

The Oak Leaves

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Intl. Buffet Dishes up Appetite for Food and Learning

Katie Majka
Staff Writer

Manchester College has been known for its celebrations of different cultures and diversity on the campus itself, a characteristic that is in one way emphasized every two years during the International Buffet. This event allows students to discover dining habits that may have been unbeknownst to them before, as international students prepare native dishes to familiarize their peers with different cultures.

Whitnee Hidalgo addressed the importance of such an experience. "This is important for MC to acknowledge and represent the national and cultural diversity they have right on campus." Emilee King agreed. "I do think that it is important for MC to host the International Buffet," she said. "It gives students a chance to demonstrate their cultures through the medium of food, which is something that everyone can relate to."

Some of the cultures that were represented this year were Ghana, Mexico, Palestine, Nigeria, Japan and Kenya, among others. Because so many cultures are implemented in the event and the food takes so much preparation, students were at work preparing their meals from Friday until Sun-

day when the buffet took place. The two-day prep period did, however, yield exceptionally good results.

"It was really interesting," Kaity Clark said. "I've been to the International Festival before, but this was my first time at the buffet. It was definitely overwhelming, but that's mostly because of the crowd, which is a good sign of how much people like it. Overall I really enjoyed it."

King was impressed. "It definitely exceeded my expectations," she said. "I was not expecting decorations or so much food. I thought it was great. I had fun seeing where all the food was from and then trying to remember what I was eating."

It wasn't just the first-time buffet attendees who appreciated the experience, however. Juniors Nikki Glassley and Emily Katona were also pleased with the buffet's outcome. Although they noted that the selection seemed to be less ample than it had been during their freshman year, they were nonetheless ecstatic about the return of the event.

Katona entered the Union with excitement over the prospect of partaking in a vastly different dining experience than the usual menu. She indicated one station and said; "What is that?"

Glassley happily replied; "I don't know, but I'm going to eat it."

Whatever questions surrounded the sometimes unknown contents of the food, they didn't stop the two from eating their way through the stations.

"I don't know what I just bit into," said Glassley, chewing contemplatively on one dish, "but it was an explosion of flavor."

But the International Buffet had even more to offer; many students took part in demonstrations of cultural dances, music, and other entertainment during the two-hour meal.

"The performances were a nice touch," King said. "Dinner and a show is always fun."

Although the International Buffet only comes around every two years, the students find it to be a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. Manchester accomplishes its goal of both promoting and celebrating diversity in its midst as it opens doors to new dining experiences, which help to lead to more knowledge about cultures outside of our own.

"I would recommend it," King said. "There is a ton – and I mean a ton – of delicious food and it's just fun to try food that I've never even heard of before."



PHO FOR YOU Junior Ha Vu from Vietnam dishes out her homemade Pho, a Vietnamese soup dish, for an intrigued diner. The buffet consisted of other cultural meals from a variety of countries, including Ghana, Mexico, Japan and Palestine.

Photo by Derek Wells

'Concert in Cordier' Rocks Peace Week Participants

Shelby Covington
Staff Writer

Manchester's annual Concert on the Mall highlighted the festivities of Peace Week last Saturday as members from both the campus and the community enjoyed the music of four live bands, embracing the week's theme "Express Yourself."

"Concert on the Mall is a really fun and great way to get people to come out," said Peace Studies Intern Samantha Carwile. "This year's theme 'Express Yourself' gives folks a chance to be open with who they are, and the concert provides a cool environment for that."

Saturday morning's rain clouds dampened the original outdoor plans, causing a relocation of the concert to Cordier Auditorium. Despite the gloomy weather, both band and audience members remained cheery as the concert kicked off with its first performance from a local folk group called Yurtfolk.

LuAnne Harley sang 10 songs while her husband, Brian Kruschwitz, strummed the guitar. The mellow beat of two Congo drums added to the duo's folksy sound. Making use of Cordier's lobby, Harley invited members of the audience to join in singing and dancing, teaching them five group dances to accompany the set list.

A Russian song

entitled "Sasha" called for partners to assemble on the dance floor and shout "Sasha!" three times while pointing at each other. Dancers then counted to three in Russian and performed a series of hand-claps together. Soon everyone in the group locked arms and pranced in a large circle, all shouting "Hey!" After the song finished, some sat back down with smiles across their faces while others continued to swing, sway and strut.

