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January Session Evaluates Standards at Disney World

Tanner Edge
Staff Writer

Dr. Rusty Coulter Kern and 10 students in his psychology class visited Disney World for six days during January Session 2017. The class focused on forming a model that revolved around the four standards that Disney World tries to uphold before visiting. Those standards are safety, courtesy, show/appearance and efficiency. The class then applied these standards to hotels, restaurants, attractions and retail while on their visit.

Coulter-Kern wanted to be sure the students were well prepared before leaving. "We wanted to master the material before we left," he said. It was critical that the students had a firm grasp on industrial organization psychology, so that they could successfully test their model while on the trip. Students tested their "matrix" model, as Coulter-Kern described it, while still at Manchester University, at various locations on campus, then did some touch-ups to the model before departing on their journey.



Disney World's motto is "be our guest" with the thought that visitors are not customers, but are instead guests. "Quality service is their language," Coulter-Kern said. "Every employee on the park strives to meet your needs." The class used the four standards and observed employees at Disney World and found that they do uphold their standards and motto. They also found that safety was Disney World's top priority.

The class found that Disney exemplified a positive working environment. "The biggest thing that I wanted the students to learn is that being kind and treating others like guests really does make a difference in their success, whether it is in a working environment or when they are around people in general," Coulter-Kern explained.

The whole idea behind "be our guest" is to make visitors feel welcomed and not like they are in a giant consumer trap while at Disney World. They treat visitors with hospitality and respect. "Respect is a big deal," Coulter-Kern said. "Respecting others along with being kind to others builds solid relationships."

MU Talent Lights Up the Firehouse

Maddie Jo Shultz
Staff Writer

Passersby on Main Street could feel and hear the excitement coming from the youth concert on Saturday, March 4.

Manchester students showcased their musical talent at the Firehouse downtown at 7:30, with an open mic session preceding the event at 6:30. Performers at the mixed-genre concert were Infinity Now, a pop/rock quintet based in Columbus, IN, with lead singer Sarah Farnam, and the Mykayla Cynthia Band, led by Mykayla Neilson.

The concert lasted two hours and had a casual, jam session atmosphere, with couches and chairs at the perimeters of the room full of eager audience members from the campus and surrounding community. With a large interior ideal for acoustics, the Firehouse is a resource for local artists who need a space to practice, or in this case, perform their music. "This venue is awesome and free," Mykayla Neilson said. She added that the Firehouse is one of those "local, hidden gems" that people do not always realize is available for public use.



Mykayla Cynthia Band frontwoman, senior Mykayla Neilson. The Mykayla Cynthia band played a variety of covers and originals on Saturday night.

A simple but effective plywood stage, decorated with traffic signs and loaded with speakers and other music equipment, served as a platform for Infinity Now and the Mykayla Cynthia Band as they played both covers and original

material. Both bands brought their merchandise, such as t-shirts and CDs, for audience members to purchase after the show.

Infinity Now kicked off the concert, playing their unique renditions of covers "What I Like

About You" by the Romantics and "Don't Let Me Down" by the Chainsmokers. "We like kicking off our set with some really high-energy songs," guitarist and vocalist Colin Singer said. "It draws the audience in and gets them involved right away."

They played music from their album "Love Young," including "As Good As It Gets," a rock ballad that had the flame and flavor of many hits on the radio today. The performance also featured "Break My Heart" from their CD, and Farnam asked the audience to sing along when they played the cover "Gives You Hell" by the All-American Rejects. Most of the audience sang along with the band, and several audience members got up to dance when Infinity Now played their final song of the night, "Shut Up and Dance" by Walk the Moon.

"I love when audience members sing along, or when they dance along to the beat," Farnam said. "It shows that they're into our music and our sound, and it's really rewarding to see."



Infinity Now performs at Rock the Plaza in Fort Wayne. The group played this show as part of their summer 2016 tour.

Courtesy of Sarah Farnam

SEE TALENT, PAGE 2

Students Prepare for Adventures Abroad

Destinee Boutwell
Staff Writer

Two Manchester students are about to shake off the dust of this small town and commence an adventure that will take them to different countries, introduce them to new people and immerse them in a culture vastly different than their own.

Haylee Parrish, junior, is preparing to leave for Japan at the beginning of next month. She will be studying at Hokusei Gakuen University located in Sapporo, Japan from April to mid-July. Parrish is an English major with a minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, also known as TESOL.

