



# The Oak Leaves



Manchester University Issue XVI - April 19, 2013

## Admin Building Emptied During Auction

Ariel Smith  
Staff writer

Though weekends usually hold fun activities for students, they can also bring events to work, like last weekend's auction. Held on Saturday morning, April 13, the auction took place throughout the Administration Building and sold items from desks and chairs to old computers and projection screens. Due to a lot of professors and classes moving to the new Academic Center this year, a lot of furniture and building supplies from the Admin Building were left unused and in need of a new home. The auction gave buyers the opportunity to repurpose items no longer needed by the University.

According to Jeri Kornegay, director of Media and Public Relations at MU, the proceeds from the auction are going into general school funding, and not just for one purpose. Since buyers were receiving an item for their bids, the money is not a donation for a certain project and can be put into general school funds and used for multiple school functions or programs.

Many students were involved in different processes of the auction. "Some students from Case

Studies in Business and some members of K Club helped," Kornegay said.

next year to Jamaica and a construction project there. "Besides the soccer team,

at the auction. They served as auctioneer's assistants, registrars and runners.

screen projectors, as well as other pieces of technology. "There was so much

vard Classics" that he was pretty interested in."

Old items from other buildings not in use anymore were also sold. "There was a lot of stuff from PCs to chairs and my favorite thing there was this old directory," said alumnus Cruz Gregory. He also mentioned all the work that the set up crew did to get ready for the auction. Scott Eberly and his crew were in charge of most of the set up. "We had been taking stuff upstairs since the beginning of the summer last year when the professors moved to the new building and we have slowly added and rearranged since then," said senior Cory Feltner.

To go along with so many different kinds of items to be bought, there were also many different kinds of buyers. "While a huge percentage of the bidders were alumni or connected in some way to MU, the major buyers were professional antique, flea market and scrap dealers," Kornegay said.



**GOING ONCE, TWICE, SOLD!** The Administration Building was filled with people once again during the auction on Saturday, April 13. Many current and former students bid for the opportunity to own a piece of Manchester history, such as desks or items labeled with 'Manchester College.' Professional antique and flea market buyers as well as scrap dealers were also present during the auction.

*Photo by Vivien Carter*

"The soccer team hauled items for tips and ran a sizeable food concession to support their service trip

Professor Mary Lahman's Advanced PR class oversaw a lot of the marketing and worked the whole day

There were all kinds of items to be bought including office desks and chairs, computers and

stuff in the Admin Building," said alumnus Ben Ogden. "One of our friends found a collection of "Har-

## International Buffet Serves Friendship, Food



**BON APPETIT!** Jeries Khayyat and Lexi Salcedo serve more than fried plantains as they provide welcoming smiles to those attending the International Buffet on Sunday, April 14 in the Union. Hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Chartwells, the event was designed to spark conversations among students and North Manchester community members about food and culture. 12 dishes from eight countries were prepared by student volunteers like Khayyat and Salcedo. Several students and members of OMA also performed a dance to entertain the diners.

*Photo by Stephanie Barras*

**Inside: Cultural Expo ~ 'Salaam Dunk' ~ Baseball**



# Around Campus



## Letter: Never Underestimate the Word 'Rape'

Dear Editors,

There are certain words people throw around on a daily basis; "retarded," "gay," "rape." We look at them as though they are simply interchangeable with other words that would fare just fine in the sentence.

"That's so gay" means it's lame, uncool, dumb, stupid, nonsensical, ridiculous. "Retarded" is often used in the same way. I feel strongly against both of these word choices: I have worked with children who have disabilities and have plenty of gay friends, none of whom would appreciate these words tossed around so carelessly and in this

undermining tone.

Then we have a bigger problem. I don't know when this started and I have no idea how it got to be so widely used. When you lose a game badly, you got "raped." When you did poorly on an exam, you got "raped." And while I get angry about the use of "retard" or "gay," rape hits another issue completely. People get sexually assaulted or raped every day, much more than anyone cares to discuss. Rape takes away a sense of security and makes one feel uneasy in his or her own body.

Why is it so easy to use the word casually, in a different context, but so dif-

icult to talk about rape in a serious sense?

Because we choose to toss this word around, it loses its severity. Rape is an uncomfortable topic when it is brought up in a serious matter because it's an uncomfortable occurrence. Yet, too many people find that the word "rape" fits in everyday sentences, to describe events that are decidedly NOT rape.

What I don't understand even more is that people have no idea about cases like in Steubenville, Ohio, where there was the most disturbing video of one of the rapists, Trent Mays, joking around about the girl being dead. In

the background you hear another young man telling Mays that what he did was rape a drunk girl. But no one does anything. A group of high school boys sit around, take a video, and laugh about a girl being so drunk she is "dead." But the word rape apparently does not mean much to him.

