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## Belcher and Marlett Perform Compositions by Lynn

**Kylie Kroger  
Staff Writer**

Manchester's music department took their audience on a journey on Saturday, Oct. 14, with the performance "Voyages of Life and Love." The evening featured Grammy-winning baritone Daniel Belcher and mezzo-soprano Judy Marlett, and was the premiere of "Your John Keats," a song cycle composed by Manchester music professor, Debra Lynn. All of the evening's performances were accompanied by Professor Pamela Haynes on piano.

The performance commenced in Wine Recital Hall Saturday evening with accounts of a journey that countless numbers of people have taken—to Ellis Island to enter America. Marlett gave a powerful performance of "Vignettes: Ellis Island," from composer Alan Lewis Smith, which told stories of how different young women ventured to America in search of a better life.

Following Marlett's performance, Belcher took to the stage to introduce the second composition of the evening, which came from the opera "The Long Walk" composed by Jeremy Howard Beck. This composition told the story of one man's struggle to not lose himself, and his marriage, after he returned from combat. The opera was based on the memoir by Brian Castner, which shares the same title. Belcher's commitment to accurately portray his character was clear, as his body language and facial expressions told a story just as much as the words that he sang.

However, the most noteworthy performance of the evening

was the debut of "Your John Keats." The composition was comprised of excerpts from love letters from the poet Keats to the love of his life and fellow poet, Fanny Brawne, that Keats wrote in the last three years of his life.

After reading some of these letters, Lynn knew this was a story worth telling. "I thought to myself: Somebody needs to make music out of these," Lynn said. "Keats' language is so descriptive and musical. The words, the way he moves with words in and out of phrases; he is a poet."

And Lynn knew the perfect person to help translate Keats' story. Belcher, a longtime friend and fellow musician of Lynn's, was up to the challenge to interpret how Keats would have spoken the words to Brawne himself. The respect between composer, pianist and vocalist was evident throughout the entire performance. "It is a continual collaborative discovery," Belcher said. "We have the same goal which is telling a great story through music."

The story is one of both love and tragedy. As the composition progresses, Keats grows increasingly ill, and it becomes evident that he may not make it back to his beloved Brawne. "I grieved going into that and I had not ever really experienced that with composing before," Lynn said.

Lynn connected with the love Keats had for Brawne, and was able to translate that into her composition. "I think I have fallen in love with John Keats," she said. "I'm living vicariously through Fanny. I don't know how many times I thought while writing this, 'if any man wrote this to me I would just be butter, butter in his hands.'"

As for the expectations

that come from telling the love story of such a prominent literary figure, Lynn says it is best to do what feels right, and trust the direction of the composition. "It is kind of a lot

of pressure as a composer because I want to be true to what was intended in the tone," Lynn said. "You just have to trust yourself and your own interpretation."



Photos provided

Left: Daniel Belcher. Right: Judy Marlett.



Photos provided

The piece is based on late 19th-century letters written by three of Marlett's relatives from New York State: Tyler Houghtaling, a Union soldier; Lanie Houghtaling, who died in her early 20s and Percy Houghtaling, who was Lanie's child and Marlett's grandfather.

## MU Ignites Homecoming Weekend with Annual Bonfire

**Teresa Masteller  
Staff Writer**

On Friday, October 13, the Manchester Activities Council (MAC) kicked off Homecoming weekend with a bonfire on the southeast side of campus by the intramural softball fields.

MAC is one of the major programming groups on campus. It is made up of students who meet weekly to plan campus events. They provide social, recreational and entertainment activities. Their goal is to encourage students to get involved in campus life and to enjoy it, as well as to get involved in leadership opportunities. This year, MAC had an incentive for people to come out and enjoy the bonfire. The first 100 students that brought canned goods were promised bandanas.

It has long been a tradition to begin Homecoming weekend with a bonfire. Students, parents and alumni were invited to spend Friday night enjoying food and laughs in front of the warmth of the roaring fire.

