

The Oak Leaves

Manchester University Issue XI - February 21, 2014

Phone Banks Held in Opposition of HJR-3 MU Peace Studies Department Hosts Two Phone Banks on Campus

Lucas Kauffman
Freelance Reporter

On Sunday, February 9, and Tuesday, February 11, Peace Studies hosted two phone banks on campus in opposition of HJR-3 (formerly HJR-6), the proposed amendment to the state constitution that would permanently define marriage as between one man and one woman and would not recognize civil unions. MU's phonebank efforts were in partnership with Freedom Indiana, is a bipartisan group that is made up of organizations, people of faith, businesses, and different individuals who oppose HJR-3.

The purpose of the phone banks was to call people in key districts, especially where senators have not made up their minds yet. Students would call the senator's constituents, transfer them to their senator's voice mail, and tell them to vote "no." The phone bank has specific scripts that callers can use when calling constituents.

Sophomore students Vivien Carter and Jamie Dowdy were two students that helped organize and staff both phone banks on campus.

Carter and four other students went to Fort Wayne this weekend to learn how to run a phone bank. She said she chose to volunteer because she believes in human rights. "I am an LGBTQ supporter," she said.

Carter believes



PHONATHON Manchester University volunteers make contacts at the phone banks hosted by the Peace Studies department on Sunday, Feb. 9, and Tuesday, Feb. 11. Volunteers made phone calls to senators, especially those in key districts that had not yet chosen a side regarding the proposed HJR-3 amendment, which would define marriage as between only one man and one woman. The phone bank efforts were in partnership with Freedom Indiana, a bipartisan group made up of individuals and organizations who oppose HJR-3.

Photo by Vivien Carter

that these phone banks have helped tremendously. The first phone bank on campus on Sunday evening had 15 people transferred to their legislator's voicemail to leave a message in opposition of HJR-3.

Dowdy got involved with Freedom Indiana over the January Session. At first, United Sexualities was invited to

a rally in Fort Wayne and (Freedom Indiana) was recruiting volunteers for phone banks.

"I wanted to become more involved, so I went to six phone banks over January alone," Dowdy said. "The Fort Wayne field organizer for Freedom Indiana, Zachariah Boyer, suggested that Haley Steinhilber and I go through phone bank training, so that we

could host phone banks on campus."

Dowdy also believes that the phone banks have also made an impact, especially on the legislators voting on the bill. "We called people right before the House of Representatives voted on the bill," she said. "After the vote, I recognized at least seven representatives that we called on the list of representa-

tives that voted 'no.'"

Peace Studies intern Becca Creath talked about how Peace Studies became involved with Freedom Indiana.

"There was a group of students at the beginning of the year that knew that HJR-6 at the time was going to be a huge debate, and brought that up at the Peace Studies retreat the beginning of the fall se-

mester," she said. "In November, several students and myself attended a letter writing workshop that Freedom Indiana hosted in Columbia City, Indiana.

"There were students in the Social Movements class on campus that were also interested in the issue and organizing around it, so we worked together to bring attention to the issue on campus," Creath continued.

Besides the phone banks on campus, there has been a lot of other involvement on campus around the issue since the beginning of the school year. There have been people who have called the president's office in November after Manchester announced a neutral stance on the amendment; the cabinet hosted a meeting on campus in November to talk about the issue; there was a letter in the Oak Leaves, that many clubs and organizations signed on to, announcing opposition to HJR-3; there was a sit-in last fall; and there has been phone bank training held in Fort Wayne, to help bring the phone banks to campus.

Carter says that she will continue to oppose HJR-3. Depending on how the vote goes in the Senate, she will either continue her urgency to get more people to oppose HJR-3, or start planning for the future.

Temple Grandin to Speak at Upcoming VIA

Emily Barrand
Staff Writer

Manchester University will welcome Temple Grandin, Innovator of the Year of 2012 - 2013, on March 6.