Harley emphasized how Yurtfolk spreads the idea of peace. "Folk dances from different traditions bring connection to the whole world," she said.

Before Yurtfolk's 45-minute set ended, the ukulele choir plucked a tune. The group consisted of children ranging in ages from seven to 13. Following their melodic number, Yurtfolk performed one final piece. As the song reached its last lines, all instruments backed off to create an air of voices lifting up the words, "We will work for peace."

The crowd made its way to the auditorium for a change of scenery and sounds. The Grooveside headed the second performance, providing its Manchester audience with funky beats and a relaxed atmosphere. Fans bobbed their heads to the jazzy rhythms as front man Kris Brownlee whaled out melodious notes from his shiny saxophone.

In between the



BELTING IT OUT Junior Daniel Myers-Bowman sings on stage during the concert with his band Jo and the Young Switzers. Other performers included a home-schooled group and a Manchester alumnus jazz musician.

Photo by Julia Largent

group's instrumental jams, Brownlee introduced the quartet, noting his connection with the college. "It's always fun to come back

to my Alma Mater, Manchester College," he said.

To switch up the sounds, Brownlee replaced his saxophone with an

electric guitar. "Guitar is one of my other passions," he said. After untucking his shirt to help fulfill the rock star role, Brownlee joked, "I'm like Jekyll and Hyde." He plucked only a couple of notes and said, "That's the extent of my guitar playing." The crowd chuckled, and Brownlee commenced to strumming a slow, smooth piece as the other instrumentalists lightly continued in the background.

A campus band cleverly named Jo and the Young Switzers followed the jazzy ensemble with a more rock-alternative vibe. Will Rhudy, Phil Keim, Nick Allison and Daniel Myers-Bowman entertained the audience with self-created songs sprinkled with the distortive effects of the wah pedal. "We spread the joy of music," Allison said.

In addition to their Peace Week performance, Jo and the Young Switzers previously played at Battle of the Bands and recently released a demo entitled "3/5 Flannel," priced at an affordable two dollars. "We're available for weddings, bar mitzvahs and presidential inaugurations," said Keim with a laugh.

The concert ended with a group of students from Bluffton University in Ohio called Anabaptists Bestiary Project. The students' religion professor, Trevor Bechtel, writes the songs and plays the accordion and keyboard

for the breezy ensemble. "We sing songs about how animals reveal God's will for humans," Bechtel said. "At best, our songs give listeners a way to find peace through nature." The seven-member group dressed in flannel performed songs themed around anything from elephants to rainbows. One song was inspired by Oscar the Cat, a furry feline that can predict deaths.

Another song included audience participation, and the crowd sang in chorus, "We need everyone." In addition to attending the four-set concert, visitors could also stop by several tables in the lobby to create arts and crafts, play corn hole, learn about the Death Row Support Project, gain information on local churches and support various campus clubs.

One main art project consisted of five canvases, each with a letter spelling out the word "peace." Each letter pictured a society figure who represents peace such as Gandhi and Ken Brown. Concert attendees were invited to contribute to the artwork by writing or painting whatever inspired them. Manchester Graduate Kate Brelje, who works in the art department, oversaw the project. "We wanted to do a mural because we wanted everyone to come together and contribute something that will have a lasting effect," she said.

Around Campus

Students Go Without Shoes for Awareness of Needy

Kelsey Barta
Staff Writer

The morning of April 5 wasn't the warmest day of the year, but that didn't stop sophomore Lisa Stojanovich from going barefoot for "One Day Without Shoes". "I decided to go a day without shoes because I think it's a unique way to bring awareness to an overlooked problem," Stojanovich said. "It's a wonderful opportunity to take some time and appreciate something like owning a pair of shoes."

Stojanovich wasn't alone at Manchester College and certainly wasn't alone in relation to the world. The day-long event was started by TOMS shoes, sporting the motto "go barefoot so others don't have to."

The founder of TOMS shoes, Blake Mycoskie, started the company after visiting Argentina in 2006 and found that children often had no shoes to wear. He then began "One for One": with every pair of shoes purchased from his company, a pair is given to a child in need.

As of September 2010, TOMS has given away over one million pairs of shoes.

To gain nationwide attention, TOMS "One Day Without Shoes" started. Four main facts surround the event. In many developing countries, children must walk barefoot for miles to school, clean water and medical help. Hundreds of millions of children

are at risk of injury, infection and soil-transmitted diseases that most can't afford to prevent and treat. Children who are healthy are at more likely to be successful students and access to education is critical determinant of long-term success. A village of healthy, educated children has a better chance of improving the future of their entire community.

