



The Oak Leaves



Manchester College Issue I - September 14, 2012

Campus Mall Expected to Re-Open in May



Kyle Lahman
Staff Writer

Those clamoring for a pick-up game of ultimate or a sunny Mall study session will have to wait until mid-May. After undergoing landscaping treatment this summer, the Mall is expected to be closed until graduation.

According to Jack Gochenaur, a main organizer of the Mall project and Manchester's vice president for Financial Affairs, the grass on the north end needed to be replaced after construction on the new Academic Center. To create a consistent look, the university also elected to replant the grass on the south end of the Mall. Local business Scott's Landscape Services is in charge of the project and will ultimately determine when normal Mall activity can resume.

Many students have wondered why they cannot set foot on the Mall; after all, the grass already looks thick and green. According to Gochenaur, the grass that currently covers the Mall is a perennial rye grass. This special rye grass was planted as a cover to protect the finer bluegrass that is blossoming underneath. "Eventually, that bluegrass will choke out the perennial rye, and that's what really gives you a beautiful lawn," Gochen-

aur said.

Once the bluegrass is fully grown, Gochenaur expects it to be an improvement over the old lawn. While the old grass repeatedly got patchy under the demands of campus life, the bluegrass is expected to be more durable and capable of sustaining student walking and campus activities. The consistent, bold look offered by the bluegrass will also be visually appealing. "The Mall creates a first impression with visitors," Gochenaur said. "It is an internal, spectacular feature that will be a focus of activity."

Students' reactions to the roped-off Mall have been mixed. "To see the lawn not occupied on a day-to-day basis is almost painful," said first-year Ryan Hawkins. "I feel confined to my room and the library to study. It would be a really nice change of pace to be able sit out on the lawn to study, read, and just enjoy campus life in general."

Sophomore Phil Truitt had a different perspective. "Not having shortcuts creates longer walks and bigger crowds on the sidewalks," he said. "The Mall being closed affects my routes to classes and the Union because I'm one to take shortcuts."

Students complaining about the roped-

off Mall should know that they are receiving the same treatment as students at Harvard University. During a recent trip to Harvard, Gochenaur noticed that the main square of the campus was roped off. "When I went into the inner courtyard, they had stakes all over the campus on the inside where they had planted grass for the spring," Gochenaur said. "If Harvard University can block off areas so that grass can grow, so can Manchester University, right?" he added with a laugh.

Gochenaur wanted to emphasize how much he appreciates the students' respectfulness of the new grass. "It would be a battle for us to keep up if the students kept walking on it," he said.

Look for the Frisbee, napping and studying to resume shortly before "Pomp and Circumstance" ushers out the Class of 2013.

Photo by Maia Marusak

ROPED-IN Yellow ropes surrounding the Mall keep students from enjoying the grassy center of the University. Students felt mixed emotions when word was released that the ground would be off limits until mid-May. For some, the news was saddening, for others, this was a chance to increase their walking time.

MU Students Volunteer at Eel River Clean-Up

David Lloyd
Staff Writer

While most of the MU campus was "busy" sleeping or watching morning cartoons, volunteers teamed up to do some early morning cleaning. Bright and early on Sept. 8, Manchester University faculty, students and North Manchester residents gathered for the third annual Eel River Clean-up. Headed up by Terri Michaelis, coordinator of the Middle Eel River Watershed Initiative, the volunteer workers prepared to wade, swim and climb along the river and banks in an effort to help remove any and every foreign object imaginable in the Eel River.

Volunteers gathered at 8:30 Saturday morning equipped with shovels, pick axes, spades, trash bags and canoes to facilitate the clean-up effort. Around 45 volunteers were present, according to Michaelis. Beginning at the covered bridge in North Manchester, the volunteers waded through the cold water (air temperature was 55° at 8:30), scouring the banks and the riverbed for an array of random objects, which included items such as a washing machine, bedsprings and a metal ladder as well as numerous other unexpected objects. These items were stowed and floated in canoes down the one mile stretch of river that has been cleaned every year

of the Clean-Up. Michaelis said that this stretch has been used because of the ease of getting the canoes and volunteers in and get-

run as smoothly as it did. Starting off the morning was a State Police trooper going over safety precautions. The county trucks

other lunch items for all involved.

One such student, Kara Olson, had been learning and monitoring

Angola, IN. The Watershed Initiative, which is a government-funded project to look at the 50 mi section of the Eel River around North

ter the river through the process of erosion and runoffs from fields. This summer ends the four-year grant. "We will reapply and hopefully be able to continue to work for three more years," Olson said.

Throughout the day, smiles were abundant on all volunteers as they readily helped new and old friends drag canoes and trash out of the river. Camaraderie was apparent constantly, and the work was strongly appreciated by all involved. After it was over, Olson reflected on her favorite part of the day. What was it? "Putting on dry clothes after the cold river," said Olson with a smile.



EVERYBODY DO YOUR SHARE Manchester students and faculty work alongside members of the North Manchester and Wabash County communities to clean the Eel River last Saturday. This was the third year that the annual clean-up took place along the river that borders the edge of campus. Around 45 volunteers were present to clean up litter, which consisted of many unusual items such as a washing machine and a metal ladder.

Photo by Randa Gillespie

ting the objects out. Once the trash found begins to decline more, Michaelis said, a new area could be cleaned.

In addition to volunteer workers, other groups volunteered their time to make the Clean-Up

present were volunteered by Wabash County, and all tires and metals were disposed of for free. As the soaked and frigid volunteers began to finish around noon, the local Rotary Club was at the ready with warm chili as well as

the Eel River much longer than most of the volunteers. "I worked for the Eel River Watershed Initiative all summer, so it was part my job (to participate in the Clean-Up) as a watershed technician," said Olson, a sophomore from