What I don't understand is how people can claim that it was the girl's fault because she was drunk. The only crime she committed was underage drinking. That is where it starts and ends. As a human being over 21, not just a female, I have every right to drink as much as I want. I should NOT have to wor-

ry about whether I will be sexually violated. I should NOT live in fear walking around at night. I should be able to wear what I want and NOT worry about whether someone is going to see my style as "asking for it."

What I don't understand is how people don't see the Steubenville crime as rape. It couldn't have been rape, right? Because rape is violent with ripped clothes and blood and scratches, by a person you don't know, in a dark alley with the police taping off a crime scene afterwards. But here is what I do understand.

One out of six women is sexually assault-

ed. Chances are you know six beautiful, amazing and strong women. One in six is shocking. One in six is too many. One is six billion is too many.

So we can't throw around the word "rape" because the act is describes is all too real. By choosing to use this word as part of losing a game, or failing a test, we take away the severity of the crime.

Losing a game probably won't change your life. And failing a test does not sexually violate you.

Rape does.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Barta

## Letter to the Editor: Sensible Alcohol Use

Dear Editors,

The recent VIA 'Don't Underestimate the Influence' promoted the idea that any use of alcohol will ultimately lead to negative consequences, consequences that will disastrously impact our futures. This was addressed in the XV edition of the Oak Leaves published on April 12th. Of VIAs which deal with drugs and alcohol, the same message of abstinence and avoidance is consistently repeated. We, the members of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, do not think this is an adequate way to deal with alcohol consumption.

College is a place for students to learn responsibility, critical thinking, and how to make good choices. By presenting alcohol usage as a black and white issue, where every drink has unavoidable negative conse-

quence, the topic is stripped of depth and students are robbed of an opportunity to use those skills. While Students for a Sensible Drug policy neither condones nor condemns alcohol use, we respect the right of individuals to make decisions about their own health and well-being.

Students who want to drink will do so and we find that Prohibition Only education, similar to Abstinence Only education, does not prevent that behavior. It would be more effective to teach safe habits that allow students to use learned skills to make healthy life choices. There are many people in our University community who responsibly use alcohol; this includes staff, faculty, and students. Many United States Presidents have even been responsible alcohol users.

The recent invitation to "responsible drinkers" on the first-year orientation panel 'To Drink or Not to Drink'

is a step in the right direction but more should be done. We call on the VIA Committee and the administration to provide more models of safe alcohol consumption for students. Just as \$ALT teaches responsible debt management, new programming can teach responsible alcohol consumption.

We would like to thank the editor for considering our letter and Oak Leaves readers for taking the time.

Sincerely,

Olan Griffiths and the members of SSDP

**To learn more about sensible alcohol use and policy feel free to attend an SSDP meeting. We meet on Thursdays at 9pm in SCIC 114.**

## Gulley Discusses the 'Evolution of Faith'

### The Oak Leaves

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#### Editors in Chief

Andrew Ellam  
Emily Krabach

#### Faculty Advisor

Dr. Katharine Ings

#### Advertising Manager

#### Graphics

#### Photographers

Vivien Carter, Maia Marusak,  
Felicia Nichols, Alexah Parnin

#### Staff Writers

Kari Cottingim, Mike Dixon, Heather Elson,  
Charlaine Grosse, Kaitie Kemper, Catherine Lange,  
David Lloyd, Caleb Noffsinger, Holly Pawlak,  
Jacob Ray, Kate Rosenbaum,  
Hannah Schutter, Ariel Smith

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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 University or the majority of its students.

Hannah Schutter  
Staff Writer

Emmy award-winning host and published author Philip Gulley came to Manchester University on Thursday, Apr. 11 to discuss religious views in his presentation titled "Evolution of Faith"

The presentation, which shares a title with Gulley's most recently published book, addresses what the author calls how people could "rethink what it means to be Christian." He started the night off by explaining the faith journey his mother took – starting as a Catholic, and now at 81, inching closer to atheism.

Gulley, who was raised as a Catholic and currently a Quaker pastor, discussed how his religious views have evolved over the years. "Some of the things we've been taught are no longer spiritually satisfying," he said. "It is important that people of faith consistently update

their views as scientific, psychological and anthropologic discoveries are added to beliefs."

Gulley went on to stress the importance of "theological re-education." "The picture of God [from the Bible] was taken a long time ago," he said. "That's not the picture any longer."

As Gulley continued to discuss being raised as a Catholic but leaving the faith, he stressed the importance of change and evolution of ideas. He noted that Catholicism tends to be stagnant in its beliefs.

Sophomore Nick Tirro, was raised as a Catholic and attended the VIA, wasn't offended by that characterization. "Gulley's overall message was that you need to stick to your morals," Tirro said. "Don't be part of a religion out of necessity, but find a faith that suits your beliefs best."