"Debilitating foot infections are affecting people's lives and it does not require a Nobel Prize-type discovery to heal this aching problem," said Stephen Hendricks, who also chose to not wear shoes. "Awareness is a constructive outlet to gain knowledge."

In the 2010 event, over 250,000 people went barefoot globally. Hendricks said he and friends estimated over 50 people went sans shoes at Manchester this year, if only for an hour.

"When I first heard about the Day Without Shoes, I thought this was a good way to showcase how the products we buy can impact the lives of people we will never meet," Stojanovich said. She didn't mind the cold ground, the odd looks or even the bottom of her feet getting dirty.

"I think getting dirty feet and the ground being cold is part of it," said Stojanovich, who owns two pairs of TOMS. "Unlike children in underdeveloped countries, we can go inside a warm building and wash off our feet at the end of the day. It really puts ev-



SOUND OF THE DRUMS Senior Stephen Hendricks and sophomore Andrew Kurtz lead a walk around campus to raise awareness for "One Day Without Shoes." The event was spearheaded by seniors Bethany Clark, Hendricks and Kyle Carlson with assistance from fellow seniors Cambria Teter and Katy McFadden. It was based on the TOMS shoes model to gain national attention for children in developing countries who go without shoes every day.

Photo Courtesy of Bethany Clark

everything into perspective."

Derek Jones, who also nixed the shoes for a day, agrees with that point. "It's literally just one day without shoes, some people never go a day with shoes," he said. "If something as simple as not wearing shoes can raise awareness for those people, then I'm all for it."

Jones heard about the event only the day before and was surprised to find out it was an actual

event. "After hearing more about it, there was no turning back," he said. "I had to go a day without shoes." It's opened up his eyes and he is now more aware of all the possessions he has that he can go without.

Starting April 10, Jones is attempting to go an entire week without shoes. "The way I see it, why limit it to only one day without shoes," he said. "I know people will ask me where my shoes are and I'll

explain to them why I'm doing it. Hopefully it will raise even more awareness."

Jones says it's not only for the people without shoes, but for people in general that don't have the necessities that we take for granted. "Think about it for a second," he said. "Some people complain about not having air conditioning, or the newest car or even the best clothes, but we have three meals a day and shoes on

our feet. That's a lot more than some people can say."

Jones hopes that days like "One Day Without Shoes" and companies such as TOMS continue to grow and that others following in their footsteps.

"One Day Without Shoes is a yearly event. The date for next year has not been decided. To learn more about "One Day Without Shoes", visit <http://www.onedaywithoutshoes.com/>

Anxiety over Year's End Plagues Student Body

William Rhudy
Staff Writer

The final push to the end of the year is here. Final papers, portfolios, and exams are due in the coming weeks while musical performances, conference athletic matches and planning for the summer will increase the stress level of Manchester College's student body.

We often believe that stress is simply part of every-day college life, just another, although less advertised, facet of what higher education entails. But what is the best way to deal with these feelings of anxiety that we all feel? The Anxiety Disorders Association of America conducted a survey in 2008 of college students in the United States and found that 80 % of students feel some form of anxiety or stress on a daily basis. The survey also found that 34 % of students have felt depressed at some point in the previous three months, and 9 % had contemplated suicide. College is often advertised as the "best years of your life," but the reality today seems to be more goal-oriented.

Students work hard to develop a solid resume to ensure they can find employment once completing their degree, but sometimes their does not seem to be enough hours in the day and students sacrifice sleep for studying. A study conducted in 2007 by St. Lawrence University attempted to understand the connection between sleep and performance in college students, their findings: two-third of the interviewed students had pulled at least one all-nighter, most seeing it as just a part of the experience. The new-found freedom young students have is unlike any other time in their life, parents are not down the hall telling you when to sleep, when to eat, when to shower; however, far too often this simply allows students the abil-

ity to procrastinate their work to the very last hours before an assignment is due.

James McIntosh, a third-year English major, is not looking forward to the end of the semester's sleepless nights sitting in front of a computer screen. "I have a few big papers that I will probably procrastinate on," he said. "I will probably start them later than I should and that will stress me out, but hey, that's college."

