

The Oak Leaves

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MU Opera Moves Audience to Laughter, Tears Annual Workshop Perform 'Suor Angelica,' 'Gianni Schicchi'

Kari Cottingim
Staff Writer

The Manchester Department of Music hosted its annual Opera Workshop in three shows of "Two Romantic One-Act Operas" by Composer Giacomo Puccini on Feb. 10–11. These were chosen and directed by Shelley Ploss, a director who is new to Manchester's music department, and Debra Lynn, associate professor of music and director of the Choral Program.

The one-act operas are held annually at Manchester. This "Opera Workshop" is special to the directors, cast and community because everyone who auditions is given a role. It is considered a class so learning is put before performing, and several members of the cast are not college students, "so it truly is a community production" said the directors in the "A Note from the Directors" portion of the event program.

The first opera presented was "Suor Angelica" (pronounced swar Angelica). Ploss directed this tragedy that is set in a convent in the late 17th century. A nun, Sister Angelica, who is a former princess, is visited by her sister whom she has not seen in seven years. Angelica's sister also brings her news that Angelica's child died two years before. The nun is

then forced by her sister and the Abbess, who is the leading nun, to sign her as-

Gianni Schicchi to pretend to be their dead uncle in order to change the will.

Schicchi distributes the assets like planned but reserves a large portion for

himself.

One challenge during the performance was staying upright, as falling was a common problem on the Wine Recital Hall stage. "People fell a lot in Schicchi" said Emilie Hunt, who played Sister Dolcina in "Suor Angelica," "Kelly (Iler) fell down the stairs and Jeremiah (Sanders) fell in the last opera when he was shooing the family out." They also had a problem with trellises falling in "Suor Angelica."

Ploss's previous success with directing Puccini's operas in graduate school made choosing the operas easy. "We were throwing around ideas and I brought up Puccini,"

she said. "Debra agreed and that was it." She said that her previous experience with "Suor Angelica" and "Gianni Schicchi" really helped her and Lynn with guiding the casts and bringing this production together.

Auditions were held and roles were chosen in November. Cast members studied their music over winter break and began practicing at the beginning of January. Dress rehearsals lasted an entire week before the actual performance, and the cast rehearsed so much that, according to Hunt, "[e]verybody knew everybody's lines by the end."

"I'm incredibly proud of the girls who were in my show," Ploss said. "They were willing to work hard and willing to listen to changes."



sets away. Soon after, she commits suicide through a potion made from poisonous flowers, but her son returns to her as an angel and she dies in his arms.

Although the first opera ended with the audience in tears, the second was a comedy. "We won't leave you with a sad ending," said Jeremiah Sanders who had the lead role in the humorous "Gianni Schicchi" (Johnny Skikki). Lynn directed this opera, which was about a wealthy landowner who dies and leaves all of his money to the church. His family grieved more for the loss of the wealth than for their family member and hired



BRAVO! Audiences either gasped in shock as the Princess (Janelle Jacowski) chastized her niece, Sister Angelica (Caitlin Kesser), or laughed as the Donati family scrambled over each other to reach the will of their recently dead uncle, Buoso, during one of the three Opera One-Act performances this past weekend.

Photo by Emily Krabach

Students Enjoy Magical MAC Kick-Off Weekend

Kaitie Kemper
Staff Writer

Despite the bone-chilling, 12-degree temperature that made breathing a chore, 360 MU students—bundled in layers of coats, scarves, hats and gloves—flocked to Cordier Auditorium at 8:08 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, to watch comedian/magician Frank Deville. This was the first event the Manchester Activities Council (MAC) hosted during their spring semester "kick-off weekend."

Breathing was still a tough task throughout Deville's performance. Resembling "Modern Family's" Phil Dunphy and dressed in a pink button-up shirt, pink and black checkered shoes with matching tie and a shiny black suit, Deville left audience members speechless with his routine. "It was a nice mix of laughter and shock," said sophomore Mark Sexton.

Self-proclaimed as "your girlfriend's favorite magician," Deville livened students' frozen expressions by giving away a box of chocolate, distributing lottery tickets to volunteers, serenading the audience with humorously suggestive songs on his glittery, pink guitar and revealing his secret to getting sculpted abdominal muscles in less than one minute—shaving his

stomach hair to look like a six-pack.

However, there was one act that stood out from the rest of his performance. "My favorite part of the show was the magic trick

found on the inside of an unsliced orange in his trick called "passing the buck." After Deville's spirited performance on Friday, MAC continued to draw in crowds of students by

tures were still well below freezing, 65 participants filled the gym with heated competition. Bongo Ball is similar to paintball minus the sting when a person gets shot—

Twelve players split into two teams were allowed three rounds of competition before alternating with other eager participants. Sporting camouflage vests and face masks

Duty' that you get to play with friends," said MU junior and MAC member Miro Arguijo. His depiction was accurate. It could have been mistaken for combat training until a player was spotted running around the "battlefield" with an oversized bean bag.

Do not think that this activity appealed only to the men on campus; plenty of women showed up to partake in the action. "The guns are super heavy," said Taylor Judt, an MU junior and Bongo Ball participant. "It's awesome that they brought this here, and it's fun to watch the boys run around like kids." The diverse range of students that competed throughout the evening coupled with the energetic music sparked the intensity, and allowed an excellent opportunity for camaraderie. "We have a great community of students," said MU senior and MAC member Kenny Green. "Tonight we have a lot of people out that are normally involved in the MAC activities and community. This organization is great, and I'm glad we can create alternatives to alcohol consumption."



