. The first of the two will be held at 10 A.M. inside Cordier Auditorium for the master's graduates and the pharmacy graduates; the second ceremony begins at 2:30 P.M. in the PERC for the undergraduate students.

"By separating baccalaureate and our two commencements, we anticipate no single set of participants will be any larger than our typical commencement crowds," said Manchester University President Dave McFadden.

Recent graduate Kelsey Barta does not necessarily understand the change of the schedule. "It was difficult enough for my parents to make the trip into town that early in the morning when everything was held on one day," she said. "Now it would require them to take the day off from work on Friday and then get a hotel room for the night to be ready for graduation on Saturday."

Senior James Turner, sports management major agrees. "I would say that it is very inconvenient for parents who have to drive a far distance to see their son or daughter graduate but I think that if they put both the baccalaureate and graduation on the same day, it would be too much with the heat and how long the day would be," he said.



**CON-GRAD-ULATIONS** Seniors prepare for the upcoming graduation ceremonies, which will differ in format from previous years.



## SPARTAN SPORTS

### Softball Team Falls in the Ranks; Still Hopeful



EYES ON THE BALL Senior Kaile Niezgodski focuses on the pitch.

**Caitlin Doyle**  
Staff Writer

This past weekend ended with a double loss for Spartan softball. The team traveled to Transylvania University (Transy) to face off against the Pioneers. The first game of the doubleheader ended in a close 4-6 loss for the Spartans, and the Pioneers won the second game 9-1. The Spartans' conference standing was slightly affected by these games. They fell from third place to fourth. This, however, still allows them a chance for the conference tournament.

Transy is leading conference play and has a running streak of 10 wins. The team is also undefeated at home. This would have been a discouraging view on the game from the beginning but the Spartans fought hard through both games. Sophomore Mallorie Jennings commented on how the

teams compared with Manchester being ranked fourth and Transy leading the conference. "They have a very good pitching staff; we just did not play at the level we are capable of playing," she said. "I believe we are just as good as Transylvania."

The Spartans got off to a rough start which left them with no one on base until the third inning and no score until the fourth. Transy also had to fight to win the game. Although their pitching was excellent throughout both games, they had to face the Spartan defense. The team had great fielding throughout the first game, in which only two errors were made overall. During the game the Spartans did not give in. They held the Pioneers to as few runs as possible, and there were three innings in which neither team scored. In this manner, the Spartans kept the game close.

Since the team is ranked well, practice must be putting the

players in a good position for each team they face. "I think our coaches did a good job of preparing us for the game Saturday," Jennings commented. "Our team just needs to learn to make adjustments during the game to put us in the best position to win. The long road trip to Transylvania makes it difficult to come out playing sharp as well."

The players felt well-prepared for the game and went into it knowing how good they were and how good their opponents are. The Transylvania Pioneers had a home field advantage and started off strongly with leads that never went away. Spartans held them to an extent and made it a good game. This slightly off day can cause trouble for the Spartans as the season starts to wind down.

The next game for the Spartans will be Sunday, May 1 at home. This will also be their last scheduled game of the season.

### Manchester Track Runs Away with a Victory

**Kody Smith**  
Staff Writer

The first and only home track and field event ended successfully for the Black and Gold last Saturday at the Spartan Track Classic, which included a team title victory for the women's squad.

The Spartans compiled three first-place finishes on the track with another championship in the field. Junior Mariah Jordan finished the 800-meter run with Manchester's sixth fastest time in the school's history at the event, finishing the race in 2:21.6. She exceeded the second-place finisher by nearly eight seconds in route to a first place finish. Sophomore Angela Gonzalez placed first in the 400-meter hurdles, finishing with a time of 1:17.61. Jordan's day was nowhere near completed following her impressive display in the 800-meter run, as she was a member of the quartet which took first place in the 4x400 relay. First years Jade Bollett and Dasia Beck, along with sophomore Olivia Jenks, joined Jordan in finishing the race in 4:11.56, which is the fourth-fastest time in the school's history.

On the field side of the Spartan Track Classic, junior Shay Aator continued her impressive year in the throwing category, tossing the hammer 48.66 meters to claim her spot at the top of the podium. Her performance ranks as the second farthest on the Spartan all-time chart list.