As the sun was setting, the large pile of wooden pallets was lit, and the bonfire was officially started. At 8:08 p.m., the typical



The bonfire event, sponsored by Manchester Activities Council (MAC), is the first activity each Homecoming. Here, students roasted s'mores and hot dogs, gathering around the fire for warmth.

time for any MAC event, the bonfire was in full effect and people started flickering in. Students from all classes enjoyed the night by the fire.

This was the fourth time that Ethan Hines, a senior dou-

ble-majoring in educational studies and communication, attended the Homecoming bonfire. "It's basically a Manchester Homecoming tradition, so I feel like it's a great way to start the weekend off," he said.

Alexis Pendleton, a first-

year majoring in exercise science, attended the bonfire for the first time Friday and she was not disappointed. "I actually had a lot of fun!" Pendleton said. "There were all sorts of snacks and drinks, the music was great, and I found that it

was a great time to talk to friends and meet some new people." Students appreciated that an easy-going activity was used to ring in the Homecoming weekend. "In general, the bonfire is just a nice time to relax and enjoy time with friends," Hines said. "This is probably my favorite part about it."

Pendleton also appreciated the atmosphere at the bonfire. "My favorite part of the bonfire was the fact that it gave me something fun, yet super laid-back to do on a Friday night" she said. Pendleton thought that a bonfire was the perfect activity to start off Homecoming weekend. "A bonfire is something that everyone is familiar with," she says. "In turn, it is something that will be able to bring people together. They can have a good time without anyone not wanting to go because they aren't sure what the environment will be like."

The fire started to die down by 9:30, but the embers that could be seen from an upper East Hall floor indicated that the event went on well past 10 p.m.

The conversation and laughs that could be heard over the music helped to prove that Friday night's bonfire was a raging success!



Photo by Sarah Shoemaker

Students gather around the bonfire to find warmth on the chilly, autumn evening to kick off Homecoming weekend.



Photo courtesy of MU Marketing Department

Students roast hot dogs on the little fires on the intramural softball fields.

## Sophomore Gives Advice to First-Years in School Survival Guide

### OPINION

**Evan Harris**  
Staff Writer

Transitioning from high school to college can be smooth for a good portion of first-years, rough for some, or downright traumatic for others: getting up early for 8 or 9 a.m. classes; sitting through one, two, or even five lectures a day; worriedly listening to professors explain upcoming exams; taking diligent notes; making presentations and even . . . writing three-to-five-page essays over philosophical thoughts or over a lengthy Shakespeare comedy that is due first thing in the morning.

You're probably shaking in your \$200 Nikes just reading the previous sentences.

To everyone who is excited to come to college and believes it is easy, it never too late to rethink those thoughts. For the brave souls who want to survive at Manchester without graying prematurely or ripping out hair, professors and upperclassmen are here to hand you a floatie, so you don't drown in a sea of stress.

Pay close attention to these tips, and don't dare say you were never warned.

1. Staying up until 2 or 3 in the morning or chugging energy drinks to pull all-nighters the night before a test or major assignment to finish it is just completely unreasonable. "I always tell my students they cannot afford to wait until the

last minute to do assignments or study," says Eva Sagan, instructor of mathematics.

Procrastination gets you nowhere, and pulling all-nighters is not the solution. That just makes things worse if you crash and happen to miss that deadline. A solution: at least do the assignment a little bit at a time about a few days before the deadline, and avoid looking like something out of "The Walking Dead" in the morning.

2. If you are currently struggling with a class, and don't think you need help, swallow that teaspoon of pride you have like cough syrup, and drag yourself to study tables, seek help from your professor or get a tutor. This is a major problem among first-years whose grades are hanging on by a thread.

"Always check out study tables before you give up on a class," said sophomore Kelleen Cullison. "They have them for a reason, and tutors have to be there, so you might as well utilize it."

3. Stay out of trouble and choose your friends wisely! This point cannot be stressed enough. There are too many people every year that find themselves at the hands of friends who will use others for their personal convenience. Don't be a fool; you have an intuition for a reason: use it! Some people bring the immature, drama-starting high school mentality along for the ride. . . . beware of those people, you'll thank yourself later.