MAGICALLY APPEARING CARDS (MAC)? Students await Magician Frank Deville to further dazzle the audience with his magically humorous skills on Friday, Feb. 1, during MAC's kick-off weekend of the spring semester. MAC also brought Bongo Ball, a game similar to paintball, to campus for students to enjoy in the PERC on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Photo courtesy of Shanon Fawbush

that involved Jon Thompson's \$100 bill," said MU sophomore Silas Sims. Thompson volunteered his cash, which was swallowed by Deville and later

hosting numerous rounds of Bongo Ball from 8 p.m. to midnight in the PERC on Saturday, Feb. 2. Although there was snow on the ground and tempera-

Nerf-like discs fly from the guns rather than paintballs. The first team to get their bean bag into the other team's goal without being shot wins the round.

with visors to protect their bodies and eyes, students maneuvered around the inflatable obstacle course with their fake weapons. "It's like a real life 'Call of

Inside: MLK Re-enactment ~ RA Conference ~ Wrestling

Around Campus

'Take a Bike, Leave a Bike' Finds New Home

Jacob Ray
Staff Writer

If you're looking for a bike, have no fear! Come spring, Take a Bike, Leave a Bike returns from its new base of operations: the storage garage behind Campus Security. Built by Jess Rinehart and Lucas Kauffman with the assistance of CFO Jack Gochenaur, the new storage shed is also a repair shop for the bikes.

The garage is split in half now, with the front half still for security storage and the back half for bikes. Originally a cow barn for the farm that used to be located just off campus, it has a wide space perfect for fixing bikes and long loft with plenty of room for bike storage. A wall of plywood and 2x4 studs was built to separate the two sides, a task that proved difficult as the beams of the cow barn are solid timber oak. Gochenaur believes them to be over a hundred years old. The loft is accessible by newly built stairs by Peiter Narrigan, and if you're not too tall, you can stand up. Most of the bikes are already in the loft.

Gochenaur joined the project when he learned of the history of the barn. "I felt that particular location was just the ideal place for a bicycle shop,"

he said. Gochenaur loves to build things, not chairs and cabinets, but pole barns and cabins, making him perfect to help out.

they learned how to measure out the floor and set the walls." Gochenaur also thinks the storage shed, with its large white sides

was a lower room in East. The room was originally an old, tiny kitchen, according to Carole Patrick-Miller, Manchester's director

imaginary bike with her elbows at awkward angles. Because the storage was in East, the doors

the doors for students," says Patrick-Miller with a smile. "It was one of those really horrible buzzers, I had dreams about it, just awful."

Take a Bike has about 200 bikes, between all the parts and pieces collected, explained Miller, but there are actually only 50 in operation, which is still quite a lot. However, all those bikes used to be kept in the old kitchen along with all the tools needed to repair bikes. "We'd line them all up, but then one would tip and it was just like dominoes," she said. She brings out her paper clip holder, which has a large messy pile of paper clips inside. "The room looked just like this," she explained.

Take a Bike, Leave a Bike is also working with North Manchester's PATH group to help create a bike trail for students to go on about town. If you are interested in helping with Take a Bike or would like to know more about it, contact OVS.manchester.edu.



BIKES TAKE A HIKE Some bikes appear to be good candidates for finding a home in Take a Bike, Leave a Bike's new storage garage that was recently built by Jess Rinehart and Lucas Kaufman with the help of CFO Jack Gochenaur. The new storage facility was necessary after the bikes were moved from a lower room in East Hall. Take a Bike, Leave a Bike will return for business once the spring weather finally appears.

Photo by Randa Gillespie

"We picked a couple Saturdays, and I had a ball," he said. "We taught them how to measure things, cut things, and I had fun as

would look great with a mural with the Take a Bike logo.

The original storage place for Take a Bike

of the Center for Service Opportunities. "It was so tiny, working was terrible," says Miller, demonstrating by hunching over an

were locked, forcing those bringing bikes to be fixed to buzz in. "We were at the end of the hallway, so we'd have to run down to open

Letter to the Editors: Website Branding Matters

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To the Editors:

At the bottom of Manchester's new homepage reads the words, "Tobacco-Free Campus." At the top of the page reads "Manchester University." Both texts are branding. But what do they mean? And why is "tobacco-free" the only direct description of our campus that takes pride of place on our website?

In this letter I seek to spark discussion about Manchester's branding. I start with the simple recognition that Manchester's presentation of itself clearly matters. It tells others who we are, and this is important because it allows us to attract students who fit here. "College" has a different message than "University," and which name we choose impacts how prospective students, employers, and third parties view us. Even the phrase on the website "Where actions speak" says something about how we understand our mission.

So if Manchester's self-presentation matters, what is the importance of the label "Tobacco-Free Campus" on our main homepage? When I imagine an audience who will read the phrase, my first thought is of a student interested in visiting or applying to Manchester. If that student wants to be in a smoke-free environment, the branding might be a selling point. But if that student smokes or fears a conservative social environment, then I imagine that the phrase could invoke a reaction like, "No way am I going there!" In both cases I imagine this intended message from the school: "You should come here if you want a smoke free environment." Yet I expect that the the audi-

ence who smokes may get a different message, perhaps: "This school values its smoke-free policy, and probably I won't belong or be comfortable."