Parrish has been preparing for her trip to Japan for a while by teaching herself Japanese. "I have only self-studied Japanese," she said in an email. "I can't wait to be able to learn it in a classroom setting, in the country where it is spoken. I've been studying the language as much as possible by using spaced-repetition apps for vocabulary and a mixture of books and apps for grammar, and I've also been watching videos about Sapporo (and Japan in general) in order to prepare myself for when I arrive there. It'll be super helpful to have as good of a head start as I can get to make the transition from the United States to Japan that much easier."

Parrish wanted to study in Japan after she watched multiple documentaries and videos about it. "The more I learned about Japan's beauty, natural landmarks, city life and language, the more I wanted to experience it for myself," she said.

Parrish will travel on her own to a country that is 13 hours



Japanese Flag

away from Indiana. "I have never left the United States before, so I am a bit terrified of the idea of traveling alone through airports and figuring out how to work my way through the whole process to end up in Sapporo," she said. "I also fear miscommunication or missing little cultural differences. It's almost certain to happen, of course, but it's still something that I worry about."

Fortunately for Parrish, she decided that her excitement and curiosity outweighed her nerves. "I am also excited to meet new friends and to make memories there that I will carry with me for the rest of my life," she said. "I couldn't be more grateful to be able to use this oppor-



Irish Flag

tunity to learn more about Japan, to engage in international education, and to represent Manchester University while I am abroad."

Parrish is not the only one preparing to pack her bags and set off for foreign lands. Sophomore Hannah Wales, is going to Maynooth University in Dublin, Ireland, in September 2017. The language of instruction there is English so Wales does not have to worry about speaking a new language while she is overseas. "Ireland was not my first choice as a study abroad location," Wales said. "I really wanted to go to India or Germany but my parents were not very keen on letting me go to In-

dia and my language skills are not yet advanced enough for Germany. So, I settled for Ireland, which I am really excited about because I have always wanted to visit Ireland."

There are lots of things to do in Ireland and in the surrounding countries in Europe. "I am most excited about being so close to so many countries," Wales said. "If I have a long weekend or a break, I can take a couple-hour boat ride to England or Scotland, and spend the weekend there. One thing I really want to do is visit the country of Wales, which is to the east of Dublin, Ireland, because it shares the same name as me." Study-abroad students do not create a class schedule until they arrive at their university, but they are allowed to look over a list and begin to decide what they would be interested in. "I have to take a class about Irish Culture in general so I would be studying things like Irish film, literature and language," Wales said. "I learned that the Irish do not like the British very much (because of colonialism) so they don't have British literature classes like Shakespeare. Instead they provide classes in Greek literature like the famous tragedies, romances and myths."

"I almost took an American Literature class because I wanted to see what the Irish view point is on stories that I have grown up with," Wales added.

Even a trip to Ireland takes a lot of time and preparation. "I have a super dope Pinterest board going," Wales said with a chuckle. "I don't really have any anxiety about the trip so I am mostly just appreciating the excitement that comes with traveling abroad and all of the expectations. I am in the middle of filling out an absurd amount of paperwork and even that's fun because I know where it leads."



Junior English major Haylee Parrish

Photo by Tyler Roebuck

Philosophy Club Begins on Campus

Brittany Dilley
Staff Writer

Do you want to think deep thoughts? New philosophy professor Seth Mayer hopes so; in fact, he starting an informal philosophy-based discussion club. "It gives students the opportunity to have open-ended conversations about topics they care about without the pressure of grades," Mayer said via email.

Mayer encourages anyone interested in philosophy and engaging in conversation to attend the meetings. As the club is in the process of forming, Mayer and future club members are still deciding on how to structure their meetings. The next meeting's focus will be on the ethical issues of war, and the students will bring their questions and thoughts about the subject and see where the discussion leads.

Why did Mayer begin this club? "It seemed like there was a demand, so I was happy to try and set it up," he said. Mayer hopes the club will be a good experience for students and will give them new

ideas and arguments to consider.

Other than discussing topics, the club is planning on watching films and videos with philosophical themes. If the club shows interest, Mayer also plans to take on volunteer projects.

The group is still in the process of working out the constitution and becoming an official club. Over the next few months, Mayer hopes to accomplish a regular schedule for the meetings. He also hopes to raise visibility of philosophy on campus and get students and the community excited about doing philosophy.

Mayer strongly believes that students should have the opportunity to have these kinds of informal philosophical conversations in college. "Students have a lot to teach one another, and clubs like this one are a great way to encourage that," he said.