Grandin, diagnosed with autism at the age of three, went on to become the most well-known autistic adult in the world, developing equipment to handle livestock that keeps the animals as comfortable and happy as possible while being moved through facilities.

Grandin hasn't let autism restrict her whatsoever in life. In fact, she contributes her special insight into the minds of animals to her disorder. She's experienced what it is like to feel enclosed as well as the power that comfort can have on an individual. She used this firsthand knowledge in her research.

It is no surprise that Temple Grandin meets the requirements to be named Innovator of the Year. "My goal is bring an amazing innovator to campus each year," said Jim Falkiner, professor of entrepreneurial studies. "I like to get someone that people wouldn't expect." His goal is to get students thinking about their own potentials; the Innovator of the Year allows them to do this by listening to the success

stories of others. "I think they can look at a person who did some very easy to understand, but surprising things in life by having innovative ideas," Falkiner said. "I want students to say not so much, 'How will I get a job after college?' but more, 'How will I make a difference?' You don't make a difference by doing what everybody else did. You make a difference by figuring out how to do something new and valuable."

A well-known doctor of animal science, as well as a professor at Colorado State University, Grandin can be difficult to contact, but Professor Falkiner contacted her by simply visiting her website and seeing a "Ask Temple a Question" box. "Why not?" he asked. He then asked her if she'd want to be Manchester's Innovator of the Year, and she replied positively. He took a trip to Colorado, had lunch with her and made a plan to have her come to campus on March 6. "I whipped out this contract I had typed up and had her sign it," Falkiner said. "She brought out this giant day timer and wrote me in for March 6, and that was it." Grandin doesn't have an agent; sometimes she replies and sometimes she doesn't. "It just kind of happened,"

Falkiner added.

A busy day is in store for Grandin here on campus. At 9:30 a.m., she will sit in on a psychology class in Flory Auditorium. Any student is welcome to join, space permitting. At noon, 30 Spartans will have "Lunch With Temple," an event previously open to all students and narrowed down to those with interesting/thought-provoking questions. After lunch, Grandin will partake in a Meet & Greet, open specially to people who have a connection to autism, animal science or livestock handling. Those who wish to be involved in this may send a request to idea@manchester.edu. Finally, the VIA will take place at 3:30 p.m., followed by a book signing in Cordier Auditorium at 4:45 p.m.

In order to understand more about Temple Grandin's story, the film, based on her life, will be shown on campus on Feb 26 in Cordier at 7 p.m. All students are encouraged to attend. A few students will also screen the film in their dorms; be on the lookout to see if it will be playing in yours.



Photo by Rosalie Winard

TEMPLE'S STORY Temple Grandin, Manchester University's 2012 - 2013 Innovator of the Year, will be visiting MU's campus on Thursday, March 6. She will speak at 3:30 p.m. in a VIA event at Cordier Auditorium. Prior to her visit, students will have an opportunity to understand more of Grandin's life story through multiple screenings of "Temple Grandin," a biographical film based on her life. Photo courtesy of Manchester University Media Relations

Inside: Cara Lee Wade, MU Swim Club, Spartan Basketball

Around Campus

Manchester Students Study Culture in France

Kalie Ammons
Staff Writer

A select number of students were lucky enough to go to France during this last January session. The trip was headed by Professor Janina Traxler, department chair and professor of French, and Professor Marcie Coulter-Kern, department chair and professor of psychology. No previous French courses or experience with the language was required for the trip, which focused more on culture. While each class completed some of the same activities and stayed in the same hotel, they each focused on different subject matters and were graded on different criteria.

"The students, in some ways, get double courses, which I think is a tremendous advantage," Traxler said.

Traxler, who has lived in France several times, worked to plan the best areas to visit for authentic French culture and served as a translator for the group on occasion.

"We had a couple of visits where the person who was hosting us was not a good English-speaker, so I had to do all the translating for the group in those occasions," Traxler said.

Traxler encourages students to study abroad to further their education and general quality of life.