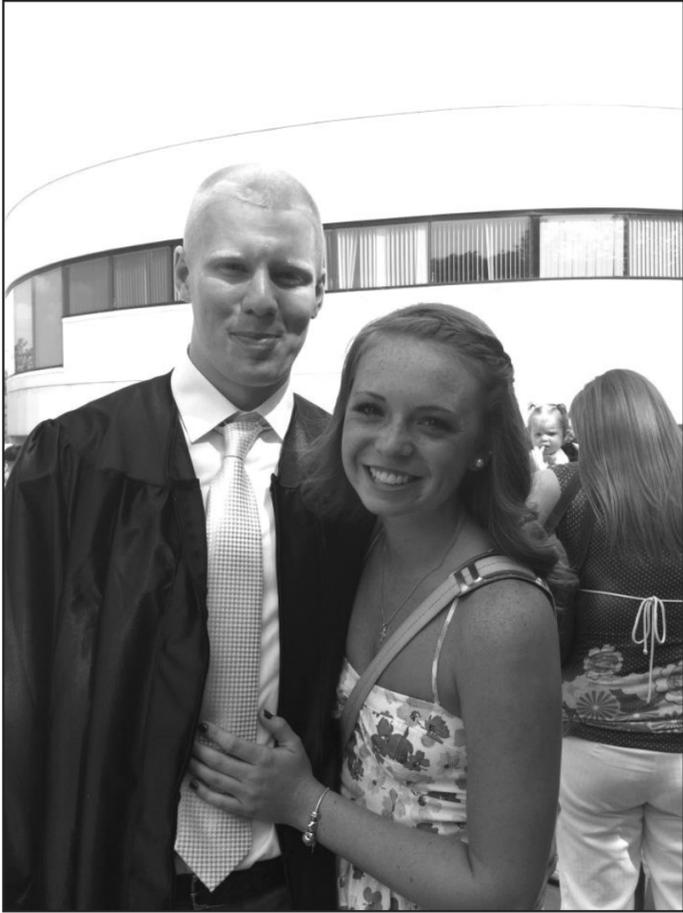
Manchester, is a large part of keeping the Eel River clean for the future. Olson described the project as looking at the state of the river and improving farming techniques around the river to lessen the amount of chemicals that may en-

Inside: John Sharp Tribute ~ Sisters Café ~ Spartan Tennis

Around Campus

Manchester Remembers

John Sharp, a 2012 graduate of Manchester College, died in a fall from a balcony in Indianapolis on August 19. Here, current and emeritus members of the Manchester community share their memories:



John Sharp with his girlfriend Chelsea Butler on his graduation day

Beginning Monday, Sept. 17, wrist bands will be available for purchase in the Office of Volunteer Services (located on the first floor of Calvin Ulrey – 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)

Live for Today Wrist Bands: \$5.00

John had broad connections here at MU and many, many friends. He was persistent in achieving his goals and worked hard to obtain his degree. His smile, energy, and love of life will be greatly missed but will live on in our memories.

--Dr. Beth E. Sweitzer-Riley, Vice President for Student Development

There are no words to describe my relationship with John, or how blessed I am to know I am the ONE he chose. He is the most amazing person I have ever met in every aspect of life, and I wouldn't even know where to begin to tell you all of the things he did each day to better me. So, I will just tell you, John Sharp changed my life forever.

--Chelsea J. Butler

If I had to use only a few words to describe John Sharp, they would be "happy," "motivated" and "inspirational." I was fortunate enough to have had John as a close friend for four years, but anyone who knew John would find that these words describe him to perfection. He was always happy! What I mean is that you would never see John without a smile on his face and he could always put one on yours.

He was motivated! John was a first-generation college student and the amount of motivation he had to succeed was remarkable. His motivation could be seen in the effort he put toward traveling abroad and also in the work he put into his career after graduation. He was inspirational! Every person John encountered knew the type of person he was, and he was an inspiration to all who had the honor of meeting him. John was very service oriented and enjoyed helping others. The pleasure he gained from doing so inspired me to do the same. John was happy, motivated and inspirational.

--Nathan Liddick '12

I had John in two of my classes in the 2011–2012 academic year. I remember John asking questions in my classes that had a lot of thought behind them. It was obvious to me that he was really thinking about his future career and how the course content was going to apply to his professional (and even personal) life. In the spring, he stopped by my office to discuss a full-time career opportunity that he was presented with. He was very concerned about making the right decision. It is so sad that a tragic accident had to take his young life. He will be missed.

--Professor Jennifer Simmers, Department of Accounting and Business

I enjoyed John's eagerness to learn about the world, how he stopped by my office with questions on what it was like to come to America, etc., etc., and how he wanted to make a difference in the world. John carried more life in his years than we might imagine; he thrived on Adventure, always radiating his "sharp" smile.

--Dr. Beate Gilliar, Department of English

The Oak Leaves
Published by the students of Manchester College

Editors in Chief
Andrew Ellam
Emily Krabach

Faculty Advisor
Dr. Katharine Ings

Advertising Manager
Xuny Haley

Graphics

Photographers

Vivien Carter, Randa Gillespie, Maia Marusak,
Alexah Parnin, Kellen Wilkening, Emily Witvoet

Staff Writers

Devin Clark, Kari Cottingim, Mike Dixon,
Heather Elson, Luran Gady, Charlene Grosse,
Brock Ireland, Kaitie Kemper, Kyle Lahman,
Amber Leavell, David Lloyd, Ashley McClintic,
Caleb Noffsinger, Jacob Ray, RaeAnne Schoeffler,
Hannah Schutter, Ariel Smith

Subscriptions: The general fee is paid for by full-time students whose tuition includes a subscription to *The Oak Leaves*. Mailed subscriptions are available for \$20 for one school year. Make checks payable to *The Oak Leaves* and send to the address below.

The Oak Leaves welcomes written opinion pieces; however, only signed letters will be published.

For advertising contact:
oakleaves@manchester.edu
For all other concerns please write to:
oakleaves@manchester.edu

or
The Oak Leaves
604 E. College Ave Box 11
North Manchester, IN 46962

Please join our group on Facebook group entitled
"The Oak Leaves"
for weekly updates and easy idea submissions.

The views in *The Oak Leaves* do not necessarily represent those of Manchester College or the majority of its students.

Manchester University Reacts to Becoming Tobacco-Free Campus

RaeAnne Schoeffler
Staff Writer

Beginning July 1, 2012, Manchester University became a tobacco-free campus. This change was made to promote a healthy and productive environment for its students, faculty, staff and guests.

The tobacco ban includes the entire Manchester campus. Although there has been some discrepancy about what is "Manchester campus," the official policy, which can be found on the Manchester website, clearly outlines what it consists of. Smoke-free places listed on the policy where one might think would be acceptable to smoke include parking lots, private vehicles on campus, the streets, and properties adjacent to the campus.

There have been many differing opinions throughout the student body on this ban and how practical or reasonable it is. Some underlying concerns are that it is discriminatory to smokers, forcing them to be outcasts at a university that is supposed to help someone "find their place."

There are even students who do not smoke that feel similarly. Kelly Iler, junior, is a nonsmoking music major who is very sensitive to the smell of cigarette smoke. "I feel that it's not [the University's] place to force everyone to quit something that they have a right to do," she said.

Other students have commented on the effectiveness of such a ban. "It seems silly that the smoking ban is in place yet people end up just smoking in the streets or on the other side of college," said senior Alex Wible. "Security seems to be okay with it or they can't really do anything, which kind of makes the smoking ban relatively pointless."

Les Gahl, associate dean of student development and director of Campus Safety, responds that his office is, in fact, not okay with smoking in the streets, but the town, not the university, has jurisdiction over both the streets and the tree lawns. And smoking in the streets does not violate a town ordinance. Gahl also said that he certainly worries about someone getting hit by a car if they go into the street to smoke.