Gulley reiterated that his book was written to encourage "theological

re-education" by dispelling the notion that Christianity has never changed as well as reminding people that religious beliefs are influenced by a person's culture. The speech was not about bashing certain religions but trying to promote the importance of adapting beliefs and views as time passes.

Gulley, a Mar-rian College graduate and recipient of an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the Christian Theological Seminary, closed his speaking portion with a simple statement: "good religion is about becoming." He then opened the floor for questions, but ultimately reminded the audience about the importance of "putting the 'Christ' back in Christian."



**RETHINKING RELIGION** During his VIA discussion on Thursday, April 11, Philip Gulley pauses for a moment of reflection while addressing how Christian faith has evolved since its creation. He explained to students how their faiths should be flexible and able to adapt to the world around them as time passes.

Photo by Alexah Parnin

# Around Campus



## MUIA Hosts University's First 'Cultural Expo'

Catherine Lange  
Staff Writer

On Sunday, April 7, Manchester's International Association hosted its first Cultural Expo from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Science Center. The Expo presented booths featuring three different continents: Africa, Asia and South America; each booth was staffed by a member of the MUIA e-board.

At the Africa booth, the display included a Mancala game, a hand-out on African art, a dress, necklace, bracelets and candy.

The booth from Asia included items such as fans, boxes, books and other items of memorabilia. Among the items was the lucky cat often seen

in store or restaurant windows. "The waving paw signifies good luck," said Abby Niederman, a former BCA Japan student. Niederman answered questions and provided information about the display. Vietnam, Korea, Japan, India and Palestine were just a few of the countries represented.

South America was represented by a variety of toys and musical instruments, as well as delicious fried bread reminiscent of French toast. The South America station also displayed a variety of sports memorabilia.

Among those in attendance at the Expo were Thelma Rohrer, director of International Studies, Michael Dixon, director of Intercultural Services, and

Stephanie Barras, event planner for MUIA.

The Cultural Expo was planned as an event to bring the e-board together – "to get them creative and working," according to Barras. Each of the e-board members worked at a different booth. Barras staffed at the booth for South America. "The idea was to offer crafts, information, show how things work; to be knowledgeable," she said.

Overall, the idea was to bring an understanding of other cultures to the students on campus. "We wanted to educate people about the cultures and different continents of the world – dance, music, arts and crafts, literature, food – the list was forever long," Barras said. "We



**WORLD EDUCATION** Professor Thelma Rohrer and an attendee discuss the culture of South America with Stephanie Barras at her booth during the Cultural Expo on Sunday, April 7.  
*Photo of Felicia Nichols*

wanted to try to present it in a way that was enjoy-

able. It was meant to be interactive."

## 'Salaam Dunk' Unites Students of Iraq, MU

Charlaine Grosse  
Staff Writer

An award-winning documentary starring one of Manchester's students, "Salaam Dunk. One team. One season. One Iraq.," was screened at Cordier

Auditorium on Friday, April 5, followed by a conversation with Coach Ryan Bubalo and former player Yousra Kamoona.

Winning the Gold Plaque of the Chicago International Film Festival, the Grand Jury Award of

the Nashville Film Festival and the Grand Jury Award of the Florida Film Festival, the movie directed by David Fine shows how basketball can unify religions and empower women.

"Salaam Dunk" offers a glance of the lives

of the women's university basketball team of the recently opened American University of Iraq Sulaimani.

It was a real challenge for Coach Bubalo because most of the girls had never played basketball before. "It was so refreshing to be around them because even when they weren't very good at basketball, they were still playing hard, and more importantly, were still having so much fun," Bubalo said. "Indeed, that usually doesn't happen except when we're playing sports as children." According to Bubalo, the girls represent all the good things about playing sports.

The movie depicts the impact of women's athletics on the women themselves, and the fact that they were building and developing a network of support and sisterhood that will last for the rest of their lives.

"I've been to Manchester for four years but I kept in touch with almost all of them," said Yousra Kamoona, senior in computer science and former player of the AUIS women's basketball team. "They became my family when I went to AUIS."

Bubalo agrees. "I'm very proud of all that they've accomplished so far," he said and he added that the team brought out the best version of himself. "I think because they're so genuine and enthusiastic, it brought out a good side in me that wanted to match their efforts and enthusiasm with my own."

Most of the girls may have never played basketball, but neither had "Coach" Bubalo, deputy director of the English Writing and Learning Program who was teaching English as a second language and first-year composition, coached before. "I didn't know that I could coach," Bubalo said. "When I teach I know that I probably know more about the subject than anyone in the room, but I also don't know everything about the subject. I'm trying to be the leader of what I hope is a journey for ev-

eryone in the class, and I tried to bring that same mentality to coaching."

The AUIS women's basketball team may not be the first team of Iraq, but the team differentiates itself from other teams by being the first team representing a university and by the mixture of its different religious backgrounds.