Photo courtesy of MU Marketing Department

Although college can be hard in the beginning, it is important for first-years to stay on track by following their own personal survival guide.

4. GO TO CLASS! This is in all caps for a reason! There are too many people who either simply choose not to show up, or think the class is too difficult or mentally draining and vanish into thin air. Those skipping class constantly are also the same ones complaining that they're failing classes and are forced to drop out.

"Please keep the skip days to a minimum," said sophomore Cheyenne Heath. "But also allow yourself to take mental

health days and take good care of yourself, and don't fall behind."

As Heath said, taking mental health days is a great way to gather your thoughts and relax your mind. If a class is too difficult, talk with your advisor about your options, and if you decide to just simply skip class for no legitimate reason, you should not have signed up for the class in the first place.

5. Make some friends, but, referring to the third point, beware of the company you keep.

Friends are necessary, especially if you're over three hours from home. Being anti-social and shut away in your dorm room will solve nothing, and will make your experience miserable.

Now is the time to take your first year slow, because you'll be in another cap and gown before you know it. Enjoy the time you have now as first years, but use this advice as a guide, and you won't end up like the many who wish they had a warning.

## Manchester University Invites Local Children to MU Monster Mash

**Press Release**  
Manchester University

NORTH MANCHESTER, Ind. – The Manchester University Monster Mash is 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26:

East Hall is having trick or treating along with its traditional Wing Wars, with each wing in a friendly competition to see which can best carry out its theme.

Attendees can experience Haunted Garver Hall.

Residents of East Street Apartments will have Halloween activities.

Oakwood Hall: Residence hall councils will put on activities, including a photo booth. There will be candy and treats.

This event is sponsored by the Manchester University Residence Hall Association.

**Manchester University**  
Press Release

– NORTH MANCHESTER, Ind. – Manchester University invites the community to its performance of "A Doll's House" by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Frank McGuinness.

It is 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10-11 and 2 p.m. Nov. 12 in Wampler Auditorium, 604 E. College Ave., North Manchester.

General admission is \$10, and \$7 for students and senior citizens. It is free for MU students.

On the surface, Nora Helmer seems to have a perfect life: beautiful children, a successful husband, a bright future. When

threatened by a secret from her past, it becomes brutally clear she must leave the family home.

Directed by Kira Lace Hawkins; assistant director is Madeline Dazey; stage manager is Hannah Bellamy; and assistant stage manager/props are Christian Collins and Emma Ayers.

Cast:  
Nora Helmer – Kenzie Hare  
Torvald Helmer – Clayton Marcum  
Kristine Linde – Tiffany Phinezy  
Dr. Rank – Ryan DeMars  
Helene – MacKenzie Weadick  
Anne-Marie – Haley Neilson  
Nils Krogstad – Gus Sparks  
Messenger – Alvaro Castillo



Photo provided

## Fort Wayne Ballet Brings Magic to North Manchester Campus

**Manchester University**  
Press Release

NORTH MANCHESTER, Ind. –The Fort Wayne Ballet has designed a program for Manchester University with modern, innovative works, as well as treasured classics in the world of ballet.

"Fort Wayne Ballet: Traditions, Tributes & Tambourines" is 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26 in Cordier Auditorium at the North Manchester campus. The performance is free and open to the public.

This full plate of dance magic includes:

Confetti – A high-energy dance piece by the brilliant master of dance Gerald Arpino. It is a

celebration of the precision and athletic skill of a trained dancer.

Lacrymosa – A searing and poignant masterwork choreographed by ballet legend Edward Stierle, set to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's epic Requiem. Passionate, moving and impactful.

Selections from The Nutcracker – Highlights from one of the ballet world's most treasured classics and a modern audience holiday favorite, graced by the brilliance of Tchaikovsky.

The performance is part of the Values, Ideas and the Arts series at the University, which enhances the Manchester Core program in the liberal arts through cultural exposure, artistic experience and intellectual enrichment.