However, there are several people who believe that Manchester University is doing what is best for others and that there is nothing unjust or immoral about it.

"It not only promotes a healthier Manchester with cleaner air but also challenges those who are avid smokers," said sophomore Daniel Kleiman. "It can be that needed push for some to kick the habit or just generate more exercise to those who still smoke."

Cassie Birdwell, junior, also appreciates the ban. "Cigarette smoke af-

fects my breathing since I have sports-induced or exercise-induced asthma," she said. "With the smoking ban I am able to breathe easier while walking around campus."

Aside from the student input, the staff also has a voice in the matter. "The goal was to live by the mission statement – the value and infinite worth of the students – not to take away their rights, said Director of Health Services Heather Banks. "It was about making Manchester a healthier campus."

Even so, there have been some disputes about whether Manchester can actually take the claim of tobacco-free campus. In an email announcement on September 10 by President Jo Young Switzer, she stated, "until December 31, 2012, smoking is permitted at the picnic bench between the Physical Plant building and Schwalm Hall. That location is far enough from buildings and sidewalks that smoke dissipates before reaching people."

Switzer notes that this picnic bench was an "imperfect—and temporary" transitional measure until January 1, 2013, when the campus will be "entirely tobacco-free." After that date, employees and students smoking in the tobacco-free campus will be what she calls "considered a performance issue for employees and a conduct issue for students."

Around Campus

Alumnae Sisters Help Open MU's New Café

Students, Faculty, Staff Delighted by Arrival of Starbucks Coffee

Charlaine Grosse
Staff Writer

Have you been dreaming about having a Starbucks coffee before going to your 8 a.m. class? For those who did, it is now possible to enjoy a café-latte while heading to your classes or while meeting your friends there. The Sisters café is the new place to be on campus.

Located in the brand-new Academic Center, the Sisters Café opened on the first day of classes and is a part of a donation to the campus from two sisters. Ruth and Carol Anstines are alumnae of Manchester University, and the "Sisters Café" is their way to say thank you. About one year ago, they decided that they would like to share something with the campus, a café with some of their recipes, where the students, professors and staff members could meet and enjoy baking and brewing. Aside from the well-known Starbucks coffee, they also serve a large choice of home made cakes, all made at the Union and mostly based from their recipes. Their specialty is the chocolate scotcheroo. The other baked goods offered at the café have been created this summer by our Chef Chris, for example, the cheese bread.

The staff management also wanted to pick some selection of coffees and snacks to complement their personal recipes. It is a good concept. When new students come to the admissions office, they already have something familiar. The Sister's Café is also a place for students to meet without the need to go to the Union. A lot of students also come here with their computers to meet their friends or their classmates in order to finish assignments before



THE COMMON GROUNDS Manchester University opened its new dining option, Sisters Café, this fall within the lobby of the new Academic Center. The café is part of a donation to the campus from two sisters, Ruth and Carol Anstines, who are Manchester alumnae. Many students are excited by the fact that the café brews Starbucks coffee. The café also offers several homemade bakery items, including scones, cakes and, their specialty, the chocolate scotcheroo.

Photo by Kellen Wilkening

going to class.

"Now that the Sisters café has opened, the coffee buying definitely happens here," said Nancy Gjertson, director of the Chartwells Dining Services at Manchester University. "I guess it is what we expected, the difference over here is that the students are using their flex dollars more than anywhere else." The Sisters Café has several products which are not offered at the Oaks. For instance, the espresso or the Frappucino, which at the moment are the best-selling products.

The Sisters café is the beating heart of the Academic Center, a place where everybody meets, especially between class-

es. The 20 minutes before and after classes start is the busiest time according to Gjertson. There are also other rush hours in the day: the first being in the morning for the morning cup of coffee, and then between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This is a non-negligible new opportunity for their flex dollars to be used and day-by-day, more and more people continue coming for coffee and treats.

The attraction is partly due to the Starbucks brand. It is a well-known fact that young people love Starbucks. Edlawit Sida, a first-year in biology-chemistry, thinks that the Sisters Café is a great place to use our flex dollars. "The first

time that I went there was my first day of classes, I was very stressed and I needed a lot of coffee," she said. "Now I go there at least twice a week to order a regular Frappucino." She added that she would like the Sisters Café to be opened at night, in order to have a coffee when she spends her night studying at the library.

Nicolas Quintanar, a sophomore in engineering, usually goes there on mornings to have his caramel Frappucino before going to class. "I have never tasted the food there, but I'm planning to do so," he said.

But the staff members also seem to enjoy it, especially the Admission

Office, which is situated just next to the café. They don't have to leave the building, and they can get food without waiting in line at the Oaks.

Jahrae Hampton, senior admissions counselor, really loves the café "I think the students definitely seems to love it too, but more for the Starbucks," he said. "As regards to me, I get a cheddar biscuit every morning, and I'm trying to get one scone every afternoon. I'm really there all the time; moreover, I don't have to go far. I love it!"

And concerning those who would have more choices among the snacks or other types of drinks, as hot chocolate for

an example, the café will look forward to have new products. Nevertheless, you will have to be a little patient. "By now we're just a brand new café so we only have the basics products, and the staff is still adjusting," Gjertson said.

She added that they are really open to any suggestions and ideas. If you want to share your impressions or ask for something, you can email Gjertson, Chef Chris or just fill out a form and leave it in the suggestion box.

Opinion: Is the Starbucks Really Worth It?

Lack of Meal-Plan Coverage Curbs the Sugar Rush

Hannah Schutter
Staff Writer

As a result of Manchester becoming an official university, many changes were made to campus this past summer. One of the most noticeable alterations would be our school's dining options. Following the lead of other larger universities, Manchester now offers Starbucks beverages in the newly created Sisters Café, located in the Academic Center. While many students are excited about these new additions, I am not much of a fan.

Because students' schedules seem to revolve around studying, eating and sleeping, these new dining options have definitely garnered student response, especially for coffee fanatics. With the nearest Starbucks being 35 minutes away, Sisters Café has been a welcomed

addition to campus for students and faculty alike. "I really like the added cafe in the new Academic Center," said Professor Stacy Erickson. "[It is a] great addition to the traditional 'meal' time hunger." Because of its locality, the café is easily accessible for students hurrying to a class in the Academic Center. "We [Sisters Café] get loads of customers," said Laura Lichauer, Sisters Café worker. But I have to be honest in saying I am not one of them.

Don't get me wrong, upon finding out that Starbucks was going to be offered on campus, I was elated. A self-proclaimed caffeine junkie, I had been waiting for Manchester to step up its game and offer this popular name-brand coffee. Once returning onto campus, I could barely wait to use one of my swipes for a frappucino.

This is where my first heartbreak occurred.