"You never completely understand yourself until you get out of your comfort zone," Traxler said. "Whether you go to another culture, whether you go to another town, or even another family, you can never completely get to know yourself unless you get out of the context you're accustomed to."

The experience gained from a trip like this is more than seeing foreign culture. Traxler believes these trips ultimately help in any travelling scenario, whether in different parts of Indiana or the world.

"Some of these students are from small towns, and others are from big cities, but their idea of a big city might be Fort Wayne," Traxler said. "A big eye-opener on trips like these is the introduction to big cities. We don't travel on a tour bus, we use all public transportation."

Traxler says students were able to master the commuter trains by the end of the trip and feel comfortable in the city after just a few days.

Students also experienced religious diversity on the trip. They visited the Synagogue de la Paix

and the Grand Mosque in Strassbourg. "That was just a mind-opening experience," Traxler said. "Students may know a person who is Muslim or Jewish but not necessarily have seen their place of worship."

Jeremiah Sanders, an MU senior and performing arts major, had his own highlight. "At Vieux Lyon there is a large Roman arena that is still in pretty good shape," Traxler said. "We convinced him to go down and sing for us."

Sanders remembers the moment. "It was absolutely incredible," he said about the event. "The acoustics were fantastic. It was so amazing to sing in such a historical space. People outside of our MU group stopped in their tracks to take a listen as I sang two opera arias. Being in the space was already extraordinary! Having the opportunity to sing there easily made it one of my fondest memories of France."

Zabrian Mills, a student in Professor Coulter-Kern's segment of the course, feels that studying abroad is a life-changing experience.

"I had probably the most fun I have ever had in my life," Mills said. "Going abroad is something I wish I would have done earlier,



BONJOUR! Students in both Janina Traxler's "Inside France" class and Marcie Coulter-Kern's "Social Psychology" class studied in France during January Session 2014. During their visit, students experienced French culture and became accustomed to the public transportation systems in large cities. Although both classes participated in some activities with each other, the classes focused on different subject matters.

Photo courtesy of www.infoplease.com

especially when professors would say 'go for a year!' and I would say 'No, it's a year.' But I was wrong; go for a year if you can."

Mills agrees with Traxler in saying that living in a different culture helps you understand yourself

better.

"There is a lot of self-discovery," Mills said. "I learned that I had a lot more self-confidence [with French] when I was in the environment. I really discovered that people could be on their own and it

wasn't frightening to be in a new place."

Review: 'Temple Grandin' Film Receives Praise

The Oak Leaves

Published by the students of Manchester University

Editors in Chief

Andrew Ellam
David Lloyd

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Katharine Ings

Photographers

Vivien Carter, Maia Marusak, Savannah Riley

Staff Writers

Kalie Ammons, Emily Barrant, Devin Clark,
Cody Goble, Louise Magiera, Alexah Parnin-Choisne,
Brad Reuille, Tyler Roebuck, Tyler Stevenson, Jacob Sweet

Newspaper Delivery Manager

Artie Shidler

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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

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Aakash Patel

Eds' note: Aakash Patel wrote a longer version of this review for his FYS class on creativity, taught by Professor Falkner.

"Temple Grandin" is a biopic about an autistic scientist who has made great strides in the livestock industry. It covers her childhood, and her achievements. The film stars Claire Danes, David Strathairn, Julia Ormond, and is directed by Mick Jackson. Through the use of an interesting plot, developed characters, and remarkable effects, the film "Temple Grandin" will impress until the final scene fades black.

This film starts with Temple's summer before college, and then it portrays her undergraduate studies. Next, the film shows her professional experience, specifically with cattle. In addition, there are flashbacks throughout the film about her childhood as well as her all-important relation with Dr. Carlock, her physician.

Temple grows throughout the film from a socially awkward child to a woman capable of exquisite design and effective communication. She begins the film throwing tantrums and getting flustered, but becomes more sociable in college when she shows her blind roommate around. This shows that her growth is not black and white, but a process and that she is trying to change. Her growth is finalized when she shares her experiences on autism within a seminar. Temple's social inhibitions are gone because she chose to change.