This is a big deal. Maybe it's because I know so many students on campus who smoke that I'm frightened by the branding decision (not to mention the policy change!). Smokers as a campus demographic add diversity; they are some of my favorite people to be around and my favorite students to have class with. I would hate it if they had decided to never come. I say this while recognizing that Manchester's branding must be honest—we are indeed a smoke-free campus and we shouldn't lie—but I'm worried that Manchester is actively seeking to limit its social diversity when exactly that diversity is what we need. Could marginalization and decreased diversity be the effects of the policy change? Do we really wish to exclude students from our community because they smoke? I argue that the patronizing message from the college that students should stop smoking is wishful thinking; what will really happen is far different.

So while I only want students to come to Manchester who will feel a sense of belonging, the new branding makes me mourn Manchester's decision to go smoke-free. The branding decision also makes me wonder why we don't brand ourselves in other ways that might better reflect who we are. I identify with phrases like "A campus where the professor knows my name" because I came to Manchester to have a small college experience. What phrase would you put in place of

"Tobacco-Free Campus" if you had the choice?

Manchester University, I am glad that the new web page looks up-to-date and sends a message that Manchester is a healthy institution. However, your policy and branding decisions have an impact that goes far beyond simply meeting the bottom line by attracting more students. The decisions change the composition of our campus and impact our identity. They shift our priorities and alter who we are. Are these the changes we really want? Will we let marketing take the lead on who we are?

Jonathan Ulrich

Around Campus

MLK Re-enactment Questions Progress

Mike Dixon
Staff Writer

To celebrate the 45th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's speech at Manchester University, T. Leon Williams, a professional King re-enactor, gave another speech in King's persona at the very podium where King had spoken nearly two generations ago. A first-year attending the Jan. 31 event, Mikiyas Tadesse, says the speech was "moving." Another first-year, Benjamin Dixon, says Williams had a "powerful voice" that was reminiscent of the real King.

Before Williams spoke, Joel Eikenberry, an alumnus of Manchester who had listened to the original King speech when he was a senior, gave some remarks. He considers the speech, like his picketing the Vietnam War, a hallmark for his college years. Eikenberry quoted Charles Dickens: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." He was glad to be one of the progressive thinkers and rights advocates, but noted that the violence that came with the age was saddening. Nevertheless, he was proud to impart his knowledge with the student body.

After Eikenberry, a grainy black-and-white clip of the original King speech was played. In the

whether we have made any progress..." He concluded that although the civil rights movement had

same question that King had: has equality been reached? Williams shook his head and said, "Per-

axel has remained the same."

To illustrate his point, Williams pointed out that col-

late without changing the hearts of man," the second that ethnic minorities must lift themselves out of oppression and economic depression "by their own bootstraps." He also called for action on the economic depression among black communities, willfully asking the audience, "How can we sleep at night in a palace among caves?"

That aside, Williams and probably King himself would not want people to think that no progress has been made in civil rights. "Reconciliation is the precursor of integration," Williams said. The time of struggling is over, now it is time to reconcile. The years of violence and protest Joel Eikenberry experienced were necessary parts of a societal revolution. Minorities are still marginalized, but the civil rights issue is much more open. In closing, Williams declared confidently, "We are walking on the other side of the mountain."



HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE Leon Williams, professional Dr. Martin Luther King re-enactor, honored the 45th anniversary of King's original speech at Manchester College with a speech of his own on Thursday, Jan. 31. Williams' speech asked a similar question that King originally presented to students, leaving the audience wondering whether equality had been reached almost half a century after the civil rights movement.

Photo by Xuny Haley

clip, King humorously explained that his first greeting to Indiana was a winter storm which had waylaid his flight at South Bend. On a more serious note, he reflected that people "are constantly asking

gained traction there was much more to accomplish.

Finally, Williams stepped up to the podium with King's characteristic black coat, scarf, and Southern drawl. In his speech he asked the

haps my ideology had cast a net too wide." What he meant was that the equality King sought was too much to be fully achieved even today. "Although the spokes on the wheel have changed," he said, "the

leges now welcome colored students but show a lack of diversity in their faculty.

He called out two myths surrounding civil rights, the first that morality is "pointless to legis-

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Around Campus

MU Students Visit Businesses Down Under

Holly Pawlak
Staff Writer

Breathtaking is the only word to accurately describe Australia according to junior Max McConnell, who took Professor Joe Messer's Business 485 down under for his January session class.

In Australia, the students experienced firsthand the daily nuances of Norwood Plastics, a company in the plastic printing industry. Norwood prints plant tags and other horticultural products, as well as several commercial industry items such as self adhesives and plastic packaging.

They also worked with Ball Horticultural Company, a national distributor of quality flower, vegetables and cut flower seeds from breeders worldwide.

"Academically, this trip gave us the opportunity to experience a hands-on type of education and presented real-world situations in a way that a classroom never could've," said sophomore Aubrey Conard.

They also learned that money does not grow from seeds. "A culture shock moment was how

expensive everything [was] compared to back home," McConnell said. "I wish I would have brought more Australian money on the trip with me because a lot of it was spent on souvenirs at the beginning of the trip."

Included in the educational portion of the seminar class was the comparison between the United States and Australia's cost of living. "Australian rent is like ninety-something percent higher than America's and grocery prices are about 60 percent higher there," McConnell said. "The Australians don't have as much purchasing power either." Tourism, after all, contributes 3.9 percent of the Australian GDP, or a staggering \$32 billion.