The new Sisters Café only allows meal exchange to be used during lunch, for students on the lifestyle plan. This dashed my dreams of being able to grab a Starbucks beverage for breakfast. Now I have to decide if a small coffee milkshake is worth one of my mere 25 flex dollars (don't forget that one beverage is almost 4 dollars alone). In addition to this disappointment, the café is only open until 5. What am I supposed to do when I need my caffeine fix in order to pull an all nighter? Now that The Oaks has greatly reduced its coffee options, it seems I have nothing to assist me in my efforts of staying awake.

Another downfall to the much anticipated Sisters is that Starbucks gift cards cannot be used to receive my favorite

caramel macchiatos. As a broke college kid, I was excited that my grandparents were going to send me coffee gift cards in care packages. It broke my heart to tell them that those would be unnecessary. Purchasing a beverage from Sisters Café has unfortunately now turned into a once-in-awhile treat.

Although the new Sisters Café is a much needed addition to Manchester's campus, I feel as if a lot of work still needs to be done to accommodate their customers: college students. In addition to more meal exchange swipes being accepted, Sisters Café needs to extend their hours and keep open on weekends. Manchester needs to remember that college students like to be caffeinated at all times, not just Monday through Friday until 5 p.m.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.polyvore.com/cgi/img-thing?.out=jpg&size=l&tid=20631281>



Around Campus



Cashio Brings Philosophical Thinking to MU



DR. PHIL Anthony Cashio arrives on campus from Birmingham, Alabama, bringing a love for philosophy and teaching with him. While in college himself, Cashio found philosophy to be one of his most challenging and exhilarating classes.

Photo by Alexah Parmin

Devin Clark
Staff Writer

Along with bringing in new students as well as a new title, Manchester University has also brought in Dr. Anthony Cashio who is a visiting assistant professor who teaches philosophy. During his schooling, he found philosophy challenging and exhilarating like no other class. It also seems like Dr. Cashio lives a life with many travels with a love for philosophy and teaching.

Coming from Birmingham, Alabama, Cashio did his studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (from which he obtained his doctorate) and Birmingham-Southern College (from which he earned his undergraduate degree).

He continued his travels to Turkey where his life took another turn for the best. "My wife and I met on an archaeology dig in Turkey when we were both undergrads," he said. "I don't know if it is interesting, but it is my favorite

story." Cashio and his wife, Miranda, have two children now: Chapel, 4 and Madeline, 11. Cashio notes that they keep him busy and he uses most of his free time playing with them.

He also makes time to spend time with his wife. "At the end of a good day, I enjoy eating ice cream and watching cheesy Sci-fi shows with my wife," he said.

Before the family life and teaching, Cashio believed his calling was in a different direction: law school. He worked at a law firm before realizing philosophy and teaching were his loves. "Philosophy allows you to challenge conceptions you have about the world, and also allows you to appreciate the viewpoints of others," he said when explaining his fascination with philosophy.

Aside from challenging the beliefs of the world, he would advise students who are interested in majoring in philosophy to go into it with what he calls a "healthy sense of humor and a dash of humility." He

also recommends talking to the professors to make sure it is something that really interests the student.

Cashio is glad to be here. "I am loving Manchester," he said. "The sense of community and its importance is palpable in all aspects of the school. I hope that everyone who works and learns here realizes how rare and significant that is."

The Oak Leaves Welcomes New Editors

Sophomores Andrew Ellam and Emily Krabach are replacing departing seniors Briana Bass and Joseph Stuart as co-editors of the 2012-2013 Oak Leaves.

"I'm excited to be responsible for one of Manchester's bigger publications," said Ellam, a communication studies major and journalism minor.

Krabach, an English major with an art minor, shared her enthusiasm as well.

"I'm excited to be on the other end of the newspaper process," she said. "I'll be able to see the work of the new students and turn it into something that represents the college well."

Both are prepared for the responsibilities that accompany editorial work. "I'm nervous about deadlines," Ellam said. "I believe I have pretty good time-management skills, but now they'll have to improve."

Krabach agreed. "I'm nervous about the time crunch," she said. "You essentially only have one day to put a paper together."

They have plans for this year's version of the Oak Leaves. "I want to increase readers," Ellam said.

"I will try my best to encourage the students to take pride in their work," Krabach added, "and understand the importance of their story."



MU Welcomes Adkins to Spartan Athletics

Mike Dixon
Staff Writer

Mark Adkins, the new sports information director, has stepped up to bat, metaphorically speaking.

Previously he held the same job at Norwich University of Vermont and at Wartburg College of Iowa, honing his sports media skills for a good 14 years. Here he is tasked with presenting our athletic teams to Indiana's media via newspapers, the Manchester website which he is currently working on, and other channels of sports information.

He even does the photography coverage of our teams and keeps large cameras at hand in his office at the Physical Education and Recreation Center (more commonly known as PERC) next to the Student Union Building.

Out of the difficulties he must face this year, boredom is not likely to be

among them. "There's always something around the corner," he says. "That's the best part of this profession."

Rick Espeset, director of Athletics, is looking forward to keeping those corners well stocked with opportunities for Adkins. "Mark hit the ground running on July 1 and has not stopped," Espeset said.

"He is working on increasing Spartan Athletics' exposure in social media as well as print media. If you take a look at our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages you will catch a glimpse of the quality work he produces. He is also spearheading an updated Athletics Web page which we hope to launch in the near future."

Adkins started with a major in journalism, which would prove indispensable in his media-intensive job. A friend advised him to sojourn into



BRINGING HIS A-GAME Mark Adkins comes to Manchester with bold ideas to increase the exposure of Spartan Athletics as the new sports information director.

Photo courtesy of <http://www.manchester.edu/athletics/adkinsinfodirector.htm>

sports-related professions, advice which he has gladly followed for most of his career.

Although he became certain of his field, the ideal location of his job still eluded him. His previous occupation in Vermont was too far from his wife Terry's parents in Iowa. Again, advice from a friend guided his path. A fellow teacher in Ohio told Adkins about a little town named North Manchester in Indiana that offered the kind of job he had the utmost experience in.

So he packed his bags and his four-year-old miniature Schnauzer, Sady, and landed among the cornfields. While he works in Athletics, his wife works in Akron, Ohio, as a preschool teacher.

Adkins seems quite comfortable in his new office right down the hall from Espeset's. And as Espeset notes: "Mark adds a unique personal touch to

his work: he has gotten to know many of our 400 student-athletes by name and I am confident that he will build positive relationships with many of them that will ultimately enhance their Manchester experience."

Around Campus

New Academic Center Puts Students First

Ashley McClintic
Staff Writer

New. The word seems to be on everyone's tongues recently when describing a college campus founded in 1889. Manchester has seen its fair share of renovations in the past decade, with the building of the Science Center in 2005, a re-vamp of the Student Union in 2007, and an entirely new name confirmed this past summer. Thanks to the Students First! Campaign, Manchester University welcomes its newest building, the Academic Center.