Mayer plans to have the meetings every other week on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. The following dates are the schedule for the remainder of the semester: Mar. 14, Mar. 28, Apr. 11, Apr. 25 and May 9, and all meetings will be held in the Academic Center in room 234.



Philosophy professor Seth Mayer



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Photo courtesy of Bianca Chagoya

MU Students Showcase Talent

Kelleen Cullison
Staff Writer

There were acts ranging from a comedy skit to the ukulele in Manchester's version of "The Next Big Thing": MU's Got Talent, hosted by the Manchester Activities Council, aka MAC, in Cordier Auditorium last Friday night.

Students filled the halls outside the auditorium as MAC members finalized the setup for the big show. It was a busy night for all, especially junior Austyn Rybicki, who both co-chaired the event with Jessica Beal and was half of the opening act. The act was a classic play-on-words skit about the confusion of baseball positions, "Who's on First?"

"This is my first time being a chair of an event," said Rybicki, a Business and Sports Management double major. "MU's Got Talent is one of our bigger events, so we started planning back in January." Once they've completed brainstorming, they have to hit the ground running to pull the show together. "We were in full swing about the first week of February."

Participants could sign up in the weeks preceding the event at a table in the Jo Young Switzer building. The event was open to all students to showcase their talents on stage. And they did. Following Rybicki and Peter Shepherd's act was senior Tabo Chata, whose sarcastic and candid comedy kept him a crowd favorite. "I'm in it for Tabo," said senior Michael Himlie. "I respect the infinite worth of Tabo!"

From there, the night was full of song and dance, with a routine by Katherine Brown and Mo Rammel that won them second place, followed by a stream of piano talent.

TALENT FROM PAGE 1

The Mykayla Cynthia Band played at 8:30 with a mixture of folk, pop, jazz and rock music. Like Infinity Now, they performed a combination of covers and original music: the latter including "Sunny Outside," which Neilson wrote about a crush when she was 13 years old, and a song written by Ally Roskos, a violin- and ukulele-playing member of the band.

"Ally came to me with words and said, 'I know you're a songwriter and I think this should be a song.' I found a chorus and went from there," Neilson explained to the audience. Another song, entitled "Fifteen," spoke to the struggles of high school and what it can feel like when someone is fifteen years old.

Neilson and Roskos, in addition to Tyler Roebuck, Kevin Frierhood and Tony Zinish, finished up the night with several

Mumford & Sons-style songs, complete with a euphonium featured in the instrumental ensemble, played by Frierhood. The last song of the night captured the mood of everyone in the Firehouse: it was called "Happiness."

"People have no idea how much it affects a local musician when they have support from their community," Neilson said after the show. Her advice? "Support local music!"



Infinity Now performs at The Emerson in Indianapolis. They played this show in February 2017.

Photo by Allie Newell

MU Students Study in New Zealand

Jensen Lassiter
Staff Writer

In just the first few weeks that juniors Madison Asbell and Katie Byers have been away, they've been able to beat the temperamental Indiana weather while soaking up the luscious New Zealand sun. Asbell and Byers are both studying abroad in Dunedin, New Zealand, as a part of BCAs Study Abroad Program at the University of Otago.

While adjusting to a new place to live is challenging, adjusting to a new culture and people presents its own challenges as well.

"Life here is a lot different, but very similar at the same time," Asbell said in an email. "Everything is opposite. The cars, roads, light switches, the direction the doors swing and the mannerisms of the locals. The thing that has been the most change for me is the side of the walkway, sidewalk, or aisle people walk on. It's human nature to walk on the same side of the sidewalk as you drive, but here, since driving is on the left side, people also walk on the left side. I can't count how many times I have run into someone on the right side of the sidewalk or in the aisle of the supermarket."

Byers remarked on the elevated place of indigenous people in New Zealand. "They appreciate the little things and respect and definitely embrace their native people here, called Māori (equivalent to our own Native Americans)," she

said in an email. "Many meetings or slogans for things around the city begin with Māori language. They show much more respect to their native people; it is such an awesome thing to be able to witness how much they have incorporated the two cultures into one."

Asbell noted that gasoline prices were much higher in New Zealand compared to the United States. Some gasoline prices are as high as \$8 per gallon in U.S. dollars. "People walk a lot more than drive," she said. "Everyone is a lot more active, and, in turn, a bit more in shape."