All business aside, the students still had some memorable moments. What were McConnell's highlights? "The day we spent on Bondi Beach, the great ocean tour, where we watched penguins wash up on a beach to feed their baby penguins, relaxing at the waterfalls and the wax museum of celebrities," he said.

Regarding the visit to the waterfalls, junior Nich-

olas Norman concurred with McConnell. "My favorite part of the trip had to be hiking through the Blue Mountains and being able to walk around a waterfall that in the States would most likely be blocked off with rope," he said. "I also enjoyed eating the food [like kangaroo pizza] that was there that isn't available in the States."

As for Conard, choosing specific moments of the trip as highlights proved to be difficult. "My favorite part of the trip cannot be broken down any smaller than the trip as a whole," she said. "Especially now that we're back to 'real life,' I would be more than happy to relive any given moment of the trip no matter the specifications."

On the original itinerary was a visit to the Carlton BrewHouse in Melbourne, but a tour cancellation left the group disappointed. "When we rode the train from Melbourne to Sydney, it was kind of sad knowing half of our trip was over as well," McConnell said.

The memories of Bondi Beach sent a beaming smile to McConnell's face. The beach also boasts



G'DAY MATES! Professor Joe Messer's business class poses for a quick photo prior to taking surf lessons at the world-renowned Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia. The class spent about two weeks in Melbourne and Sydney during the January Session. Students visited Australian business, such as Ball Horticultural and Norwood Plastics, during their visit.

Photo courtesy of Professor Messer

whale and dolphin sightings during the months of migration, and occasional surfer interactions with fairy penguins. "My favorite part of the trip was getting to learn how to surf [there]" McCon-

nell said. "I would go back in a heartbeat and I would probably choose Melbourne, just because it has more of a countryside feel than what Sydney had."

Whenever spring

semester surprises McConnell with a rough patch in the future, he keeps as a reminder in his mind that he is "tan, single, and went to Australia!"

BCA Students Return from England, Ecuador

Catherine Lange
Staff Writer

Students from Manchester University have travelled to other countries through Brethren Colleges Abroad for years, and this year was no exception. Among those who were studying abroad this academic year were Aimee Hoffbauer, Betsy Varner and Holly Rittenhouse. Hoffbauer travelled to Cheltenham, England, and Varner and Rittenhouse travelled to Quito, Ecuador.

Hoffbauer did not encounter the stereotype of cold, smoky England. "Smoke covered, no," she said. "Cold, on occasion. It got dark around 3:30 p.m. as it got closer to winter. But, no, it is not the dark, dismal place everyone thinks it is."

The accommodations in England were suite-style, with each resident having his or her own bathroom and sharing a kitchen. "It felt so nice coming home in England," Hoffbauer said. "It literally felt like coming home after going away."

Varner and Rittenhouse were in Ecuador,

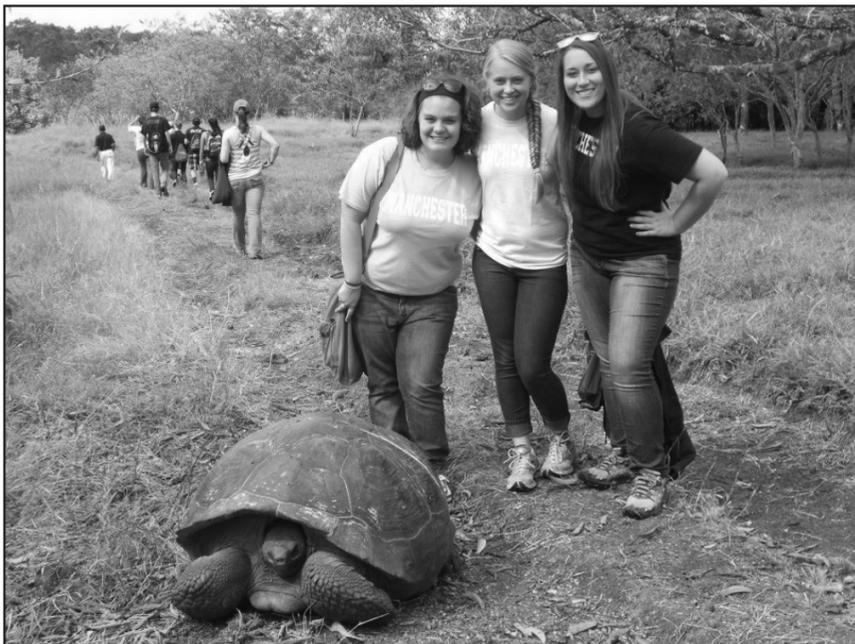
both living with a different host family. "We were placed based on our per-

sonality and preferences," Varner said.

no English. "It's intimidating at first, just because of the Spanish," Varner said.

really express yourself," she said.

Varner, Hoffbau-



TORTOISE CROSSING World-travelers Betsy Varner, Andrea Kelly and Mallory Sims take a moment from exploring the Galapagos, an excursion from Ecuador that BCA provided students, to snap a picture with a gentle giant. Varner, Kelly and Sims recently returned from spending their Fall Semester in Ecuador.

Photo courtesy of Betsy Varner

sonality and preferences," Varner said.

They lived with families who spoke little or

Rittenhouse agreed. "It's challenging—and sometimes frustrating—because it's hard to

er and Rittenhouse used public transportation while abroad. "I would walk to the bus station, to go to the train

station, to get to the airport," Hoffbauer said with a laugh.