She shows not only growth, but potential

as well, as evident through her "sense perception," which allows her to see the world like an engineering blueprint that would be invisible to the common individual. Temple also demonstrates her potential by her ability to overcome many of the symptoms of autism and become a public figure. She went on to college, earned a doctorate degree and is currently a professor at Colorado State University.

The recurring characters of Temple's mother and Dr. Carlock are shown to have influenced her immensely. Her mother is present from Temple's childhood, where she stands up to a doctor in order to protect Temple from becoming institutionalized, to Temple's graduation, and even to when Temple becomes a voice for autism. Throughout all of Temple's success and hardships, her mother was there to reinforce her beliefs and guide her, and this makes her a powerful character with strong emotional investment. Dr. Carlock is present from Temple's childhood or whenever she needs advice and encouragement. His presence allowed Temple's potential to be reached as he promoted her love for science. His guidance was not limited to when Temple was his student, and he shows her how she can become more than normal. The film excels with its use of strong recurring characters, and a main character with amazing growth.

The actors in this film act their roles brilliantly. Temple Grandin is played by Claire Danes, who also stars in "Romeo + Juliet" and "Homeland." Each of these, along with "Temple Grandin," shows

her ability to play a variety of roles. Danes's portrayal of an autistic woman from adolescence to adulthood was very believable and dynamic in the way that the maturing of her social skills were noticeable. In some scenes, however, Danes overacts, which detracts from the overall power of these scenes. Eustacia Grandin is played by the English actress Julia Ormond and her performance as Temple's mother appears genuine from her support and protection of Temple. Ormond's notable works include "Legends of the Fall" as well as "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and this film, and throughout the latter two she is seen as a caretaker. The final actor whose performance is worth noting is David Strathairn, who has made a career from playing similar roles to the one that he played in "Temple Grandin," such as in "Alphas" and the "Bourne" series. In these productions, Strathairn's character works with and mentors individuals with extraordinary abilities. Although these actors filled their roles well, the film succeeded only because these actors worked so well together under the direction of Mick Jackson. The director's main contribution to this film was his eye for period correct hairstyles, clothing, and the male-dominated society of the time. He provides an authentic feel to the movie, from props all the way to the movie's effects.

Due to this film's overall plot accuracy and effectiveness, along with stunning characters portrayed by a fabulous cast, "Temple Grandin" deserves a four-star rating.

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Around Campus

Gallery G Displays Wade's 'Insidious Charms'



ARTIST EXHIBITION Manchester's Gallery G is currently home to Cara Lee Wade's series of artistic works, titled "Insidious Charms." Her artwork carries a common theme of women's struggle to attain society's view of beauty. There will be a reception held for Wade in Gallery G on Sunday, March 2. Her artwork will be displayed until Sunday, March 9.

Photo by David Lloyd

Cody Goble
Staff Writer

On Jan. 3, a new series of artistic works came to Gallery G. Collectively titled "Insidious Charms," the pieces are all the creation of professional artist Cara Lee Wade.

According to Ejenobo Oke, associate professor of art and Coordinator of Galleries, these works connect to each other through a similar and powerful theme. "[Insidious Charms] is about the ridiculous lengths women will go to obtain a standard of beauty that does not really exist," she said.

Also, with this col-

lection of pieces, Wade brings to light an often un-discussed aspect of women's quest for beauty. "But [women] have not been forced into doing so," Wade writes. "We have consensually subjected ourselves to these ridiculous and dangerous tribulations."

However, the pictures in Gallery G are not solely an expression of disdain for this phenomenon. Each work is more complex than that. "This is a condition that I not only abhor but also welcome and embrace," Wade writes. "Herein lives my quandary. It has left me in a love/hate relationship with the idea of beauty and the quest to at-

tain it."