As for the men, the Spartans claimed a fourth-place team finish due largely to the efforts of first year Austin Coughlin and sophomores Harrison Hollis and Austin LeClere.

The combination of

Coughlin and Hollis finished first and second place in the 100-meter run, with Coughlin finishing just one-tenth of a second quicker than Hollis, crossing the finish line in 11.09 seconds. Coughlin finished the 200-meter run in 22.65 seconds.

LeClere put on an impressive display in the javelin throw, tossing it 48.45 meters. He defeated the field of 13-throwers by approximately five meters. Junior Cole Sellers saw a second-place finish in the shot put, throwing 13.61 meters.

The track and field teams will travel to Bluffton, Ohio, for the 2016 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference championships. The events begin today at 3 p.m., and will carry over to Saturday morning, beginning at 10 a.m.



THE JAVELIN TOSS Sophomore Adam Burns gains momentum as he throws in the Indiana Division Three Championships.

Compiled by Zach Newcomer  
Staff Writer

#### Past Meets

Hanover College Invitational: The men's side finished in the eighth spot with 32 points, while women tallied 62.5 points to collect fourth place. Men had three top five finishes: Ramsen Bet-Nimrod earned third in the high jump, Coughlin placed third in the 100 meter dash and Connor Bresnahan placed fifth in the 10,000-meter. Top performers for the women include Tiffany Harber in the 10,000-meter and Jacey Cauhorn in discus, with both garnering the top spot for the Spartans.

Indiana DIII Championships: The men's squad finished seventh with 44 points and the women ended first with 140 points. The top performer was Bet-Nimrod, pick-

ing up a second place finish in high jump. On the women's side, there were five event champions to help Manchester claim the title. Jordan, Cauhorn and Harber all picked up top place finishes in their events.

Spartan Track Classic: The men finished fourth with 113 points and women picked up the team title once again with 148 points and had four event top place finishers. Coughlin earned first place in the 100 meters and LaClere ended first in the javelin toss to help the Spartan men. Jordan, Aator, Angela Gonzales, and the 4x400 meter relay team of Jade Bollett, Dasia Beck, Olivia Jenks and Jordan won their events to help push MU to first place.

#### Four Key Athletes

- **Mariah Jordan, Junior, Distance:** The standout runner for the Spartans is having another great season for the women's track team. Jordan finished first in two events at the Indiana DIII Track and Field Championships with top honors in the 1500m and 5000m events. At the Spartan Classic, she finished first with a time of 2:21.60 in the 800m event.
- **Shay Aator, Junior, Thrower:** Coming off a successful indoor campaign, Aator continues to light up the outdoor throwing events. At the Spartan Classic, she finished first in hammer throw, with a toss of 48.66 meters. Her top effort this year for discus came at the Hanover Invitational on April 2 and it measured 36.69 meters, earning her
- **Austin Coughlin, First-year, Sprints/Jumps/Hurdles:** The speedster for the men's team earned his first collegiate track event win at the Spartan Classic in the 100 meters, with a time of 11.09 seconds. He also added a second place finish in the 200 meter dash, crossing the finish line at 22.65 seconds.
- **Austin LeClere, Sophomore, Throws/Sprints/Jumps:** At the Spartan Classic, LeClere picked up a top-place finish in the javelin throw with a toss of 48.45 meters. He also has a fourth place finish in javelin at the Indiana DIII Track and Field Championships, with a throw of 49.83 meters, his career best so far.



Mariah Jordan

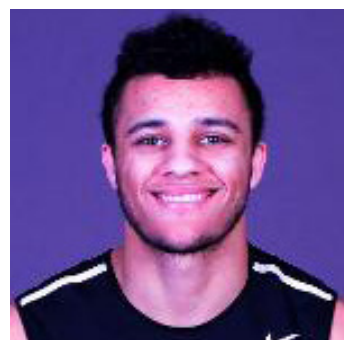
#### Upcoming Meets

April 29-30, 2016 HCAC Championships: The men and the women will be traveling to Bluffton University to participate in the conference championships. A year ago, the men ended fourth, while the women claimed the team championship.

May 12, 13, 19 and 20, Last Chance Meet: Both squads will travel to North Central College in Illinois to participate in the Dr. Keeler Track & Field Meet. The first two days of the event are qualifiers, while the last two days are for the final qualifiers.



Shay Aator



Austin Coughlin



Austin LeClere