Rittenhouse said: "We weren't allowed to drive, so we took buses during the day. But people there drive crazier, like, on the line. The scariest thing was our ride to school. It's a half-hour bus ride and we had to go down a valley. The buses had to curve down the mountain and could have fallen down the side. You always had to hold onto something."

According to Varner, buses were 25 cents per ride, one way. "You always have to have your stuff on your lap because of thieves," Rittenhouse said. "But there are also good people there." Rittenhouse had left her bag on the floor of the bus once while traveling, and an acquaintance picked her bag up and glared at a man behind them, who had had his hand in her purse. She also recounted an occasion when strangers notified her that she had money hanging out of her jeans pocket.

According to Varner and Rittenhouse, there was a notable difference

of culture. "They have this concept of 'machismo,' the idea that male figures are superior to females," Rittenhouse said.

Varner concurred. "It's really common and acceptable to honk, whistle, and make clicking noises at women," she said.

Rittenhouse said: "You just get used to it."

Rittenhouse had words of encouragement for future BCAers. "Personally, I said I would never travel abroad for a semester," she said. "I didn't think I'd be able to leave my family for that long. But, once you get down there, they keep you busy – and you adjust to it. I thought I would have a hard time being away from my family, but I got to Skype them and it was fine. It's something you won't regret."

To participate in the program, students should meet with Professor Thelma Rohrer, Director of International Studies. "Don't wait!" Rohrer says.

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Performs at MU

Charlaine Grosse
Staff Writer

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic presented a concert at Cordier Auditorium on Sunday, Feb. 3, with Crossing the Stream.

The event was sponsored by Manchester University, Poet Biorefining and the Timbercrest Senior Living Community.

Six members of the Freimann Ensemble played a wide range of dynamic of works to warm up the audience's ears.

Crossing the Stream opened with a lyrical string orchestra by Elgar, the "Serenade For Strings and E Minor, Op. 20" and wraps up with the "Symphony No. 82 In C Major,

"The Bear" of Haydn. In between, there were two very different Finnish works, Sibelius' "Belshazzar's Feast, Op. 51" and Tiensuu's "Puro," an avant garde concerto that incorporated both startling effects and improvisation.

MacDonald is a fixture at chamber music, opera, studio, pop and orchestral music venues throughout the Midwest. He has performed solo and chamber music recitals in New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Mexico City, Oberlin, Seattle, Grand Rapids, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, and Houston. In addition to his duties with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, MacDonald is an active chamber musician and performer of new

music.

"What might be happening in the Tiensuu, is that there are lots of those things that people might not be familiar with, there are lots of things that the audience has probably never heard before," MacDonald said. "There are passages where I'm playing more than one note at one time. Sometimes two, sometimes three notes, sometimes four notes, all at the same time. There are lots of manipulations that I'm doing, using non traditional fingerings, and things like that, allow me to get one of these effects." He continued: "My impressions of the piece, are that, it's like a sonic journey essentially, there are a lot of sounds that the audi-

ence may not be familiar with, in terms of what the soloist has to do, and what many of the members of the orchestra have to do. Be open to where it's going, from where it starts, to where it takes you, and right alongside, to these new and more untraditional sounds that the audience may hear, there are very traditional uses of the instruments.

Indeed, some people from the audience agreed with MacDonald as regards the original sounds, like Rehab Dahab, a sophomore majoring in psychology. "I was really surprised by the clarinet solo part," Dahab said. "When I came to see the Phil Chamber Orchestra Performance, I was expecting something more

traditional; this piece was very unexpected but I liked it. Indeed, I think that contemporary pieces, like the Tiensuu one, bring freshness to classical music."

After the intermission, the orchestra was back for the second part with more traditional pieces by Sibelius and Haydn. The first one was exotic and transported the audience on board of an hot and dusty plane. Once landed, the audience could feel the haze and the camels. This musical Saharan trip allowed the audience to feel the wonderful heat of the desert, led by the flutes of the snake charmers.

Finally, the last piece of this second part, called "The Bear" took the

audience back to the Paris of the 18th century.

"This is the pocket size version of the Orchestra, but it gives you a good preview of the eclecticism of our program," said Andrew Constantine, Music Director of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, who brought with him a reputation gained in Europe and the United Kingdom.

"No two people have the same experience of classical music," he said. "Our interpretation draws on personal insights, memories and feelings. The challenge is to persuade more people to go to concerts and discover this for themselves."

Around Campus

MU RAs Attend Conference at Northern Iowa

Hannah Schutter
Staff Writer

"May the rounds be ever in your favor."

This was the slogan of the "Hunger Games"-inspired Resident Assistant conference held at University of Northern Iowa.

This 23 annual conference hosted more than 400 Resident Assistants from 16 different schools—Manchester University being the first school ever represented from Indiana. The conference presented opportunities to network with other schools, get floor program ideas and—in the case of two Manchester RAs—to present on what has affected their experiences as RAs.

Garver Resident Assistant, Zabrian Mills and, Helman Resident Assistant, Wes Heath gave a presentation entitled "You Can't Sit with Us!" using their experience with Safe Zone training, the duo spoke to a full crowd with audience members having to sit on the floor due to an audience exceeding capacity. Because Safe Zone training is unique to Man-

chester University, many RAs were inspired to bring a similar program to their campus.