The artworks become an extension to those opposing sensations. "In this manner, I am able to create imagery that manages to glorify and chastise, ultimately giving way to a different definition of beauty, one of engaging oddity and lush ambiguity," Wade writes.

While each piece in the collection share thematic similarities, each piece has something different to offer. As such, people are attracted to certain pieces over others. "I was really drawn to 'So Precious the Poisoned Shroud,'" said sophomore art major, Sara Joll. "The

piece has a contrast between red and black. Both of those are strong colors which work together very well."

For this collection to create the surreal-esque effect prevalent in each piece, Wade used a photographic technique known as Mordançage. Through this photographic process, silver gelatin prints are altered with a solution that bleaches the print, and lifts the black areas away from the paper. The print can then be re-developed and changed. This process gives the photograph an overall degraded look, creating a unique style.

Oke recommends

multiple visits to the exhibit. "It is worth seeing "Insidious Charms" more than once," she said. "The works have so many different layers. Go alone, enjoy being a part of someone's creative process."

Wade studied multiple subjects during her academic career, from musical theatre to archaeology. Ultimately, though, she received her BA in English literature from Armstrong Atlantic State University. In 2004, she received her MFA in photography from Savannah College of Art and Design. She currently is an associate professor of Photography at the University of Saint Francis in

Fort Wayne, IN.

"Insidious Charms" will be present in Gallery G until March 9. A reception for the artist will be held in Gallery G on March 2 from 2 – 4 p.m. Admission is free, and everyone from the campus and the community is welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

Gallery G is open to the public Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 to 3 p.m.

MU Students Participate in 'Bird-Banding'

Brad Reuille
Staff Writer

Manchester University's environmental preserve, Koinonia, invites students to try bird-banding.

Joshua Wood, an environmental studies and biology major from Anderson, Ind., takes part in the procedure. "It is the process of catching birds in a mist net, which is a fine black thread mesh net that is strung up along the path of an area where there is high bird traffic," he said.

During the winter, in the "principles of biology" class, mist nets are set up along a certain path, and bird feeders are placed on either side of the net, thus encouraging travel of the birds into the net. "The nets are checked every couple of minutes," Wood said. "The birds are removed from the nets and taken back to be banded." After the birds are caught, some of the information gathered about the birds includes their age and their sex.

"These birds stay here all winter, so the population at Koinonia stays relatively the same," Wood said. "The birds are caught, banded and released for a couple of weeks."

Wood noted that, since the population stays relatively the same, the number of the birds without bands will decrease over the weeks. "We can use the number of birds with bands of a particular species to calculate the population of that species at Koinonia," he said.

In a project where Wood researched the Northern Saw-Whet owl, he employed a very distinct process to capture the



WHAT A HOOT Manchester student Joshua Wood, an environmental studies and biology major, conducted research on the Northern Saw-Whet owl (owl pictured above) with the help of bird-banding at Koinonia, Manchester University's environmental preserve. Bird-banding involves catching birds in high traffic areas with mist nets in order to gather information about the birds for research purposes. Following research, the birds are released back into Koinonia.

Photo courtesy of www.sandbluff.org

birds for banding. "I set up three mist nets in a windmill pattern and placed an audio lure in the middle of the nets." According to Wood, the lure played the role of a male mating call, which then drew the owls down to investigate. "The owls were then taken back for measurements on their age."

Professor Jerry Sweeten, an associate professor of biology who works with the students on bird-banding, reflected on a project done in January 2013 where he and a class of students went to Andros Island in the Baha-

mas to look for the piping plover, which is an endangered species of bird. "We were commissioned by the National Audubon Society to look for the piping plover, which are from North America and winters in the Bahamas."

The National Audubon Society is an American, non-profit organization that is dedicated to conservation. These birds had colored bands on their legs, which Sweeten and the class took note of. "We didn't even have to catch the birds," Sweeten remarked. "We just used our binoculars to get the color

sequence of the bands on the birds' legs."