In replacing the Holl-Kitner Hall of Science, this innovative building is designed with advanced high-tech classrooms, a fresh dining experience provided by the Sister's Café, and an overall welcoming feeling future students receive on a visit in the Admissions Office. It houses multiple departments with faculty offices, allowing professors to interact more frequently with each other and students. Education professor, Dr. Michael Slavkin, expresses his thoughts after moving from his previous office in Calvin Ulrey to his new office located on the third floor of the Academic Center. "I think it's been wonderful being so close to faculty from all different departments."

Dr. Judd Case, a communication studies professor, describes the new atmosphere as an "actively social space," but admits there are "more opportunities for distractions." Case is describing that although faculty can intermingle, the constant flow of students creates more chances for sponta-

neous conversation.

"It's easier to find students and for them to find us," explains communication studies professor Dr. Mary Lahman.

On the other hand, students have found other benefits to the Academic Center to be more "student-oriented." For instance, the elevator has become quite the popular mode of transportation not only for injured students, such as Connor Wagner, but also for the healthy

students. "Since I have a high ankle sprain, the elevator makes it easier to get up and down," Wagner said.

But as for a healthy Tommy Riggs: "I use the elevator because I'm simply too lazy to walk up the stairs."

Jimmy King expresses his fear of having his previous classes in the Administration Building compared to the Academic Center. "I'm not worried about falling through the

floors anymore," he said. "The Academic Center is a lot more comfortable to learn in."

By comfortable, that also means having air conditioning. "I definitely like that it's air conditioned," Jessie Stafford said. "I also feel safer."

Due to the Administration Building's unstable layout, the Academic Center has taken over as the heart of campus for classrooms and learning. The building contains a

plethora of classrooms, an up-to-date Digital Media Center, and teaching labs for Education students. "They [teaching labs] help us learn more by giving us real life classroom aspects," said Riggs, an Education major. However, he also feels that the college has "overwhelmed it [Academic Center] because so many classes were put there at once instead of still relying on the other buildings for classrooms." The interviewed

students currently have at least three classes in the Academic Center. "The location is beneficial too," Riggs added. "It's the center of everything."

The Academic Center brings faculty and students together, provides a safe, comfortable learning environment, and is fulfilling its academic purpose of putting students first.



BRIGHT, SHINY AND NEW The Academic Center, which opened for use during the summer, is now filled with the sounds of bustling students and professors' lectures. The new building allows students and professors to interact with one another more easily than before because of its inviting office space and central locale on campus. The new building also offers students a safer and more up-to-date learning experience than older Administration Building.

Photo by Kellen Wilkening

Dr. Osborne Returns from Year on Sabbatical

Lauran Gady
Staff Writer

Dr. Jeffrey Osborne, associate professor of chemistry at Manchester University, director of the Nicaragua practicum, father to daughters Anna and Corrie, husband to wife Maria, and knowledgeable sustainability advocate returned in July from a year-long sabbatical stationed in Costa Rica and Chile. "I feel rejuvenated," Osborne says, "which is actually in the criteria of a sabbatical. It's something we're supposed to do. Isn't that wonderful?"

Osborne started the process of preparing for the sabbatical two years

prior to when he and his family were to leave. He and his wife began reading literature on what it would be like to immerse their daughters in a new culture, saving money for the large venture, researching good educations for their girls, and looking at logistics while on the sabbatical leave. Costa Rica and Chile were chosen because they were both stable, Spanish-speaking, economically secure, relatively easy countries to travel to. Osborne also had connections in Papudo, Chile, from whom he rented his family's Chilean abode. "If we had not had that we would not have gone to Chile," said Os-

borne, who was grateful for the opportunity. A year in advance of the sabbatical he made a proposal to the Academic Promotion and Tenure Committee (APT) with the project in mind that must be approved. One can apply for sabbatical after six years, the seventh year being like the Sabbath.

The projects Osborne worked on were those involving pedagogical work, research involving biochemical pathways, health care diabetes research entangling with the medical practicum, and improving Spanish while enmeshed in another culture. While on sabbatical he expanded a research paper

and statistical analysis on the incidence of diabetes and hypertension of the indigenous population from the practicum and worked on translating it into Spanish. If that weren't enough of a curriculum already Osborne is also in the process of setting up a research project for this upcoming January to test for bacteria that lives in the stomach to learn how to treat and cure ulcers. The flexible nature of how Osborne was able to work on these projects allowed a change of pace that proved to be more relaxing than the grind of day-to-day responsibilities.

Osborne's teaching and other duties were absorbed among the chemistry department. He was grateful for how others took on some of his classes just as he had in the past when others in his

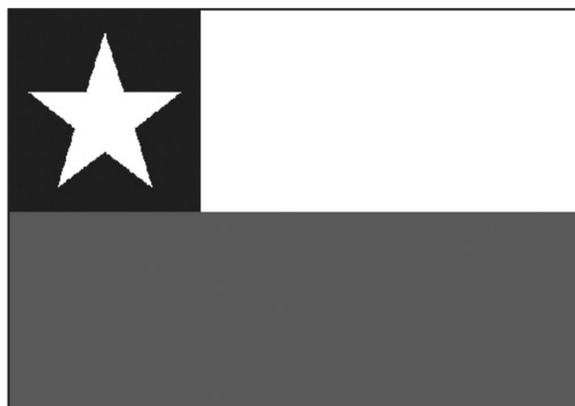
department were on sabbatical.

Upon returning, Osborne noted subtle details such as how his daughters missed going to a school that was open to the outdoors so a fresh breeze could come into the classroom. His family also noted the incredible fruits and vegetables that they were privy to during their foreign stay. He also mentioned that now in the States he tries to stay more "present" like the people he observed in the Costa Rican and Chilean culture.

Although sabbaticals are few and far between Osborne said that he came back a better teacher and better member of the university because of it. "Overall I'm satisfied with the outcomes of the goals," he said. "I had

a good body of work that I accomplished and I think my family had a very valuable experience." He articulated a deep gratitude to Manchester University that he was given such an opportunity.

Osborne expressed how difficult it was to sum up and communicate his sabbatical, such a rich, multi-faceted experience of personal and professional life as it was, in a snapshot to others. "People say 'how was it?' and you say 'good'," stated Osborne with a broad smile on his face.



Photos courtesy of <http://www.flags-and-anthems.com/media/flags/flagge-chile.gif> and <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/graphics/flags/large/cs-lgflag.gif>

Around Campus

International Students Adjust to Campus Life

Heather Elson
Staff Writer

Most Manchester students live within driving distance from home, making it a lot easier to escape the hectic campus lifestyle, and get a free load of laundry done. However, for international students, home is not an easy access.