Kaylee Hawley, a history major from Winchester, Indiana, has several large papers due in the coming weeks. "I have a really large research paper for

Women and Gender Issues in European History; it will definitely keep me up later than I would like," said Hawley with a smile. "My history exams will be brutal; I highly doubt I will get enough sleep."

Brock Kyle Jones, a senior environmental studies major, is looking

towards his post-graduate career with similar anxieties. "I am done with school in a little over a month, but now I need to find a job," Jones said. "I am not sure what is more stressful, looking towards the future or worrying about finishing my last semester."

Stress and anxiety may be integral parts of the collegiate experience, but there are ways to cope. Doctors and psychologists agree that positive thinking, coupled with regular exercise are two of the most helpful ways to manage stress. Time management and healthy eating are two small steps towards a less stressful life, but simply taking a break from strenuous activities can allow our bodies to recuperate on their own. With the warm weather approaching try spending some time outside, not just walking to class, but playing Frisbee with friends or doing homework on the quad or in the shade of your dorm. Most of all, don't wait till the night before your assignments are due to start them, the time crunch will add unnecessary stress to an already stressful time.



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Around Campus



Arabian Nights Dance



DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY Students dance in an Arab style at the Asian Awareness Association-sponsored Arabian Nights Dance. "This is one of the dances that I enjoyed the most!" said junior Ha Vu. "I learned a lot of cool moves and had so much fun!" The dance was part of the Asian Awareness Week, sponsored by the club.

Photo by Epi Sanchez

Ted and Co. Would Like to 'Buy an Enemy'

Carson McFadden
Staff Writer

Ted & Co. TheaterWorks visited the Manchester College campus on Thursday, April 7, for a VIA presentation of their satire, "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy." The play, a compilation of short skits, featured a joint performance from Ted Swartz, the founder of the company, and Tim Ruebke, the Executive Director at the Community Meditation Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The play was written by Swartz and Trent Wagler, another member of Ted & Co.

The show provided a humorous look at the role that fear plays in the lives of Americans as well as engaging snippets about working for peace and justice in the United States and also the world. Three of the show's segments took place in a hypothetical "Enemy Shoppe," a place where people could purchase enemies. According to Swartz's character, it's human nature to need an enemy.

The second portion including the "Enemy Shoppe" featured a customer who was slightly doubting his purchase. This character (portrayed by Ruebke) slowly progresses into the third "Enemy Shoppe" section, where he decides he no longer needs an enemy. The skits were full of references to some stereotypical enemies, highlighting

some historical and current social problems in America.

Apart from the namesake "Enemy Shoppe" skits, a portion called "Fear" was also featured. Ruebke strolled on stage and strummed on his ukulele while singing about some of the fears of our society. This hilarious take on fear was a crowd-favorite—and also an eye-opener.

Junior Joe Peters was one of many students in attendance. "I really liked the song about fear," Peters said. "It was the funniest part of the night and it also had a lot of good points."

Another popular piece involved Swartz dressed as a banana. Garbed in a full-body banana suit, Swartz spoke to Ruebke about the plight of the modern Cavendish banana, the variety that everyone knows as the typical, yellow banana.

"Floretta Tone," another skit in the show, took the form of an infomercial. Ruebke talked about a hypothetical product allowing users to change their words to sound less harmful and dangerous, referencing descriptions of wartime activities that are softened for the public.

Immediately following the show was a talk-back session where members of the audience were able to ask questions and discuss the show's inner workings. "Audiences like to know the nuts and bolts of what's happening," Swartz said. "It also gives us a

chance to talk directly—and theater is very indirect."

In the talk-back session, audience members were encouraged to ask questions about any aspect of the performance. Swartz was keen to impart the importance of discussion—especially with the show's subject matter. "It [the talk-back session] gives people a chance to challenge it," Swartz said. "Obviously, not everyone agrees, so it's important to let people share what they think."

Peters had only good things to say about the performance. "Since we all need VIAs to graduate, I feel like people always come in with a negative mindset—myself included," Peters said. "It's always kind of like, 'Let's just get this thing done.' But this seemed different. Everyone I looked at was engaged and listening and that was definitely cool."

Swartz had just as many compliments for the Manchester audience. "Performing at a school gives an opportunity of people wanting to learn something different," Swartz said. "They're always an inquisitive audience and there's always a diverse, interesting energy." For more information on Ted & Co. TheaterWorks, visit tedandcompany.com.