"Women's athletics is important, not only because of the sport itself, but because in our cultures women have boundaries and women's athletics is a way to overcome those obstacles," said Safa Fadhil Al-Sultani, manager of the team, in her personal video diary sequence.

The AUIS women's basketball team set an example for other women in Iraq or in other conservative areas, but also for all women anywhere. "It's obviously easier to do something when you're not the only one doing it," Bubalo said.

The movie reinforced the importance of getting outside of ourselves and our own personal goals by working with other people on a project, a goal or a team.

Rehab Dahab, sophomore student majoring in sociology and psychology, appreciated the documentary. "It tells the story that athletic college students in the world are the same, trying to balance academics and athletics, regardless if they're living in the U.S. or in Iraq," she said.

According to Dahab, what makes the AUIS women's basketball team unique is that they are regular students who have to deal with the consequences of the war and use basketball as an outlet to distract themselves from this reality.

Vivien Carter, first-year student majoring business, agreed. "It was a very inspirational movie and it's refreshing to see Iraq through a positive light instead of all the poor media coverage," she said.

The audience demonstrated a real interest in the documentary and asked many questions after the projection.

Bubalo thought the questions were really good. "This is the first projection that I have been

able to attend at a university, and Manchester University students responded to it in a very positive way," he said.

Kamoona agreed. "I think the people who attended the VIA now have a new perspective about my country and my people," she said.

Indeed, one of the motivations for those young women to allow the filmmaker to come and film their lives was that they wanted the people in the West to see that they are not any different.

"I was very glad to see the students here watching the movie and getting this perspective and asking intelligent questions that demonstrated that they understood the main goal of it," Bubalo said.

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# Around Campus

## 'Lil Sibs' Fill MU Campus for Fun Weekend

Kate Rosenbaum  
Staff Writer

Sibling rivalry took a break during Manchester's Lil' Sibs Weekend April 12-13. The weekend is a time for all current Manchester students to invite their siblings, nieces, nephews or cousins to visit campus and participate in an array of events. Any child visiting between the ages of 5-12 was welcome to be involved in the activities.

The weekend's activities are sponsored by MAC, and were free to all children involved. On Friday the weekend kicked off with carriage rides and a magician, Nate Staniforth. He performed a variety of tricks ranging from hypnotism to swallowing a needle and thread separately and regurgitating them with the needle threaded. Senior Chandler Pogue and his younger brother, Brock, attended the show. Brock was asked to help out the magician on stage during the show and cited the needle-threading as his favorite trick.

The following morning, the Academic Center hosted games and activities for the visitors, which ranged from slap bracelets, sand art, digi-

tal graffiti wall and even a build-a-bear station. Later in the afternoon, inflatables

weekend ended with a dinner in the Union. Sophomore Erika

end. A member of the events committee, Kahlenbeck, along with the other

members, planned which events were to be used for the weekend and where each should be held. "I would definitely recom-

mend this experience to others because it is awesome to see children react

one of my favorite events on campus!" Junior Andrea Keller, another MAC member, was in charge of creating the photo booth for the weekend. During her first year of Manchester, she brought her younger brother to visit during Lil' Sibs weekend. "It was such a fun time," she said. "It was nice to be able to have a weekend to hang out with my younger brother and show him around my school."

Lil' Sibs Weekend has been thought to be a time when kids can get a firsthand experience of college setting in a fun, relaxed way with someone who they admire. "I looked forward to just having my 'sib' stay overnight with me because she talked about it months in advance," Kahlenbeck said. "She has been around and on campus her entire life, but has never stayed overnight and I was looking forward to experiencing that with her!"

Keller agreed with Kahlenbeck's statement. "My brother enjoying coming for Lil' Sibs Weekend because he was able to see how college life worked," she said.



**IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES** 'Sibs' of all ages participate in arts and crafts provided by MAC during the annual 'Lil Sibs' Weekend April 12-13. Throughout the weekend, children aged 5-12 participated in many events with their Manchester 'sib,' such as carriage rides, a magic show, bowling, swimming and a gymnasium filled with giant inflatables. Other than providing an exciting experience for younger 'sibs,' the weekend also offers other family members a chance to visit the campus.

*Photo courtesy of Shanon Fawbush*

in the PERC were set up along with bowling at Oak Park Lanes and swimming at Peabody Strauss Aquatic and Fitness Center. The

Kahlenbeck, a member of MAC, was one of the Manchester students who helped organize and also participated in the week-

members, planned which events were to be used for the weekend and where each should be held. "I would definitely recom-

to college life," she said. "They get so excited just to be on campus and do the activities that it makes it worth the energy. This is

## East Hall Hosts Community Easter Egg Hunt

Kari Cottingim  
Staff Writer

The "U" in-between East Hall and Garver Hall was a hop-pin' place on Saturday, April 6, when it was blocked off for East Hall's annual community Easter Egg Hunt. This year, East Hall's event included new games, face painting, Disney music, and, as always, featured the Easter Bunny.