For a typical freshman at Manchester University, the first year is all about new experiences, worrying about adjusting to campus life, and not gaining the freshman fifteen. In addition to the typical new experiences, international students have to adjust to the American lifestyle. The biggest adjustments for six new students are that there is no public transportation and missing their family and friends.

Sara Collazo Romay, first-year, is from A Coruña, Spain. She has an advantage on other international students because she received a scholarship her junior year to be a foreign exchange student in Rochester, IN. Having the background of American culture helped her adjust better than the first time she came here. Her biggest challenge is the way Americans dress. "In Spain, you dress to go out, you dress up for school, and the grocery store," she said. "So my host family one night, my first week here wanted to go to Dairy Queen. I was in my pajamas, and said, 'oh I got to

go and change' and they said, 'why would you go change just to go through the drive-thru', but I would because it is my culture." As she adjusts to American life once again, she is ready to start her college experience and meet new people from different cultures.

Giang Hoang, a first-year from Shi gon,

Vietnam, had never been abroad before. The main adjustment she has here is how Americans greet each other. "In my city, if you know each other you greet, if not you don't," she said. "It's a very cool here. People are very friendly here." The thing she misses most is her language because she does not know anyone on campus

who speaks Vietnamese. However, she is adapting to the informal way of how her friends speak English because she only learned formal English. She is most excited about the 3+1 program for Med Tech and seeing snow for the first time.

Sawla and Heba Nubani are cousins and both first-year students

this year. Sawla is from Ramallah, Palestine and Heba is from Amman, Jordan. Their story is different from any other international student, because they are American citizens. They spent some part of their lives in America before moving back to the Middle East to explore their culture. Even though they have lived in America,

they still have to adjust to the greeting of one another. To them Americans approach in a more serious way, while people in Palestine walk up to strangers and just start joking with one another. Another adjustment is the size of North Manchester. Sawla told a story about her mother visiting North Manchester: "Mom said, 'My tiny village in Palestine is more active and has more livelihood than North Manchester.'" Even with the adjustments of being back in the States; Salwa and Heba are most excited about finding who they truly are and getting involved with clubs.

Manchester has also received two BCA study abroad students; Charline Grosse is from Strasbourg, France, while Laura Ciria is from Barcelona, Spain. While Charline is here for the year, she hopes to visit Canada, New York, Mexico, Chicago and San Francisco. The biggest custom difference she has to get used to is having dessert while still eating a meal and being 21 to be able to drink. On the other hand, Laura is here for only a semester and wants to meet new people and discover America to improve her English.

Charline sums it up best for all International students, when she said, "This is a global experience."



NEW FACES IN THE CROWD Giang Hoang, first-year international student from Shi gon, Vietnam, sits in on a MUJA meeting on campus. She is one of the several new additions to MU's student population whose home is across the country's borders and has been spending the last few weeks acclimating to life on campus. In order to promote diversity among students, Manchester welcomes students like her who bring different life perspectives to this small Indiana town.

Photo by Vivien Carter

Opinion: VMA's Hit Both High and Low Notes

Brock Ireland
Staff Writer

The MTV Video Music Awards (VMA's) have been advertised as a night of fun, music and various awards. So, being a lover of fun and music, I sat down to view this magical award show.

Two and a half hours later, I wondered what I had just watched--Lil Wayne jumping around the stage while muttering words that no one could understand. Rihanna trotting around while sporting an arrogant attitude and a barely used microphone. And then the night finished with Taylor Swift squawking about how she will never, ever, ever, ever be getting back together with an ex. Ever.

Now, don't get me wrong, not all the performances were unbearable. Pink debuted her new song "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)" with a performance that included confetti and dancing lips. One Direction had all the teenage girls screaming with their most recent hit "One Thing." Alicia Keys, joined by rapper Nicki Minaj and Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas, had the audience on their feet with her new song "Girl on Fire." And in a moment that was almost as random as Nicki Minaj's outfit choice, Green Day rocked out their newest song, "Let Yourself Go."

In the time be-

tween the total of eight performances of the night, they also gave out six awards. Now, call me crazy, but I do believe they were titled the Video Music Awards. So why did performances outnumber awards at what is meant to be an awards show? Who knows? I sure don't. Anyway, the awards included Best Pop Video, Best Male Video, Best Hip-Hop Video, Best Female Video, Best New Artist, and the big award of the night, Video of the Year. Announcers came on stage to tell the nominees and the awards were given out. Best Male Video went to Chris Brown, while Nicki Minaj swiped Best Female Video. Drake accepted Best Hip-Hop Video, and One Direction graciously nabbed Best Pop Video, along with Best New Artist. All that was left was Video of the Year. Nominees for the final award included Drake, Gotye, Rihanna, M.I.A., and Katy Perry. Ultimately in the end, Rihanna took home the trophy for her chart-topping hit "We Found Love."

Now on to what seems to be the most talked about topic after any awards show-- fashion. Rihanna hit the red carpet in a floor-length white gown accompanied by a new short hairstyle, while Taylor Swift chose a white blazer with matching skinny jeans and her signature red lipstick. Katy Perry rocked a floor

length printed dress and a pair of nude pumps, and rebel rocker Pink looked flawless in a formfitting metallic silver gown that accompanied her signature pompadour hairstyle. But the most talked about look would have to be the outfit of Nicki Minaj; a lace black bodysuit paired with a sequined police cap, along with what appeared to be a yellow, green, and pink hued wig. Although this look was bizarre, she appeared to be toning her look down from the normal outfit choices. Lady Gaga, who normally tops the charts in odd fashion choices, was not in attendance due to her lack of nominations.



Photo courtesy of Just Jared at <http://cdn04.cdn.justjared.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/minaj-vmascarpet/nicki-minaj-mtv-vmascarpet-2012-red-carpet-04.jpg>



Spartan Sports



Women's Soccer Sets High Goals for Season

Amber Leavell
Staff Writer

This season, the Manchester women's soccer team has its goal in clear sight. After falling one game

short of qualifying for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament last season, Coach Andrew Stout and his players are set on making it to the tournament this year.

Coming so close to the conference tournament, Coach Stout says it's all about maintaining the routine they had last year. "We felt like we got into a good rhythm last year, so we're

trying to continue that," he said before Friday's game against Goshen. "So far after the first two games it's been a good thing for us."

Sophomore captain Emily Willmann is excited for the upcoming season, feeling that they've come out strong with their games these past few weeks. "I think we have a really good chance of making the tournament this year, but I also think we have a pretty good chance of winning it," said Willmann, confident of the team this season. The outlook this year is positive and they're feeling cautiously optimistic about the upcoming games, according to both Stout and some of his players.

Despite the fact that the team is made of mostly first-year and returning sophomores, with only three seniors and four juniors on the roster, it hasn't deterred the team spirit. "The team works great together; I see a lot of togetherness and a lot of good friendships," Stout said. "I think for the most part everyone on the team understands and

knows their role. They're working hard for the team and trying to keep us going in the right direction."