LAUGH AND LEARN Actors Ted Swartz and Tim Ruebke answer questions after their performance, Thursday, April 7, for VIA. The performance made a social commentary on events and thoughts of modern society to help bring them to the attention of the people in the audience.

Photo by Joseph Stuart

Around Campus

FSU Flash Mob Educates, Draws Silence



FOR THE WOMEN Female students and faculty hold up numbered signs during the 40-second flash mob at dinner, Wednesday, April 13. The 78 numbered signs signified the number of women affected by sexual assault every hour. The mob began and ended with a blast of a whistle, when all with a number dropped what they were doing and held their number high, a solemn look on their face. During the mob, conversation and eating stopped, prompting those not participating to look up and search for the signs that explained the statistics. "It was invigorating to get that much attention," said one of the coordinators, sophomore Rose Johnson. "The silence during the mob was deafening."

Photo by Erin Cole

Kraner, Collar, Cole Awarded at Symposium

Mary Kohrman
Staff Writer

The 13th annual Student Research Symposium at Manchester College took place Friday, April 8. With nine sessions composed of over 30 student presentations, students and their mentors were able to showcase their projects in various subject matters. Symposium winners were Amy Kraner, Natalie Collar and Erin Cole. Glenn R. Sharfman, Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs, sponsored the symposium and felt it was a great success. "The event was terrific," Sharfman said. "Students presented a wide variety of research topics and many of them were at a graduate level. It is inspiring to see how many students were excited about their topics and the skill in which they presented complex material."

For some students, the symposium is a built-in part of their class

curriculum. For Amy Kraner, her participation in the symposium was built into her psychology advanced research class. "My presentation was on relationships between perfectionism, the belief in a just world, and preferences in the distribution of scarce resources," Kraner said. "The presentation went very well, and I had some good questions from the audience afterwards."

Other students, like Natalie Collar, participated in the symposium as a preliminary requirement for the Honor's Thesis program at MC. Her experience was a positive one and she felt participation would be beneficial to her long run. "I think it is a great way for students to share their enthusiasm for their field, and it is a great event for audience members as well," Collar said. "I just wish that, as a presenter, I had an opportunity to see the presentations of my fellow students."

The symposium

entails many benefits for the participants. It allows a window into graduate level presentations, working alongside a professional mentor and allows a chance to overcome fears of public speaking. "I was nervous, because public speaking isn't something that comes easily for me, but I did well," Kraner said. "The more chances I have to speak in front of people, the easier it seems to get."

With so many benefits built into the symposium, it is without question why it has been a powerful, annual event on campus. However, even with strong faculty and community support, some presenters critiqued various aspects of how the symposium was set up regarding accessibility for audiences to attend many of the presentations. "It was difficult for people to get to very many presentations because there were only three time slots," Kraner said. "It might be a better idea to have it set up so that fewer people are

presenting at one time. Our audience was pretty small."

One of the most powerful benefits to participation in the event is the direct mentoring by a professor in the field of focus. The mentors not only advise students upon subject matter, but assist in revisions of the research paper and how to eloquently and professionally present professional ideas.

"With their support and professionalism, my mentors have taught me what it means to present my own research," Collar said. "My goal was to write an interesting paper that challenges readers' ways of thinking, while keeping their interest. After edits upon edits, we shaped the paper into something better than I imagined. Without my mentors, I didn't stand a chance reaching these goals."

The goal of this mentor interaction is to professionally learn to isolate and channel ideas into a professional paper and presentation. First-

year Catherine Lange was able to grow personally and professionally thanks to her work with Professor Beate Gilliar. "My mentor helped me to focus my thoughts," Lange said. "I began to build my project with a flurry of ideas about feminism, heteronormative values, symbolism, and even historicism. My mentor helped me in every step of the process, which led to a successful presentation today: that, in itself, was the ultimate goal."

It was not only the student presenters who gained new insight from the symposium. Audience members and student introducers were able to gain insight into an array of subjects and topics far outside their majors, which at a liberal arts college, is a growing experience it and of itself.

Sophomore Matt Helm, one of the student introducers, was surprised at the interest he found in the presentations he attended. "It went really well, there

was some really interesting stuff," Helm said. "I think my favorite one was the mathematics presentation." As a science major, Helm felt it was a great experience to get a taste of what those in other majors were working on, including French history, Spanish translation and mathematics.