Helman Hall Director, Diane Hennen also presented a program. Entitled "Say No to Yes," Hennen's talk was aimed toward teaching students how to develop positive relationships with their residents and how to be less stressed.

The conference offered a plethora of diverse programs ranging from a henna tattoo floor program demonstration—which Helman's Kecia Kosins attended—to floor programs on topics such as fitness or volunteering.

Although being a resident assistant is a job only for college-aged students, the experiences gained while working can be used in future careers. "Being an RA helps build leadership and planning skills which can be carried on to a professional setting," said Kosins, a sophomore bio-chem major.

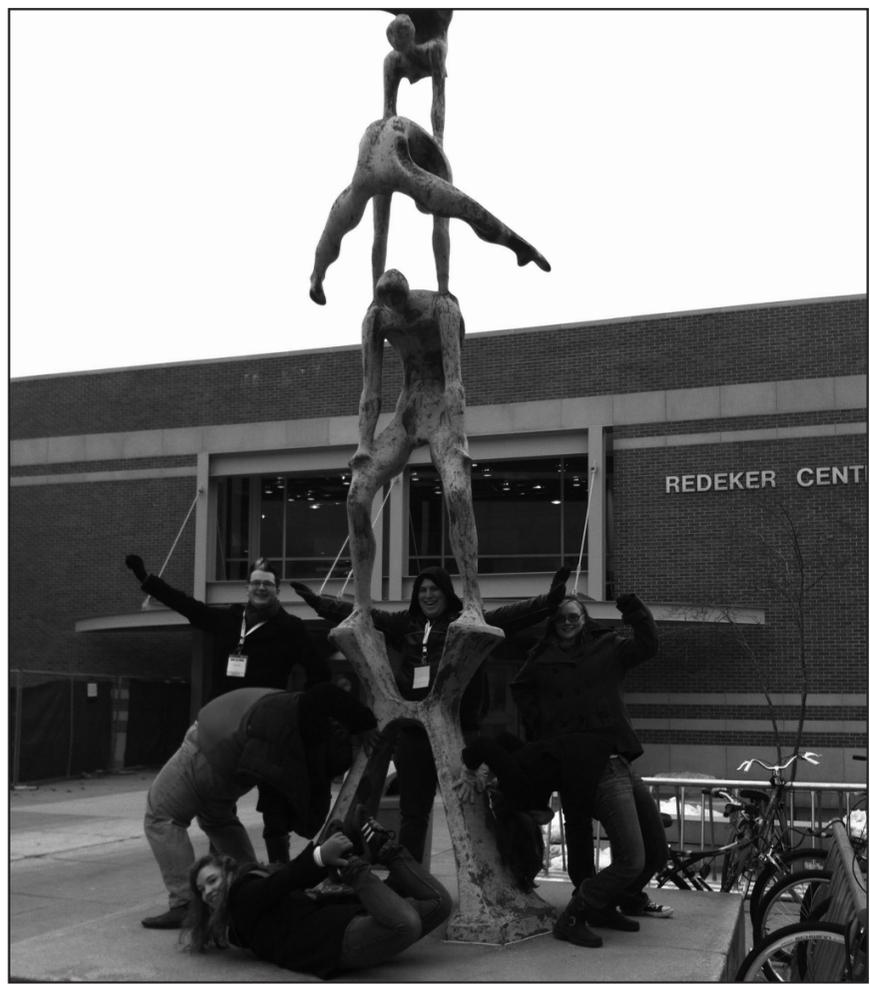
Mills, a junior psychology major, has enjoyed his RA job so much that being a Hall Director could quite possibly be in his future; if he attends

graduate school. "Being an RA has given me great time management skills, which come in handy," he said.

In addition to Mills, Heath and Kosins, Holly Pawlak, Jeremiah Saunders and Samantha Thumpston were in attendance at the UNI conference.

Kosins called the conference a "learning experience" and said it was interesting to see the wide variety of RAs: some were quiet; others were international students. Mills was in agreement, citing the diversity of RAs as fascinating and calling it a "worthwhile experience."

The Office of Residential Life is in the process of accepting applications. For more information, attend an RA information session. Applications are due March 1.



STANDING STRONG Resident Assistants Holly Pawlak, Jeremiah Sanders, Kecia Kosins, Sam Thumpston, Wes Heath and Zabrian Mills show off their flexibility as they break from their full schedules at the Resident Assistant conference at UNI. The conference provided many learning and networking opportunities for the MU RAs as they participated in (or gave) various presentations.

Photo courtesy of Holly Pawlak

MU Men's Soccer Hires New Assistant Coach

David Lloyd
Staff Writer

Sometimes certain people seem to just be meant for certain places. For newly hired men's soccer Assistant Coach Corey Brueggeman, that place just might be Manchester University.

Brueggeman was hired shortly after the new year following former assistant Steve Frizzo's decision to leave in December "to pursue other opportunities" according to the Manchester Athletics website. He graduated from Manchester with a degree in Sport Management in 2012. A four-year starter at midfield on the pitch, as well as a captain during his junior and senior seasons, Brueggeman was named to the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) All-Conference team during those same seasons.

Hailing from Cincinnati, Brueggeman decided to play soccer at MU just a few months prior to beginning his first year. "I wanted to play college soccer, and I wanted to attend a school with a small campus," Brueggeman said of his decision to attend Manchester. "I was brought

here by another recruit, who ended up not coming here, for the 3v3 spring soccer tournament, which really made me serious about going here."