Senior captain Sara Barker feels that the team has improved over the last few years. "This year I like it because there are still quite a few first-years, but the returning sophomores have the experience to help out more," she said. "Everyone seems to be getting along well." As it's her last year on the team, Barker feels bittersweet about her last season. Seeing the team progress and become better over the last few years has given her the excitement to believe the team can succeed this season.

Coach Stout agrees that the team this year has the potential, "We have a team that is resilient and a team that is going to work hard," he said. "They're focused; they understand that coming one game away last year makes it important to win these games."

After coming so close to qualifying for the tournament last season, it is obvious that the coaches, captains, and players

all want to push through and achieve their goal this year. While it still is early on, the early dedication and their purpose at the front of everyone's mind may be what gets them through.

As of publication time, the team has had one overtime game and one win against Olivet, putting their record so far this season at 1-3-1. The team will play against Benedictine on Sept. 15.



BLOCKING ACCESS Junior Laura Jenkins defends an opponent near the goal during a recent home game for the women's soccer team. At the time of publication, the Spartans held a record of 1-3-1. The team hopes to reach the HCAC Tournament this season after falling one game short of qualifying last season.

Photo Maia Marusak

Men's Soccer Wins Its First Game of the Year

Caleb Noffsinger
Staff Writer

The men's soccer team won its first game on Saturday, Sept. 8, after three very close losses the previous week.

The Head Coach, Dave Good, believes that the biggest challenge now at practice will be to fine tune positioning skills. The ability is there, and the strength is there. So now when the players find their forte and where their strong spots are, the team will be very strong. This year the team is featuring 11 players new to the sport with eight first-years and two upperclassmen with this as their first time playing, and one transfer student. It will also be showing of five or six seniors who have been playing since their first year. As long as all of the team stays healthy and keeps their morale high, they will achieve

great things this year.

Carson McFadden, one of the co-captains of the soccer team and a senior had similar views as his coach. He believes that this team has what it takes to reach the final four just like his coach. Anything short and it would be a major surprise. He had said that the issues with the previous games were their ability to take the opportunities to make goals. They had many chances yet they just could not reach them. Once they are able to adapt the skills they use in practice from scoring goals, and translate them into the games, they should be in the clear.

Coach Dave Good says that the two games in this last week were very challenging and that the teams were among the most skillful and most physical in the conference. During their first game they faced a team that was very highly ranked in the conference, yet if

given more time, with the comeback they were making, they would have been able to make up for those missed attempts in the first half of the game. And during the second game, if the positioning would have been different and one goal that was a rebound off one of our players head had not occurred, it could have well been a tie at the end of the second quarter. Their third game was a very close 0-1. And they could have had them if they were able to hold them off and keep them from scoring, but miscommunication played an issue and the defense let up and left an opening that the opposing team took. But then their fourth game on Saturday ended up being their first win of the season and a great start to the final four.

The team's next home game will be Tuesday Sept. 25, at 5 p.m. facing Andrews University.

Volleyball Hopes to Reach HCAC Tournament

Ariel Smith
Staff Writer

Manchester College's 2012 women's volleyball team is starting this season with several new faces. Though they only have five returning players, the team goals are still set to achieve high standards. According to coach Kendra Marlowe and team captain Makenna Hamilton, the team hopes to qualify for the HCAC tournament and also earn the AVCA team academic award for the third year in a row.

"This year, we have a very young team," said Hamilton, referring to the ten newcomers, eight of whom are first-years. Three team members graduated last year leaving only one senior this season. The majority of the team had not worked together before the beginning of this semester. Members prepared individually over the summer and had only ten days of practice together before their first game.

"There is a lot of learning about each other and discovering what we are capable of still," Hamilton explains. "But we have a lot of potential ahead of us. Our ultimate goal is to

win the HCAC Conference tournament. But we are going to take it one step at a time and one game at a time to get there."

Another goal the team is striving for is academic excellence. The team has been recognized by the AVCA for their academic achievements for the past two years.

"A strong GPA is always a top team goal," says Marlowe as she stresses the importance of academics.

Hamilton notes the significance of schoolwork as well and how it comes first, but also how participating in both athletics and academics has taught her about time management. "Ultimately, we are here for learning first, and being a part of a sports team is just the 'cherry on top.'"

This past weekend the team played in a tournament at Aurora University. The tournament included games against North Central, Lake Forest, Rockford and Aurora, and resulted in two wins and two losses. The Spartans took wins against Aurora and Rockford. They also competed in the Ohio Wesleyan tournament

earlier this season, which concluded in a record of 2-2, the wins being against Grove City and Wilmington

and losses against Denison and Ohio Wesleyan.

Manchester is also hosting a tournament

this weekend that includes Calumet-St. Joseph, Capital, Anderson, Wilmington, and Purdue North Central.

The Spartans play at 5 and 7 p.m. on Friday as well as 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday.



TOGETHER AS ONE The Spartan volleyball team huddles together during a recent match. The team consists mostly of newcomers this season, eight of whom are first-years. Such young players bring energized attitudes and hope for a successful season that could lead to the HCAC Tournament. At the time of publication, the team held a record of 5-4.

Photo by Vivien Carter

Spartan Sports

MU Spartans Football Focuses on Team Unity

Jacob Ray
Staff Writer

Unity defines Spartan Football 2012. "One of our goals is 'team over me,'" said senior defensive lineman Aron Miller. "That's the biggest mindset: team unity. We're all clicking, and I've never seen that before. Even in my last three years, going on my fourth, this is the first time it's really happened."

Manchester has been working hard on the road already, having played Trine and Kalamazoo so far this season, and barely falling short of a win each game: 14-24 and 16-18, respectively. Manchester held Kalamazoo into four overtimes, losing only to a two-point conversion. This is a time of new beginnings on the Manchester field, starting with the major influx of 53 new Spartans.

"We have a very good first-year class, to mention anyone in particular would leave someone out," said Head Coach Shannon Griffith. These numbers make Manches-



UNDER CENTER The Spartan JV football team lines up on offense during a game against the Anderson Ravens on Monday, Sept. 10. The varsity football team is currently 0-2 this season. Both losses came during close games on the road against Trine and Kalamazoo.

Photo by Alexah Parnin

ter's team quite a young one, but that doesn't seem to be holding them down. "Our team goal is to finish each week 1-0," Griffith said. "Our expectations are to make improvements

from week to week."

Miller took it a step further. "We bring it to practice; 1-0 that day, 1-0 the next," he said.

These ideals and goals will come in handy in

preparing for Manchester's two strongest opponents and as a direct result, its two hardest games of the year. "Franklin and Mount Saint Joseph are traditionally the top two teams in

our league," Griffith said. "They both have traditionally rich programs."