Even the attitude of the locals has been rather different. "Everyone here is so friendly and willing to take the time to talk with you and help," Byers said. "Kiwis (what people are called in New Zealand) love nature and being outdoors; how could you not in a beautiful place like this?"

Culture in New Zealand seems to be relaxed, with citizens exuding a carefree spirit. "The best way I've been able to explain the culture and life here to my friends back home is that I feel like I'm stuck in the 90s," Byers said. "The pace of everyday life, the WiFi is much slower and less reliable, fashion here is very much like the 90s -- lots of denim miniskirts & all white tennis shoes for girls."

Another major difference is time. New Zealand has an 18-hour time difference from the United States. "When it's 4 p.m. on a Sunday [in New Zealand], it's 10



Juniors Katie Byers and Madison Asbell proudly hold up the Manchester flag.

Photos courtesy of Katie Byers

p.m. on a Saturday night at home," Asbell said. But it is summer here, right now so the weather is amazing."

With classes just having barely started, Asbell and Byers have been making excellent use of their "summer" by traveling around Dunedin and surrounding locations. "We did a lot of exploring with our program for the first few weeks," Byers said. "Just a few of the places we visit-ed were Tunnel Beach, The Catlins, Arrowtown [Lord of the Rings filming locations], Queenstown, Oamaru, St. Clair's, Hooker Valley and Moeraki Boulders."

As the semester wears on, many more travel opportunities will become available. "I am looking forward to our mid-semester break, our fall break here, which would be

spring break at home," Asbell said. "Katie and I plan to go on an overnight cruise tour of Queenstown and go bungee jumping while we are there."

One aspect of studying abroad is realizing how much you already know and how much you're going to learn. "I've learned that I can be more independent than I ever realized I could be," Byers said. "I've also acquired quite a bit more of lingo for my daily dialogues, such as Kia Ora, Cheers, and Sweet As!"

Another important challenge is the native cuisine. "The food is different here," Byers said. "It doesn't seem that different when you first look at the menu, but they put their own variation to everything. For example, a hotdog with ketchup is a sausage with a piece of white bread (they don't have buns

or hotdogs, but most of the time they're called hotdogs), and tomato sauce (it's pronounced toe-ma-toe and tastes nothing like ketchup)."

While trying new foods in an unfamiliar country is exciting, sometimes familiar food and home cooking is a good option. "I love cooking for myself, and since I am living on my own and must grocery shop and cook meals for myself, I am loving it," Asbell said. "I do miss some aspects of the food from home though. For example, the Mexican cuisine here is pretty nonexistent, so I have been cooking Mexican food to the best of my ability almost every other night."

With many differences between New Zealand and The United States, soaking up as much foreign culture as possible for 4.5 months seems like an exciting way to spend a semester abroad.





SPARTAN SPORTS

Track and Field Races, Vaults through Indoor Season



Mariah Jordan dominates in distance events at Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

Virginia Rendler
Staff Writer

As the Manchester University track and field team wraps up its indoor season, excitement is high to begin racing outdoors, beginning Apr 1. The indoor season consisted of six meets: two at Rose Hulman and Anderson and singles at Trine and Defiance. The final meet, at Rose Hulman on Feb. 18, was the 2017 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships (HCAC).

Many personal records were achieved in the HCAC. Runner Sarah Arney, senior, was first in the 3000 meters. Senior Shay Aator performed the season's best 20-pound weight throw, and the Spartans held high positions in team point standings.

Participating in track and field is not always easy. During the month of February, the team had to meet for practice twice a day due to the slim availability of equipment in the gym. In addition, they were required to participate in weight lifting individually. Some team members were working out three times a day for three days of the week or more.

This rigorous schedule required the team to have excellent time management skills. Although the schedule seems to be overwhelming, Bella Case, first-year pole vaulter, said she enjoyed staying busy and having places to be. "Every weekend for the past

two months, I have had a meet to attend," Case said. "All I had to worry about was cheering on my teammates, competing and improving my vault skills! I loved it!"

Case is also proud of her sport. "I love it because it is thrilling," she explained. "It takes a lot of courage to run at a mat, while holding a stick, aiming to fling myself over a bar. I think it is awesome to say I do an event that very few people can successfully do, and I am looking forward to leaping to higher and higher heights. I also am looking forward to seeing my teammates succeed and win races."