The festive rabbit of the day stood waiting for incoming children and took pictures with them and their families as they arrived. Committee members and the student volunteers also snapped a few pictures with the bunny at the beginning of the event.

Normally the hunt would have taken place on the Mall, but this year East Hall had to improvise due to the Mall being closed. Committee members found that the East-Garver U was actually a much better place to hold the Easter Egg Hunt. "I like it better because it's easier to divide and manage," said Barbara Garcia. This closed in space also kept the activities contained to a smaller area

and added a good sense of community among participants.

"It was a heck of a lot better than it was last year," said Cassie Breach, head of the committee. "It helps a lot that the weather was better."

The change of space also made it a better place to host extra activities. Corn hole was set up for guests to play this year. Face paintings were also available, thanks to talented volunteers of the Art Anonymous club. One Residence Assistant even hosted chalk drawings at this event as a floor program. There were some lovely cupcakes, a frog, a cat and a bunch of bubbles already drawn upon arrival.

Disney songs were also a hit at the Easter Egg Hunt. "I Just Can't Wait to be King" from "The Lion King" and "Prince Ali" from "Aladdin" echoed between the buildings and throughout the campus with much energy, thanks to Garcia's planning. "I wanted a kid-friendly mix and you just can't go wrong with Disney," Garcia said. She says that the kids who she babysits love it when she plays Disney for them from her iPod, so she went off of

their favorite playlist to make the one they used for the egg hunt.

East Hall's committee of 15 people stuffed over 800 multi-colored plastic eggs with numerous kinds of candy. "With 800 eggs, everyone comes out a winner," Garcia said. They also had door prizes such as Frisbees, which every child was given at the registration. Some students who were not on the committee even came to help.

When the announcer set the children loose, they immediately scattered and filled their buckets. Some families brought their pooches to share the morning with. Many children wore spring-ready clothes, and one boy even came prepared by suiting up in an Iron Man costume.

After every egg was found and the search of the eggs was through, the event was not completely over. Families crouched together, investigating their prizes and munchkins ran around and chomped on their candy until the door prize winners were announced.

## Gentry Visits MU, Exhibits Art in Gallery G

Mike Dixon  
Staff Writer

Since March 15, an exhibition of ceramic art pieces created by artist Amanda Gentry have been on display in the upper Student Union, Gallery G.

On April 5, Gentry arrived at her art exhibit to talk to the Manchester community and explain the depth of her art before the exhibit closed on April 12.

The exhibition is named "Orieller," the French word for pillow. Gentry explains in her handout that these pieces symbolize her desire for "comfort in a world that plays host to suffering." Each piece began as soft as a pillow and became hard as a pot when dried.

Gentry created three of the selections over the course of six weeks in the Mediterranean Pyrenees Mountains in southern France. She was affected by the language and named one of her French pieces "Sentiment Croyant," or "Feeling is Believing."

Each piece appeared to have taken a great deal of time to make. The exhibit with the most pieces took around four months of work, including weekends. One piece which resembles an actual pillow took a month and a half because the process of drying was extremely slow.

Most of Gentry's work uses many similar parts to create a whole-some design through unity. One exhibit used over ninety x-shaped pieces, 140 of which were created in making "Orieller."

The reason Gentry says that she makes multiple pieces is because she gains a sense of comfort from the repetitive, fluid motions of creating the pieces. "It is a way to quiet my mind," she said. "Not unlike a chant or a mantra."

Truly, creating the art is a ritual in itself. While firing, she breathed on her pieces as they were forming to keep their expression. She describes it as an almost intimate act where

she literally breathes life into her work.

Her art also has

of her pet cat to give it a unique, grainy feel. It has nine sections, representa-

make a visible difference in the texture.

Gentry plans to

across a wall that is 70 feet wide and 10 feet tall. She also has an idea for making larger pillow pieces with impressions of heads as if people were resting on them.

The new exhibit will be shown at Hyde Park Art Center of Chicago in September



**CERAMIC COMFORT** Manchester art students and Professor Jena Oke visit with artist Amanda Gentry during her reception on Friday, April 5, in Gallery G. Gentry's exhibit of ceramic art pieces, named "Orieller," represented her desire for comfort in a less-than-comforting world.

*Photo by Felicia Nichols*

a deeply personal value. One selection, "What Remains," used the ashes

of her cat's nine lives, and each section used more ash than the last to

make another exhibit like "Orieller" including 480 of the x-shaped pieces

# Around Campus

## Manchester Students Gain Fame on 'The Voice'

Kaitie Kemper  
Staff Writer

Could there be a singing superstar among us? Two first-year Manchester University students—Jacob Smith and Derek Self—not only auditioned for the hit reality television show “The Voice,” but were called back to show off their musical abilities after the first round of competition.