Upon finding four of these birds, Sweeten and his group sent the color sequence back to the scientist who was doing the research on the piping plover. "Later, they sent us back information

about where those birds were hatched, where they were captured and where they had the bands put on them. It actually turned out that these birds were from the eastern shores of the United States, around New Jersey and Massachusetts."

The bird-banding process has been going on at Manchester for the past ten years, when Sweeten arrived. "I have a bird-banding permit in my name, so when I came here, I brought it with me," Sweeten said. "We incorporated it into the 'principles of biology' class, so it is a part of a lab."

Besides being part of the biology class, bird-banding is also done for research. "We have had students do research on chickadees, and we also have an on-going project with the northern Saw-Whet owl," Sweeten added. "Students go to Koinonia in November and early December, and they spend hours calling in these owls."

The research involving the Northern Saw-Whet owl is part of a bigger research project in the eastern portion of the United States where scientists want to know more about the migration patterns of the owl. "The Saw-Whet owls are coming out of the north near the boreal forest, and heading to the south," Sweeten said. "We just happen to catch them on their way down."

Review *cont'd from Page 2*

The film also boasts a powerful technical side, such as when Temple uses her "sense perception." Not only are the au-

dio effects in the film amplified, but Temple can also see the world as if it were an engineering blueprint. This film defies boundaries

created by defined genres and can be enjoyed from diverse perspectives.

Around Campus

MU Student Co-Creates New “Angry Mustard”

Devin Clark
Staff Writer

For most student athletes, life on campus can be hectic, leaving them without extra time to do much else. For James Turner, a sophomore from Vicksburg, Michigan, balancing baseball and a sports management major was not enough. He also decided to double major in Business and Marketing to help him learn the tricks of the trade as he begins his journey to market his “Angry Mustard,” a new mustard made with peppers.

Turner and his father came up with the recipe a few years back. “My father is the actual inventor of the mustard,” Turner said. “We kind of did it together. He is a very creative person when it comes to cooking.”

The idea came from Turner’s father’s personal garden, where he would grow his own peppers that they would use to make salsa and other dishes. That was until Turner’s father came up with the

idea of mustard. “He said, ‘Hey we should make mustard, you know make some spicy mustard,’” Turner remembers. “We love mustard. So we threw peppers into the mustard and that’s how our mustard came about.”

The inspiration and motivation to brand the mustard lies with Turner always wanting to have his own product out there. “I’ve always had a knack for wanting to make a product or own my own business,” he said. “So when my dad invented this mustard I was like ‘hey dude, let’s make our own business out of this. Let’s do something fun with this.’” Turner continued: “That is basically what inspired me, just doing something like that.”

To help boost their mustard, Turner has had professional testing done on it, meaning it has passed all regulations needed to be placed in stores. He and his father are currently selling the mustard at Farmer’s Markets, but it is also placed in

a few local stores in Michigan. Turner and his father have also recently talked to a local representative from Meijer, and found that the supermarket is interested in carrying the pepper mustard.

Turner and his father are allowing local businesses to put their logos on it, but they are not giving the business their mustard; they are selling them their mustard. They are still keeping the mustard’s official name, “LT’s Angry Mustard.” LT is his father’s initials, but Turner said to mostly be watching for the name “Angry Mustard.”

So what makes this mustard different from the rest? It’s both sweet and spicy. Turner said the mustard starts off super sweet, then kicks into spicy. “It’s not an overbearing spice where you cannot have too much of it,” Turner said. “But I think biggest thing is that it’s addicting! You can’t stop eating it!”

Turner noted that his friends and he will



SPICING THINGS UP Manchester University sophomore James Turner has teamed up with his father to create “LT’s Angry Mustard,” a sweet and spicy take on the classic condiment. The “hot” new mustard features a blend of the family’s own various peppers along with the traditional mustard flavor.