Oftentimes the 'field' half of track and field is overlooked in media coverage, and many throwers, vaulters and others are left out in favor of runners. Case explained that, as a pole vaulter, she thinks people often don't associate the 'field' with the running. "I think that's how the field seems left out," she said. "Specifically, on the team, the field part is not lesser or left out; over half the team is involved in fields. This shows how important the field events are for bringing in points just like the running events."

The team is eager for the outdoor season to begin. "I can't wait for outdoor!" Case exclaimed. "Spending all day outdoors every Saturday, as the weather gets nicer and warmer, is what I love about track. Jumping out in the elements is definitely more difficult, but it makes vaulting even more exciting and challenging!"

Students Practice Medicine in Nicaragua

Ciara Knisely
Staff Writer

For 20 days in January, 16 Manchester University students and 12 physicians lived and worked in three small villages in Nicaragua where they administered health care to natives living in poverty.

Dr. Jeff Osborne, associate professor of chemistry, headed the Medical Practicum, a January session trip, and succeeded in exposing students not only to the Nicaraguan health care system, but also to the daily lives of indigenous peoples in the Alto Wangki-Bocay region.

However, the yearly trip doesn't focus on typical tourist sightseeing. Rather, the students worked side by side with physicians every day in extremely underdeveloped villages, doing things like administering vaccinations, pulling teeth and diagnosing ailments.

Their journey began in the capital, Managua, and continued with a 12-hour bus ride to the Rio Bocay River. To access the villages from there, the group took dugout canoes on the river, with around four hours travel time to each village, according to junior athletic training major Katie Brown.

All three villages that the group visited lacked electricity, clean, running water, air-conditioning and students slept in hammocks in small buildings such as schools.

"We lived in schoolhouses, which were not in the best shape, had no windows, and you could always hear chickens being obnoxiously loud at any given moment in the night," said Andy Giles, junior biology-chemistry major.

Animals also dominated the environment in that region. According to Giles, the men's living quarters in the first village was even situated right above a family of goats, and undomesticated farm animals ran free in all the villages.

In each village, the students and physicians spent several days working in a clinic, helping people who may have travelled miles upon miles to receive health care. This gave students the chance to have hands-on experience with physicians while helping others, an invaluable opportunity.

As Jenny Pudlo, junior biology-chemistry major, described, health care in Nicaragua is free—but some may not have the ability to get to a doctor. Pudlo said that a mother in Nicaragua with a dangerously ill child, but so little money that she was reluctant to pay for the boat ride just to start her journey.

Cases like that of the mother made the students' work in the three villages even more important. The trip is an attempt to enable the natives living in extreme poverty to be able to help themselves as much as possible, especially when health care may be unattainable. MU's Medical Practicum is also the only health-care group that visits the three villages of Winah, Amak and Wisuh.

The group helped an estimated total of 1,400 people, but students have no misconceptions about the experience they received from this trip.

"I also have a new appreciation for my health, and I am more thankful for the availability to health care we have in the States," said Lauren Hedges, senior biology-chemistry major.

Brown found the experience transformative. "We went there to help if we could, but we all changed too," she said.

Pudlo agrees. "We were trying to help them, but we learned about ourselves and others in ways we didn't expect," she explained, mentioning how children may only have one toy, or a stick with a ball as their form of entertainment. "What I might think is a problem might not be a problem to someone else. There are so many bigger issues."

Giles added: "It's a whole lot harder to be upset when you put your problems in perspective and think about what those people are going through."

Through this trip, Osborne hoped to send the message that humans all over the world are the same, and that health care is a very complicated issue, especially when there may be structural reasons why people live in poverty.

Because of that, serving others becomes a very important issue, Osborne said. It's important to help others, as it leads to the development of one's own best self. "Serving others is essential to the process of becoming yourself and

being a human," he said.

Pudlo also notes how close the group became. "We didn't do anything by ourselves, even taking baths in the river or going to the latrine," she said, remembering the family-like atmosphere they developed.

The group also saw many afflictions that are common to developed countries but could easily

kill someone in a developing nation like Nicaragua, according to Brown. On the other hand, Nicaraguans also experience diseases that have long been eradicated in the developed world, Osborne said.

Before the group left for Nicaragua, they also had to undergo a series of vaccinations and treatments to assure that they wouldn't contract any obscure diseases while

visiting, though Osborne assures that it was just a precautionary measure.

The January session class is offered every year as Pass/Not Pass and all students are eligible. For more information on participating in the next Medical Practicum trip, students can go to medicalpracticum.org/. The deadline to sign up is March 30.



Junior Katherine Brown is all smiles while holding a baby.