Both men competed for a chance at stardom in Chicago on January 12, 2013. Over 30,000 people nationwide—Self’s contestant number was in the 32,000 range—performed for a panel of producers as they hoped to advance past the preliminary round and into the bright lights of the Hollywood stage.

The Chicago auditions were not Jacob Smith’s first attempt at making it in the music industry. “I tried out for ‘American Idol’ last summer,” he said. “I made it through a round, and that fueled the fire. It made me want to do it even more, and I just wanted to try out and try something new.”

Smith began to pursue his passion for country music after being sidelined by an injury in high school. “It was during my senior year when I tore my ACL and couldn’t play sports that I started singing a lot more,” he said. “I had sung country the year before that, but I really started performing and working on it. I got really good all of a sudden, and I decided, ‘That’s what I want to do right now.’”

His rendition of Josh Turner’s hit country

song “Your Man” caught the producers’ attention, catapulting him through the preliminary round and into the second round where he sang another Josh Turner song, “Long Black Train,” and Dierks Bentley’s “5-1-5-0.” After the judges reviewed videos of his interview and auditions, he got the call saying that he was wanted in Los Angeles the Thursday before MU’s spring break.

Smith claims he is far from a veteran performer since he has only been singing on this level for two years. “When I got there, it seemed like everyone had agents and managers,” he said. “I met a few people who were on iTunes, and one girl was there that opened for Britney Spears. I was very inexperienced compared to everyone else.”

Approximately 150 people competed in the final round in Los Angeles before the last cuts were made. “They had me sing—and really liked how I sang—‘Long Black Train’ and ‘5-1-5-0,’” he said. “They told everybody what they wanted them to sing, and they just told me, ‘We want you to keep doing what you’re doing,’ so that was really exciting. They also had me prepare another song, which was going to be ‘Chicken Fried.’”

Although he did not make it onto the televised round of “The Voice,” he still aspires to improve his musical talents, and is planning on playing at the Elkhart County Fair this summer. “I’m getting a guitar so I can start taking lessons,” he said enthusiastically.

“I’m taking some classes here next semester having to do with how music works, and hopefully I’ll learn a little more about how to write my own music.”

Derek Self worked a different genre, as he decided to sing Josh Groban’s “You Raise Me Up” for his “on-a-whim” audition in Chicago. “It was one of those big cattle calls—one of those conventions—kind of like you would see on ‘American Idol,’” he said. “The way I looked at it was, ‘I have a very small chance even if I prepare, even if I’m working hard for it.’”

After performing in front of the producer panel, he was one of the 200 people called back for the second round in Chicago where he stuck to his classic, easy-listening style of music. “It’s kind of like getting that golden ticket on ‘American Idol,’” he said excitedly. “I sang ‘Feeling Good’ by Michael Bublé and ‘Awake’ by Josh Groban because they wanted me to sing less popular songs that showed off that persona.”

He did not make it to the final round of competition in Los Angeles, but he learned quite a bit about the entertainment industry. “It was so true to what you see on television,” he said. “There was literally an intern who made Starbucks runs for the producers. There was definitely a hierarchy of people, but I thought that was really cool to get a behind-the-scenes look. You know, you watch it on television, and it seems so simple: This person’s good, they



**HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES** First-year Jacob Smith reached for the stars this past January as he auditioned for the television show “The Voice” and was called to the LA auditions. Fellow first-year Derek Self had similar success with his auditions in Chicago.

*Photo courtesy of Jacob Smith*  
with a smile. “If you’re honest about music, it’s cool to experience. Being from a small town, I love going to the city and feeling like I’m doing something big. I don’t expect to be a multiplatinum recording artist any day soon, but I love it.”

turn their chairs; this person’s bad, they don’t. It’s so much more than that. It’s such a long, complicated process.”

As for Smith, this is only the beginning of Self’s musical journey. “I take voice lessons and am in choir,” he said. “Songwriting is one of my passions. I love to get the right

music. I’m from Manchester High School, so I’ve always done music within the community, and then expanded that to do a little more auditioning for stuff.”

His experiences while auditioning for “The Voice” are ones that he treasures. “I felt so accomplished being a step away from the show,” he said

## Spartan Runners Look Forward to Conference

Caleb Noffsinger  
Staff Writer

With Conference coming soon, the men’s and women’s track runners are getting ready to shoot for the top. There are ambitious goals on the team and many teammates appear excited for their chance to get among the top three in their division.

The team this year has pushed very hard despite the men’s team’s injury spell. Their successful meets were possible because of large amount of new faces (and feet), and because of seniors and juniors all years at MU. Those who were also in Cross Country have also carried over the momentum of last season into the spring.