For more information about the performance, contact:



Photo provided

Gregory Stieber  
Director of Outreach & Production  
Fort Wayne Ballet  
260-484-9646 .ext. 2301

## Alums Celebrate Homecoming Weekend; Reflect, Admire Changes at Manchester

**Avis McGovern**  
Staff Writer

Manchester Alumni enjoyed a day full of Homecoming activities on campus last Saturday, October 14, 2017.

While students admired the cosmetic sprucing up that the campus had undergone to prepare for its visitors, many alumni checked out the transformations that have occurred at MU since their time on campus.

Joel Eichenauer, a 1991

elementary education major, noted: "A lot of things have changed at MU, including the name."

He particularly recognized the domestic changes. "Some of the biggest differences include phones and computers," he said. "We used to have a single phone for each wing in the dorm. During my four years, there was a very exciting expansion to including phones in each room. That was a big luxury. And now to think those aren't even necessary."

Eichenauer also reflected on the accessibility of computers

when he was a student here. He remembered having to wait in line and go late at night to write a paper when all the computers were located in one building. Students now have access to their personal computers, or computer rooms located in their dorms halls.

Homecoming was not only about the football game for alumni. Many attendees were able to reconnect with former classmates and professors. Dr. Lori Zimmerman, an alumna who

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# Oak Leaves

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**ALUM, FROM PAGE 2**

majored in biology and chemistry with a minor in psychology, said: “Homecoming is always a great time to see people. Since my dad was a professor and I grew up around the campus, I have many former babysitters and students of my dad’s that I get to reconnect with. Former students often like to tell me stories about when my dad would bring me to his child psychology class.”

Zimmerman continued her memories with people on the campus recalling times with her peers. “My favorite memories were hanging out with my girl friends late at night playing cards and eating junk food in Oakwood”

she said. “Oakwood was a very old dorm and had lounges in each corner of the building. They made for great hang out areas to congregate in.”

Zimmerman also added that she enjoyed two January Sessions off campus. “The medical practicum in Costa Rica and another class in Hawaii helped me decide my eventual career,” said the doctor of osteopathy.

Although many things at MU have changed since Eichenauer and Zimmerman were students, Manchester will always be the place where they met. The couple eventually married, and delivered two current students to MU—Connor and Carly—to carry on the family tradition.



Photo provided

“Wrangler.” From Jul. 3 to Oct. 16 Manchester University’s Link Gallery has presented Diane Tesler’s artwork collection “Passages.” Tesler studied at Antioch College, but claims that her life didn’t begin until she started painting in Hawaii in the 1970s. The landscape inspired her to try painting. “Overcoming an initial hesitation, I went out into one of the junkyards with a sketchbook. What I found there has remained a constant in my work ever since: the power of light to reveal form and the beauty of the discarded,” stated Tesler in a brochure for Manchester University.

## HIRING:

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PAID POSITION: \$5 per photo published

Please contact [oakleaves@manchester.edu](mailto:oakleaves@manchester.edu) for more information.



Photo provided

“Funnel Cake and Elephant Ears.” In 1973, Tesler moved to Virginia to join the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, where she is currently a painting instructor at Art League School.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

-MU Community Night at the Fort Wayne Komets

-United Sexualities Prom: Oct. 21, 9 p.m. in Wampler

-“Kingian Nonviolence” VIA, Oct. 24, 3:30 p.m. in Cordier

-Women’s Volleyball: Bluffton at Manchester, 7 p.m.

-Spartan CHOICES Costume Dodgeball Oct. 27, 8:30 p.m. in the PERC



Photo provided

“Suns.” Life brought Tesler to northern Indiana in 1986 on a painting trip, and she later purchased a home in Kewanna, Ind. in 1991 to use as a studio. She officially moved residences to Indiana in 2012 and is continuing her painting career.