On the plus side, even the first-years are feeling the team connection, making them ready

for the challenges ahead. "I believe we have the potential to win just about every game, honestly," said Jason Fischer, a new Spartan defensive lineman. "We just have to continue to pull together, stick together and fight to the end."

Adding to the feeling of a brand new start, the team only has seven seniors, but it appears that's all Manchester needs. "Our senior class has done a good job thus far in leading by example, both on and off the field," Griffith said.

Despite all the good news, however, bad news does loom: the Spartans only have four home games. "[Fan] support counts," Miller said. "Every person that's there helps. It's tough, because you're always on the road, so when you come home, you just want to see all those faces you normally see. Every person counts."

The Spartans take on the Franklin Grizzlies in their first home game Saturday, Sept. 15, at 1:30 p.m.

MU Tennis Hopes to Win HCAC Championship

Kaitie Kemper
Staff Writer

The Manchester University Spartans, under the guidance of Head Coach Eric Christiansen, are looking toward a promising fall tennis season, which began Saturday, Sept. 7, 2012, with a match against Hanover. With the women's tennis team dominating the fall season, and the men's team taking over the court in the spring, both Spartan teams already have their eyes set on winning the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Championship.

After finishing in the top four for the past two years of HCAC play, the third-seeded women's tennis team is hoping to bring home the conference championship title later this fall. "Our goal is to win the conference championship," said Christiansen, who has coached Manchester University women's tennis for five years, and men's tennis for six years. "We have the people to do it; it's just a matter of putting it together. Even though we just have two seniors, we have a lot of experience."

Along with fourth-season senior Alyssa Dibley and third-season senior Alli Heeter the Spartan women also feature a strong lineup of juniors this fall. Third-year varsity starters Kara Gilley, who will be playing No. 1 this year, and Brandy Leeper are key players on the hunt for conference success. "We have a really good chance of winning conference," Leeper said. "Last year we lost early (in conference), and we weren't expecting that, so this year we just want to go hard."

In addition to these four players, three more strong junior leaders, Abby Berry, Amanda Keating and Ashley McClintic, and three first-year players, Megan Buckner, Melinda Penrod and Morgan Wolf, bring high hopes for a successful fall season for the ten-player Spartan women's tennis team. "We have no sophomores this year, but we have three first-years that are working really hard and improving every day," Christiansen said. "Hopefully, they can jump in the lineup at some point."

Not only does the women's tennis team have promising incoming first-year talent, but also the Spartan men's tennis team has acquired two new first-years for their lineup, which Christiansen believes should amount to a ten-man team. Ultimately, he hopes that those players will help pave the way for the men's tennis team on their journey to conference success this coming spring, as well as for the women's tennis team this fall. "A few of them are going to make an impact right away," Christiansen said.

The men, who do not begin HCAC play until the spring, still compete during the fall off-season alongside the women. This is a new arrangement compared to previous seasons, in which the men's and women's tennis teams did not compete at the same locations at the same time, and did not practice together as frequently. Coach Christiansen feels that this has given the team a better sense of camaraderie. "We do a lot of group stuff," Christiansen said. "We do individual work as well because tennis is individual, but when you're working with your teammates it just builds that friendship and teamwork."

The players agree with Christiansen that practicing and attending the same matches has strengthened the bond between both men's and women's tennis teams. "We're like brothers and sisters," said third-year Spartan men's tennis player, Miro Arguijo.

Leeper concurred. "We're a big family," she said. "We used to have only a couple matches with the guys, and now all of their off-season matches are with us and all of our off-season matches will be with them, so we'll have more co-ed bonding than just girls' team vs. guys' team. Now, since we practice together, you get to meet new people not just on your team, but on the guys' team, so we're basically one team."

Although the players on both men's and women's tennis teams bond by riding to matches together, going out to eat after matches and participating in preseason, player-organized two-a-day practices, the unity between the teams is not only apparent on the court. Outside of tennis, the players get together to watch movies, play games and just have good, sensible fun.

Even though both teams desire to be competitive and bring home conference victories, each player, along with Coach Christiansen, mentioned the friendships as their favorite parts of Spartan tennis. "Honestly, I love the tennis, I love the competitiveness, but it's the relationships," Christiansen said. "That's what it is. Building relationships with the players, and getting to know them as people."

Cross Country Teams Run Into Early Success

Kari Cottingim
Staff Writer

Manchester's cross country teams are running into the 2012 season with success in mind. They have completed two pre-conference meets and will be competing again Friday, Sept. 14, at the Indiana Intercollegiate Meet in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Manchester University hosted the team's first meet, which was a Hokum Karem, on Saturday, Sept. 1. A Hokum Karem is a partner alternate where a pair of runners run the four miles each. The men's team took second after Indiana Tech, but beat their rival, Defiance. After the meet, Captain Calvin Cook said that losing to Indiana Tech "put fire in our step." It helped prepare the men's team and made them eager for the next meet.

Coach Brian Cashdollar said that the women won easily, beating Indiana Tech and Defiance but added that they are

not quite where they need to be to accomplish their goals.

Both teams competed at their first 6k on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Bluffton Invitational. The men's team won and Manchester's Chris LaFree won the overall men's division by four seconds. The women's team also won taking the first six places with Karla Madrigal in the lead and Ashley Koplak in second. "We have a lot of guys and girls really running well right now and it really showed this weekend," Cook said. The course they ran on will be used for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Championship on Oct. 27. Cashdollar was glad his team was able to view the course before the Conference Championship.

The goals for each team this season are being set as the team improves. Cashdollar said the teams are still finding where they are and trying to set realis-

tic goals accordingly. They are trying to become the best distance runners possible and the men's and women's teams are both shooting to win their conference. If they win this year, it will be the fourth year in a row for both teams. "This is very important to the seniors because they would never have lost," said Women's captain Taylor Daggett.

Next, the teams hope to go on to regional's and if they finish in the top two they will automatically go on to Nationals which they have qualified for two times in the past three years. "we pride ourselves in working hard," Cashdollar said, and the majority of runners have improved.

Manchester's cross country team is closer than ever. "The team gets stronger and stronger every year," Cook said. The teams started their season with a three-day camp where they ran through different state parks each day. During this time, they



NOT EVEN WINDED Members of the Manchester men's cross country team take time during practice to pose for a quick photo. Both the men's and women's teams will compete this afternoon at the Indiana Intercollegiate Meet in Terre Haute, Ind.

Photo by Kellen Wilkening

had team bonding and played murder ball which is a mix between volleyball and dodge ball. Cashdollar said this was a good way to "get away and focus on

the team and get to know everyone."

This opportunity of team bonding has brought the team closer together. "This year the depth is

even greater, and we have more depth than any team in the conference which makes us a lot stronger than other teams," Daggett said.