Both teams have also been out a lot practicing and running to reach higher standards. There is a philosophy that Coach Cashdollar and the other assistant coaches have put in place that helps build strength and teamwork. “We always center around our common goal of outworking our competition,” Cashdollar said. “So our philosophy is the same.”

Some of the runners have even gone as far as branching out into multiple events. They keep. Then they carry their victories over to the

track. Some of these include seniors who have run for all four years and moved to shot put and other such events. “We

they carry the momentum from that event into long distance running and excel at that as well.”

There have been

who were affected by injury still in their events. Stocker was one such runner. “I had gotten sick,” he said. “And that did affect my

The division Conference at the end of the school year appears to be something that many runners are looking forward

the women’s teams. This year I believe our women can be top 2nd, our men have unfortunately been hit by some injury, and other setbacks. So my goal for them is to be top 3.” Both teams are very strong and can maintain their position, however, next year they plan to push for better rankings and keep on the track instead of the sick bed.

Michael Stocker is confident too. “Even with seniors who are extremely difficult to replace leaving next year, I believe that we will compensate and build a much stronger team next year,” he said. “I am looking forward to next year with a bittersweet feeling knowing it is my last year, and I share this with many of my fellow teammates, however I am very excited to strive for greater achievements next year with fresh talent of new faces and the skill of those returning runners.”



**I RUN THE LINE** Manchester University’s runners spend hours each day running both on and off the track in preparation for the upcoming HCAC Championship meet on April 26-27. The meet will be held on campus. Also, Manchester will host the Spartan Classic on Saturday, April 20.

*Photo by Vivien Carter*

have had plenty of more seasoned runners trying their hand at other events, and then excelling in those events,” said junior Michael Stocker, a Runner of all three years. “After they got higher scores in those,

a few injuries and illnesses that has slightly hindered the team. While the team has still been able to take home third place during almost all of their meets, they may have been able to achieve more with those

running, however, I and all who have been incapacitated by this small wave of injuries have pushed extra hard after the injury or illness has passed to compensate for these past weeks.”

to. “The remainder of the season will focus on the HCAC Championship that we will host on April 26-27, and the National meet at the end of May,” Cashdollar said. “Last year we were 3rd for both the men’s and



# Spartan Sports



## Spartan Softball First in HCAC Standings

Jacob Ray  
Staff Writer

First in conference! Manchester University's softball team is currently number one, making them 7-3 in conference and 15-11 overall this season.

Kaile Niezgodski, a first-year catcher and infielder, and Kirby Glancy, a junior infielder, sat down to talk about the season thus far. "Our pitching has been on point, which is great," Niezgodski said. Pitchers for the team are Ashlea Nash (sophomore), Maureen Lund (sophomore), and Brittney Wetzel (junior). Niezgodski continued saying, "our defense is also just stellar."

Glancy interjected: "Agreed, they only made two or three mistakes this weekend," speaking of the past two games against Transylvania and St. Mary's.

The team will be losing two seniors this year, Danielle Howell (outfielder) and Allison Chiles (catcher/infielder). The team will

also be losing two juniors due to practica, Kaitlyn Schmidt (outfielder) and

often performs better in conference games than in regular season, and Niez-

godski believes this to that record to have a good Tracy Cromer and assistant coaches Melanie Heyne

ment," Niezgodski said. Glancy agreed. "The coaches [Head coach

and Josh Dzurick] are on us about it, they really want us to do well in the tournament," she said, "Their expectations are very high and we could meet them if we focused all the time. She then added a joke: "Or if half our team wasn't injured."

Although, that's not much of a joke, a large amount of softball players have strained muscles whether the pain be in an arm or leg. They are pressing onwards. Which is good considering one of the toughest teams MU faces is Bluffton. (The game will have been played by the publication of this article.) Conference itself happens at the end of the month, in which the softball girls will have to keep at their spot as number one.



**SWING, BATTER, SWING!** Sophomore pitcher Ashlea Nash winds up a pitch against Transylvania on Saturday, April 13. The Spartans swept the Pioneers 9-7 and 6-5, improve their number-one record in the conference to 7-3. Overall, the Spartans are 15-11 on the season. The team plays its next games at home in a doubleheader against Huntington, followed by a doubleheader at Olivet on Saturday and another doubleheader at Defiance on Sunday.

Photo by Vivien Carter

Brittney Wetzel.

The softball team

come from the team zoning

position for the tourna-

ment," Niezgodski said. Glancy agreed. "The coaches [Head coach

## Throwers and Jumpers Prepare as a 'Family'

Heather Elson  
Staff Writer

Manchester University's track team, especially the throwers and jumpers, are a very close group that some might call a family.

Junior Alissa Niswonger never thought she would be a thrower — in high school, her coaches always told her she was too small. However, during her first year of college, Niswonger's friend, T. J. Pelka, asked her to go throw javelin with him.