The Student Research Symposium remains very important to Dean Sharfman and the rest of the Manchester College faculty. "The faculty believe that students who engage in research and have the opportunity to showcase their results are significantly ahead of those who do not have the chance," Sharfman said. "I was very proud of our students and deeply appreciative of the faculty who mentored them."

Around Campus

Students Prepare to Register for 2011-2012

Lynette Griffin
Staff Writer

With the end of the school year quickly creeping up on everyone, and the stress of finals and projects, why not add the stress of registering for next year to the list? While many students feel this way, faculty and staff have other emotions towards this time of the year.

Professor Stacy Erickson, in the English department, suggests to all students: "Just breathe and it will all be okay!"

Putting together your schedule and filling out additional forms seems exhausting. However, there are ways to avoid this added stress.

Registrar Lila Hammer recommends that students follow all of the instructions and not to procrastinate.

Upperclassmen have to file their Election of Major or Intent to Graduate forms, and are required to have their advisors' signatures. Therefore, setting up these advising meetings early will allow for them to get their paperwork done on time.

Registering online has become the number-one way to register. It not only makes the process go faster, but also allows for students to see what classes are full and makes sure they have the correct labs with the matching classes.

Manchester College is one of very few colleges who register for a whole year all at once. Registering for fall, spring and January sessions are easier to do all at one time, online, rather than

doing it in person, and having to stand in lines.

This also allows students to plan ahead, and to track their progress. Their choices can change throughout the year or years. But, once you have locked into a major, you automatically have set classes.

For first-years, they have yet to declare a major, and still have room for choices. "I feel in charge, in power, and can make my own choices," says Elizabeth Stull, history education major.

Being in charge of your choices also brings that question of: what if I take the wrong class, or forget to take a class that I need in order to take the next level? Stull also found herself wondering about these questions.

"It [registration] is not as scary as it sounds because people are still there to answer my questions," says Sarah Ruff, first-year accounting major. "It's nice to have friends going through this same experience and an advisor who listens and understands what I'm saying."

There are a number of reasons that the process of registering can become frustrating.

1. Full classes
2. Error messages
3. Too many/ not enough credit hours
4. Class classifications (meaning it's not your turn to register)
5. Balance through Student Financial Services

There are some majors that tend to be less stressful than others "I



DECISIONS, DECISIONS A student surveys the fall, January session, and spring semester schedules posted outside the Registrar's office. Seniors and juniors can begin online registration today at 12 p.m., with sophomores registering April 18 at 12 p.m. and first-years on April 20 at 12 p.m.

Photo by Epi Sanchez

don't really have to worry about scheduling because I already have a set schedule; with a double major, there isn't room for choices," says Brooke Waddups, a sophomore Athletic Training and Exercise and Sport Science double major.

Some majors require more hours to be completed for graduation than what other majors do. The education department is also limited to what choices they may have because students have to student teach before graduation. This takes away a semester of on-campus classes.

Registration should not be a stressful time of year for students, especially because advisors and faculty are there to help students. "We're here for the students' best interest," Hammer said.

Professors look forward to advising meetings for various reasons. "I really like meeting with all of my advisees— some semesters I don't have them in class, so I like catching up and seeing how things are going," Erickson said.

"I enjoy seeing the please the juniors exhibit in developing their final sched-

ules that will allow them to graduate," writes Professor Tim Ogden in an email.

Another aspect of registration is the process professors and their departments go through in order to put together next year's schedule.

Professors send their schedules to the department chairs, and then they try to put together a schedule. This is a lengthy process because many classes have conflicts within their own department.

There are a number of different majors in each department, and therefore,

department chairs try to set up a schedule that will have the fewest number of conflicts. Many people review the draft before the final submission to the registrar. Once Hammer receives the schedules, she puts them together in a spreadsheet.

Department chairs and advisors try to do what's best for the students. "I personally pick times I like and students like," Erickson said. "Even though I'm a morning person, I know most students aren't, so I reach at 10 a.m., which works for all of us."

Smolinski Brings Mullet back to Manchester

Chaz Bellman
Staff Writer

Senior John Smolinski has a hair-raising (and -lowering) plan: he is carefully cultivating a mullet. "Everyone has heard the saying 'Bringing sexy back'; well, that's what I'm doing," he says, as he thinks about his light-brown mane that sweeps from a short buzz cut in the front to a strikingly longer length that rolls down his neck like thunder in the night sky. Smolinski is singled-headedly returning the favorite haircut of the nineties to Manchester College.