Brueggeman returns to the Manchester campus following a year-long opportunity with the MLS team Columbus Crew as the Marketing Promotions intern. "I was the Gameday Plaza Host, so I would speak and read announcements and promotions in front of over 20,000 people at the stadium," Brueggeman said. "At the end of the season they experienced an entire management change, so there was a lot of turnover. It was a really great experience, and I thought that this opportunity gave me a chance to experience coaching at a higher level."

While this is Brueggeman's first time coaching at the college level, it is not his first experience on the sideline as a coach. While attending Manchester, he coached the middle school team at Indian Springs during their spring seasons, and now feels that he is ready to learn how to coach at the college level. He will be assisting under Coach Dave Good, who coached Brueggeman all four years and has held the job since 1980.

Brueggeman comes back to Manchester with a class of juniors and seniors that have improved vastly since he last called them teammates as first-years and sophomores. They will look to improve on the past season in which they went 5-13-1 and 3-5-1 in the conference. This record signaled a sixth place finish for the team that is losing four all-conference players in first team honorees Cody Freels and Dian Radev and second team members Carson McFadden and Grant Noakes.

Brueggeman comes into the job with high expectations. "I just want to see improvement," said Brueggeman with confidence. "That's what any coach wants to see, really. I won't set unrealistic goals for us, but I'd like to make top four in conference and I believe we can."

A top four finish would give Manchester a spot in the conference tournament, and Brueggeman brings lofty expectations to a group of seniors who haven't had a berth since their first season. But Brueggeman also brings new, additional leadership, understanding and youth to the soccer squad.

January Athletic Training Student of the Month



Mark Sexton

Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN
Future Plans: Physical Therapy School

Activities: Football, MUATC
Current Sport: Women's Basketball

'Friends of Manchester' Work with Residents of Timbercrest

Kate Rosenbaum
Staff Writer

Manchester students "fit" right in when they brought a fitness program to senior citizens.

Members of the January session class "Aging Health and Wellness" participated in "Friends of Manchester," which is a way for past and present Manchester students to connect with one another while also gaining knowledge on the fitness of older adults. Current Manchester students traveled to Timbercrest Senior Living Community on a daily basis in order to work with residents and place a focus on intergenerational learning.

Retired Professor Lana Groombridge started the class and it has continued to grow with Dr. Kim Duchane currently in charge. "Mostly, one of our mission statements is about serving," he said. "We are a service department. What do I have to give back? A listening ear...

A touch on the shoulder..."

The class was held at Timbercrest for several hours in the morning. Residents and current students would gather in the workout room and go through a wide range of work out exercise routines in order to help keep the residents healthy and in shape.

"They took us by surprise how active they were," said Jack Lowe, a sophomore and a fitness/recreation major. "I think of the elderly as more physically fit now. Old people are awesome." An instructor would lead the class through various exercises, ranging from stretching to dance and aerobics. There were videos and tape recordings used in order to instruct the workout group, as well.

"I usually sit way on one end and it makes me feel so happy to see the young and the older together," said Elsie Barrett, a Timbercrest resident, a frequent member of the workout group and a "Friends of Manchester"

participant.

After the workouts were completed for the morning, students and residents were paired with one another for a one-on-one discussion on various gerontological topics ranging from how to stay healthy to medical care to the personal lives of the senior citizens. Deidra Martin, a senior and an exercise science major, said that she vividly remembers the motto of the resident she was paired with during her time at Timbercrest: "I don't smoke, I don't chew, and I don't go with the girls that do."

This January session experience also focused on understanding the connection between physical fitness and the aging person. Grant Newlin, a sophomore and a health and physical education major, said that he was able to relate to how different some exercises would be because senior citizens are unable to move as well as when they were younger. Hearing their

input about the workout and whether the residents enjoyed it or had trouble helped him understand the connection between physical fitness and the elderly individual.

Duchane stated that the point of the course was for students to gain more knowledge on the health content, which can be done with the aid of the senior citizens and then applying it to the greater population. Deidra Martin's benefits went beyond the Timbercrest classroom. "Anybody that is looking for volunteer hours do it over there," she said. "They'll get to meet amazing people. They act as young as we are."



Spartan Sports



Men's Basketball Focuses on Improvement

Ariel Smith
Staff Writer

This year has been a tough one for Manchester University's men's basketball.

The team is very young, consisting of mostly first years, sophomores, and only one senior. Therefore, the team's focus is on learning and improving their game.

The team is just around the corner from the end of the season, but they currently have 4 wins and 19 losses.

Head Coach Brad Nadborne explained that when working with a team that is still learning so much, wins do not happen as often as with a team that has more experience; the expectations are just not the same. Instead focus is placed primarily on learning strategy and improving their game as well as working on communication as a team.

The team has been focusing on improving in all aspects of the game. Nadborne detailed what practices consist of for everyone. "Offensively, we have continued to improve on our execution," he said. "Defensively, we have con-



HEADED TO THE HOOP Senior David House looks for an opening by the basket during last week's home game against Bluffton on Wednesday, Feb. 6. The Spartans fell to the Beavers, losing by a final score of 52-65. At the time of publication, the Spartans held an overall record of 4-19 with a conference record of 1-15. The team will face the Earlham Quakers at the PERC in its final game of the season on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 3 p.m.

tinued to improve on our recognition of situations, and since we play a very team-oriented defense, our positioning and commu-

nication are of paramount importance. Our players will continue to improve on these concepts."