Niswonger had no idea what she was doing. When she threw her first javelin, she was surprised at Pelka's reaction. "He said, 'That's really good,'" Niswonger said. "And I said I don't even know how to throw this. Then, he said 'Imagine if you could.'"

Niswonger, at that time, did not know if she was going to join the team. When she arrived at the first practice her first year and was asked by her teammates if she was the new thrower, she knew she was part of the family.

This sense of family among the team has not only led to new and inexperienced players to join, but also has led to the throwers striving to do better than seasons past.

So far, they have done just that by placing in every meet.

"We have changed our work effort this year because we want to make a difference for the team," Niswonger said.

This effort is evident in the hours they have put into the weight room as well as practicing whenever they are free, such as in between classes and before or after practice, to improve their techniques.

To Austin Finley, a jumper, the team feels like a family because everyone is nice. He also loves going to practices because it gives him a break from all the stress that classes bring. "It's nice to just go to practice, relax and have fun with my friends," Finley said.

In order to prepare for a meet, jumpers like Finley work on a lot of specific techniques to make the jumps look natural rather than forced. Throughout the week, the players do weights, cardio or recovery, depending on the day.

Recovery days mean less intense practices in order to foster recuperation. These days focus more on light cardio rather than weights and techniques.

One specific technique that many college teams have to focus on is how to do a perfect triple jump, be-

cause it is not taught in midwestern high schools.

However, sophomore Bridgette Rowe is from California, where triple jump is taught. She, unlike the other players throughout conference, has an advantage and knows how to perform the jump.

Those who grew up in the Midwest, on the other hand, have to learn from scratch by the coaches, though the past couple of years teams throughout the conference have become more experienced.

"We are all becoming stronger at [triple jump], making it very competitive this year," Rowe said.

The family support that this team gives to one another is their key to winning conference this year.

"We always support each other, it doesn't matter if you are a thrower, jumper or distance runner," Rowe said. "We know what everyone can do individually and we will always be there to cheer them on."

## MU Baseball Ranked Ninth in National Poll

David Lloyd  
Staff Writer

Manchester University baseball continued its impressive display thus far this season over the weekend of April 12 and 13, finishing a sweep of conference foe Hanover with a combined run differential of 35-9 over the three games, with one on Friday and a double header Saturday.

The Spartans (23-4-1) are No. 9 ranked by D3Baseball.com and currently hold a significant lead in the conference at 13-2. Rose-Hulman is second in the conference at 8-5, who the Spartans will travel to play in a vital three game series this coming weekend.

Manchester's explosive offense has scored 126 runs in conference so far this season (237 including non-conference games). The key hitters are Bryce Murphy (.398) and Trevor Kimm (.391), as well as the conference leader in home runs (5) and RBIs (50) Jordan Nieman.

Bryce Murphy, who also pitches for the Spartans, is the league leader in ERA with 1.24, contributes to a pitching staff that has only allowed 74 earned

runs over their 28 games. Murphy helps make up a rotation that includes fellow seniors Justin Scott (1.89

First-year Luke Parker, a hopeful varsity pitcher for next season, has kept excited about the

thrilling and fun," said Parker, who hails from Pleasant Lake, IN. "It's awesome to think that we are the team

and maybe even make a run in the post-season.

Coming into this program amongst the re-

fellow baseball players for helping relieve that burden.

"The transition has been really good so far, and the practices have been exciting and energetic," he said. "My teammates have helped a lot this year, and it was beneficial to get to know them more by playing intramural basketball and soccer with them. We've made a lot of great memories this year, and my favorite so far was being able to make the trip to South Carolina, since it was the furthest I've ever traveled, and it was a wonderful experience that I will always remember."

The Spartans will begin a seven away game stretch with games at Rose-Hulman, Defiance and Bluffton. The team's regular season will end over May Day Weekend with a three game series against Mt. St. Joseph.



**HERE COMES THE PITCH** Senior outfielder/pitcher Bryce Murphy awaits a pitch during last Tuesday's home game against Defiance. The Spartans were victorious, winning the game by a final score of 19-2. Currently, Manchester is the number one team in the HCAC with a conference record of 13-2 and an overall record of 23-4-1. Also, the team is ranked no. 9 in the D3Baseball.com national poll. The Spartans will travel to Terre Haute, IN, this weekend in order to face Rose-Hulman, the number two team in the HCAC, in an important three-game series.

Photo by Vivien Carter

ERA) and Kyle Konarski (2.30), who are third and fifth respectively in conference ERA.

season the Spartans have had up to this point. "Playing this season for a nationally ranked team has been

that everyone in our conference and around our area wants to win against. I expect us to keep winning,

cent winning ways puts pressure on incoming freshman, and Parker gives a lot of credit to his