# Oak Leaves



## SPARTAN SPORTS

### Homecoming Football Game Attracts Students, Alumni; Raises Money for Hurricane Relief

**Lexy Underhill**  
Staff Writer

It was a jam-packed Homecoming crowd this weekend, Saturday, October 14, as the football team competed with a larger crowd than usual. Many alumni and current students gathered in the stands to cheer on the Spartans at the Carl W. Burt Memorial Field as they took on Rose-Hulman for Homecoming 2017.

Head Coach Nathan Jensen had a great outlook before the game. "Hopefully, we will get a victory," he said. "Manchester football is hoping for a win this year, since taking a tough loss last year." This was not the case, however, as Manchester took a tough loss of 44-13.

Manchester scored their first touchdown in the second quarter of the game while Rose-Hulman took the lead from the start, making the score 30-6. "I think we could have executed

much better," said first-year player Brian Sabido.

Support from the MU softball team was also in house. The girls helped with concession stands as well as being ball keepers on the sidelines. "I enjoyed helping out on campus and being able to be a part of the activities during Homecoming," said first-year Alexis Pendleton.

Despite the tough loss, many other special events took place on and off Burt Field. During halftime, the M Association Class of 2017 Hall of Fame inductees and Claude Wolfe, Coach of the Year, were recognized.

MU elementary education seniors partnered with Anne Clark's sixth graders at Manchester Intermediate School to raise money for the families that were affected by Hurricane Harvey and Irma. The school has raised nearly \$4,000 and the MU community gave back and raised nearly \$842 for the hurricane relief cause.

The football team's loss didn't stop the other Homecoming



Photo courtesy of MU Athletics

MU defense stops the ball with a tackle. The Spartans lost the Homecoming game to Rose-Hulman 44-13.

activities from going on. "Homecoming was a great experience, even though we lost, this weekend

it was still a great time to hang out and be with friends," said first-year Alex Whittig.

The team will play Bluffton University on Burt Field Saturday, October 21, at 1:30 p.m.



Photo by Sarah Shoemaker

Mascot Manny peeps the crowd at the Homecoming game last Saturday.



Photo courtesy of MU Athletics

The players focus on their opponents' next move.



Photo courtesy of MU Athletics

Senior Jana Thibos leads the cheer squad and the fans in chants during the football game.



Photo courtesy of MU Athletics

The Manchester swim and dive team competes in its first meet on Sat., October 21.

### Swim Team Prepares for First Invitational

**Kaity Collins**  
Staff Writer

The swim team is waiting to show the competition their Spartan Spirit in the upcoming season. "There's a lot of talent and energy on the team this year and I'm excited to see the results from the hard work everyone puts in," said senior Emily Clark.

Even if the competitive season hasn't quite started yet, the swim team had an alumni meet Saturday, October 14. "It's an exciting meet," said Head Coach Mark Kroll.

Clark was pleased with the results. "The team did awesome," Clark said. "I saw some really good effort and times."

The Manchester swim team is scheduled to have their first competition at the 1 p.m. Purdue Invitational on Saturday, October 21, and the swimmers are enthusiastic to begin competing. "Training has been going really well," Clark said. "You can already see improvement in the test sets we do each week and I'm excited to see how we all compete here soon."

The team has had four weeks of practice and is eager to kick-off the season in high spirits. "Our energy is high and we are all very supportive of each other," Clark said.

Kroll agrees. "Three weeks of practice," he said. "And the training is going well."

With many invitationals and meets in the future, as well as the championships in Feb. 2018, the team is proud of their teamwork and ready to give it their all. "I think the team is doing fantastic," Clark said. "We all have been working super hard and getting great results."

Kroll added: "We're excited for the season and looking forward to seeing how everyone does."

The swimmers are fond of their team and hope to make sure this season is filled with exciting competition and opportunities to improve. "It's amazing watching the program grow from my first year here to now," Clark said. "It's a bittersweet feeling knowing this is my last year competing, but I have an amazing team to finish with."



Photo courtesy of MU Athletics

Sophomore offensive lineman Tyler Gilles and senior defensive back Mitch Oskam tackle the Rose Hulman elephants.