Few and far between have had the courage to display the famed hair style of the sweatsuit-and-parachute-pant days, however, with some encouragement from family and friends, and a recent trip to the barber, Smolinski can add his name to the famed group of 21st-century men to show off a "Mississippi Mud Flap."

Sluggish for the baseball team, Smolinski originally got the idea to bring back the infamous hairstyle this past summer when his brother and a friend thought it would be funny for him to grow his hair. The jury remained out on the idea for several months, but then signed the petition for a mullet when Smolinski saw Colorado Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowitzki sport the same hair style last year

in the big leagues. Tulowitzki's season-long mullet helped raise money for a Denver "Win for Kids" campaign, not to mention the stellar season he had, and these two aspects helped solidify Smolinski's hairdo decision.

"Although Tulowitzki looked ridiculous, he did it for a good cause," Smolinski says. "Now I can't say that about my mullet, but I think it still serves a purpose." That purpose is to keep his baseball teammates loose, smiling and having a good time. "The team can just relax and have fun with it," he says.

Tulowitzki's is not the only sports media mullet Smolinski has admired. "Men like ESPN announcer and former Philadelphia baseball hero John Kruk and hockey player Patrick Kane come to mind," Smolinski says. These men inspire Smolinski to keep his "Tennessee Top Hat" well groomed.

Smolinski's mop has even begun to develop its own personality and was nicknamed "The Smollet" by Sports Information Director Doug Shoemaker, when working with Smolinski one day. The nickname has stuck and the dynamic do has received positive reactions throughout the Manchester campus.

Smolinski noted the compliments he has received around campus and that the student body has taken to it quite well.

Respects such as "It's glorious," "American made," and "Beautiful," are just a few Smolinski has heard from his male peers while strolling around, though nobody will go on record regarding these comments.

Men are not the only ones who have paid their respects to the dazzling drape Smolinski carries; ladies have been quick to compliment too. Noticing the smooth flow and transition from short to long, women have been known to give Smolinski the occasional cat call, or so Smolinski says. "I think they are just jealous," he says.

The hair hysteria has made its way out of the classroom and off campus and found its way onto the playing field. Since sporting the mullet Smolinski and the rest of the baseball team have been off to a hot start with a record of 15-7 overall with only one loss in conference play. "If we keep winning like this I don't think the mullet will be going anytime soon, maybe not until graduation," says a cheery Smolinski. "Even the opposing team usually likes it."

With business in the front and a party going on in the back Smolinski has jumped out to a hot start in his senior baseball campaign. In 22 games as catcher and designated hitter, Smolinski has accomplished a .295 batting average with seven doubles and 23 runs batted in.



BUSINESS UP FRONT, PARTY IN THE BACK Senior John Smolinski shows off his new hairstyle, a mullet nicknamed "The Smollet." So far this season, he has a .295 batting average with seven doubles and 23 RBIs.

Photo provided

With all the hoopla and attention surrounding his hair Smolinski still "feels like the same guy." Although he may look completely different than the Manchester base is used to, Smolinski

remains humble and carries a smile and the simple words of "God Bless" that so many around campus have become accustomed to hearing from him. To see more pic-

tures of Smolinski's "Kentucky Waterfall" readers can join the Manchester College Baseball page on Facebook and behold this special style for themselves.



Spartan Sports

Track Focuses on Year-end Goals, Team Unity

Kelsey Collins
Staff Writer

April is bringing its showers, and May is just around the corner, which makes for great track and field weather. Outdoor practices for the team started about two weeks ago. Practicing outside has seemed to make the team practice harder, since meets are nearing. "I am excited about this upcoming outdoor season," says Molly Wright.

To start the season the team has only had one full team meet, against DePauw University. "The team competed very well considering the weather conditions," said Coach Cashdollar. Since the meet the team has become stronger and has been working harder during practices.

While getting back into the habit of running, the team had a rough start. They had a bad off season, but now that has changed and everyone is giving a 110 per cent effort during drills. "We now treat practice like work, we come sign in and dedicate ourselves to the team for three hours and then sign out," said teammate Matt Mest.