He also explained

the quality of practice was more important than the amount of practices they had. As the team grows closer their confidence

builds within themselves and with each other as a team. "From that, we need to go into the games with positive energy, a belief in

what we are doing, and the mental toughness to execute those things in a consistent manner," Nadborne said. "In my mind, it is not a matter of if, but when."

He also gave insight on how dedicated and determined the team is. "When you work as hard as these guys work, and care as much as these guys care, I feel like the light bulbs will go on at any time," he said.

Though they work on strategies at practice, it's much different taking those experiences and turning them into a game against an opponent, but Nadborne has faith in his team. "They will put it together sooner, rather than later," he said.

Though the season is coming to an end for this year, each season holds something new for the Spartan athletic teams, and as Nadborne mentioned, the team is working hard to meet their goals.

The men will be playing at Earlham at 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 16.

Photo by Alexah Parnin

Spartan Wrestling Continues to Train Hard

Caleb Noffsinger
Staff Writer

The wrestling team at Manchester has had a hard season. With only one overall win, things could be better. However, they are far from being a weak team. They are dedicated to their group and continue to train to be the best. With wrestlers scoring personal wins here and there, they are proving that they are not out of the ring yet.

The team has been training extremely hard since Oct. 10, and have been in competition since Nov. 1. They train every day and lift in the mornings 2-3 times a week. The only day they a break is on Sunday. "They are working really extremely hard and becoming not only a stronger team physically, but also becoming closer as a team,"

said Assistant Coach Jordan Knudsen. He also commented that their intense training comes from his and Coach Burlingame's 'Game Plan,' where they expect the team to grow progressively stronger through the years in hopes of achieving great things in coming seasons. However, this doesn't mean they don't plan on going out flat this year. Their goal is to hit nationals hard and pose a real threat. Their hopes for this year may not be outrageous, yet they are spirited enough to keep pushing strong.

The roster is 15 athletes strong. Wrestling members range through all of the weight classes, giving a wide berth of knowledge and strengths, making the team both diverse and dynamic. Each one has held up to his capabilities and trained as hard as the coaches required. They did not stop training in January, and insisted on keeping

wrestling present in their already busy schedules, keeping their determination and spirits high despite their losses earlier in the season.

Moreover, the wrestlers are showing growth by their records, proving that they are growing stronger. Their most recent matches are proof of that. The team mates had commented about how they had been keeping their spirits high and continually training to push for better results. The life of a wrestler is not easy, having to work out to become stronger, while managing their weight so they fall in to a specific weight category that they feel secure in. The team is not resting and intend to turn their record around as much as they can this season, then plan and train so next year they can come back with a vengeance.

Senior-less Spartans Play Well Despite Youth

Heather Elson
Staff Writer

The Manchester women's basketball team may be inexperienced and very young this year, but these girls will not let that be an excuse for their roller coaster season.

The record may not show it, but the team has done really well this season. "We struggle to finish a 40 minute game," said point guard Jocelyn Hamilton. "We play well for 35 minutes and then play bad for the last five."

However, this practice has not stopped them from giving it all they have. Juniors and sophomores have done their best to step up and fill in the shoes of leaders because the team has no seniors. "They have underestimated how much the seniors from the previous years have done for them," Head Coach Josh Dzurick said. "So, they have been learning as they go."

Last season, the team had four seniors: captain Laine Mello, Becki Lowden, Alex Starkey and Kailey Honn. "Even if Laine had to carp to get us to do something, we would do it because we had respect for her," Hamilton said.

This season, the team has two co-captains: junior Erynn Meiklejohn

and sophomore Abby Lang. "We are not taking this season for granted, but we also know this is not our last year to do something," Lang said. "That is the kind

of leadership the seniors would bring to the table."

This year the team's motto is "Win from Within." Dzurick has taken this motto to heart by try-

ing to get the players to understand that he is just a coach. He cannot turn them into a basketball star, a great student, or a good person; they have to de-

cide to be one. "That's why we came up with that motto because they need to recognize that it's them," Dzurick said. "They individually and as a group need to

make the decisions of what goals they are setting and how to accomplish those goals."

The girls have taken on the motto and started to bond with one another. While being on campus over Winter Break, the girls would play hide and seek with the lights out in East Hall.

The team also bonds by dancing in the locker room to get pumped up for a big game. "We get really goofy before we have to get really focused," Lang said. They listen to all genres of music, from the "Pitch Perfect" soundtrack to "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. Though if you put on J. Dash's "WOP," be aware of everyone in the locker room stopping what they are doing and dancing like fools.

The bonding has led to an 8-15 season and conference 7-9. The best game the girls had was when they beat Hanover at Hanover, 76-73. The team was ecstatic over the win because the team has not beaten Hanover in the past six years.

The last two games of the season are against Anderson (Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.) and Earlham (Feb. 16 at 1 p.m.), both at home.



BATTLE FOR THE BALL The Manchester women's basketball team anticipates a rebound during its home game on Saturday, Feb. 9, against the Transylvania Pioneers. The Spartans fell to the Pioneers by a final score of 49-57. At the time of publication, the women's basketball team held a conference record of 7-9 and an overall record of 8-15. The Spartans will wrap up their regular season with a home game against the Earlham Quakers on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 1 p.m.

Photo by Felicia Nichols