This mindset for the team seems to be working. Mest also said there have been some spectacular performances already

this year. The team also has made a list of goals, which they have hanging up in auxiliary gym. "I would add that if the teams keep up this level of work and stay focused they will have a very successful season," Coach Cashdollar said. Mest said: "We are still hungry." Although he is referencing a winning attitude, food does play a role in training. Some of the teammates are eating healthier to help them when competing. "I have been training harder since the outdoor season started and I have been eating healthier as well," says Jordan Collins.

The team as a whole seems to have become more united. Fellow teammates cheer on each other during a race and have the feeling that they have become a closer team. This closeness they exhibit has made them more united as a team, which benefits during meets. With this united nature, the teammates know the others have their back and are always there for support. One thing that helps the team become closer is the Spartan Award, which is given away every Monday by the previous winner. The Spartan Award is given to the team member who has had a good meet or has stood out for good work.



READY, SET, RUN Members of the track team prepare for a run during practice on April 13. On April 9, the men's team placed 10th and the women's team placed 14th at the 2011 Indiana Intercollegiate Meet. Senior Andy Williams placed third in the 5000 meter run with first-year Chris LaFree in fourth. Junior Eric Moreland, sophomore Zeth Baker, junior Matt Layman, and first-year Adam Creighbaum also placed for the men's team. On the women's team, enior Jessi Bremer placed third in the 800 meter dash. Junior Casey Loshe and seniors Katharine Pea and Emily Ballinger also placed. The Spartans will host the Manchester Invitational tomorrow at 11 a.m.

Photo by Kristen Wilhite

Baseball Team Makes Run for Championship

Amanda Hoff
Staff Writer

The smell of a championship is once again wafting over Manchester College as the baseball team adds more wins to their record. After the game against Defiance on Tuesday, April 12, that record now stands at 9-2. "We've got veteran players that have made it to the conference tournament and are dying to get back," said Assistant Coach Dan Sprunger. The team will certainly be in good company if they make it, considering Manchester College has already sent the men's basketball team and the women's and men's cross country runners to NCAA tournaments this year.

When a team is doing so well, everyone wants to know how. What has made this year go so well? What are the players doing? What this team seems to have figured out is if they wanted to see results, it was important to stay focused on the goal not only during games and practice but also during down time. "We've got good seniors that have worked really hard in the off season," Sprunger

said. Their hard work has reflected on the score board.

However, just because the team is doing well does not mean that they do not have concerns. With any competitive game comes anticipation and worry. Tomorrow, Saturday, April 16, the baseball team will take on Earlham College at a home game at 12 p.m. and again Sunday at 1 p.m. Unlike other games, these will present the team with a unique situation. Earlham has not been in the conference recently and Manchester has not played them since around 1998. Going up against a near unknown may have the players and coaches biting their nails.

The baseball team also faces an interesting situation every time they take on the Franklin team. "We have players from there that have coached here and players from here that have coached there," Sprunger said. They play Franklin on April 22 and 23, both home games. Because of this player/coach swapping, the team has to worry about what the previous players, now coaches, remember about the current players. Playing ball is a little different when the opposing team had an inside man that

had played for the Manchester team. While the Manchester team has developed a rivalry against Anderson for no clear reason, the Franklin baseball team has earned the spot.

As anyone will say, a good attitude is a must in any competitive sport. No one likes a sore loser or a haughty winner. The men on the baseball team "play even," Sprunger said, and while rivalries thrive between colleges, the guys are first and foremost a team. "If we play right and play good, good things will happen," Sprunger said. That seems to be just what is happening if the team's top in conference standing is any indication. If their hard work, dedication, and desire to win continues the baseball team may well be next in the line of champions at Manchester College this year.

This week in Spartan Sports...

Track

Sat. April 16	Spartan Classic	11 a.m.
Thurs. April 21	Spartan Quad	TBA

Baseball

Sat. April 16	Earlham	12 p.m.
Sun. April 17	Earlham	1 p.m.
Tues. April 19	Anderson	4:15 p.m.
Fri. April 22	Franklin	4:15 p.m.

Softball

Sat. April 16	Rose-Hulman	1 p.m.
Wed. April 20	@Defiance	3 p.m.

Tennis

Sat. April 16	@Hanover	9 a.m.
	w/Franklin	12 p.m.
Wed. April 20	St. Francis	4:30 p.m.
	@Homestead HS	

March Athletic Training Student of the Month



Kyle Whonsetler

Hometown: LaOtto, IN

Future Plans: Become a certified Athletic trainer next spring

Activities: First-Year Graduate Student, MCATC