Photo courtesy of www.facebook.com/#!/LtsAngryMustard

sit and eat a whole jar of mustard with pretzels in a sitting. Although pretzels are good with the mustard, Turner said the main food product that the mustard does best with is bratwurst. “Something with the juices and the mustard combine to make just a great creation,” he said.

The mustard does not stop with just bratwurst and hotdogs. “Personally, I would throw it on any-

thing,” Turner said. “I mean anything that is related with mustard is great. We made deviled eggs with our mustard and it was fantastic!”

If readers’ mouths are watering for a taste of this mustard, Turner and his father have a Facebook page: LT’s ANGRY Mustard, and Twitter account @LTangrymustard. If you are interested in buying it, message them on their website or if you

are interested in helping Turner make an official website for LT’s Angry Mustard send James Turner an email. Students may also email him to purchase the mustard as well.

MU Swim Club Makes Waves on Campus

Jacob Sweet
Staff Writer

Manchester University is the home to 22 NCAA Division 3 sports, including both men’s and women’s. Manchester has offered many of the more common sports for years, but has never offered swimming until the creation of the swim club this year. Swimming teams in Indiana are usually extremely large and strong; Indiana and California are the two strongest swimming states in the country.

The swim club is a huge step for the Manchester athletic department. “We would not do this unless it works,” said Rick Espeset, Manchester University athletic director. “I am excited to provide Manchester students the ability to be student athletes and [to] see [the] value of being apart of a team.” Club president Kalie Lastagarkov is happy with the support from the university. “The school has been very supportive for the Spartan Swim Team, but the best support has come from club advisor, Joe Messer,” she said.

The athletic department has been looking for a coach to lead the team. “We just posted the position last week,” Espeset said. The school wants to hire a full-time coach who will take responsibility for the team. “[We want someone] who will provide

[a] positive experience for the athletes and be in charge of practice times, travel squad and have knowledge of the competi-

over 100 members who have signed up,” Lastagarkov said. “Austin Kelly and I created the club to give the swimmers on campus

different levels. “We have workouts every Wednesday from 8 p.m. through 9p.m.,” Lastagarkov said. “For the first half, the stu-

the sauna, steam room or hot tub.” Students that are a part of the swim club bought a membership to the Strauss-Peabody

that included not practicing at the same time as the high school and sharing it with the other members,” Espeset said. “[The swim team] has been a [great] source of revenue and visibility for them.” [By MOU, Espeset was referring to “Memorandum of Understanding,” meaning an agreement between the two parties (Manchester University and Strauss-Peabody Aquatics Center) involved.]

The aquatics center has done already a great deal for the club. “They have helped tremendously with making the club possible,” Lastagarkov said.

The school would love to have swimmers on campus. “Swimmers can be ideal students and are very balanced,” Espeset said.

The new club has many goals that they hope to achieve. “[We] want to get more students involved with swimming and to become more active, we also want there to be a team in the future not just a club,” Lastagarkov said.

The Spartan Swim Club is just starting and is hoping to continue to expand their numbers. “It is exciting to expand opportunities for student athletes,” Espeset said. If anyone is interested in the swim club please contact Kalie Lastagarkov, Austin Kelly, or Professor Joe Messer.



SPLISH SPLASH The newly founded Spartan Swim Club meets each Wednesday in the Strauss Peabody Aquatic and Fitness Center. For an hour each week, the club of over 100 members meet to swim and enjoy all the amenities that the facility has to offer.

*Photo courtesy of www.nmanchester.org
Photo below courtesy of www.teamusa.org*

tion,” Espeset said. Along with coaching, the new coach will have teaching responsibilities, just like many of the coaches now.

The new swim club has had many students sign up. “There are

a chance to do what they love and to show Manchester athletics that many students here want there to be a swim team.”

The number of swimmers may be huge, but many of them are on

dents have swim workouts that are created for each individuals own level of swimming. The second half, they can continue swimming or do activities such as water volleyball, water polo or enjoy

Aquatics Center so they can swim whenever they want.

The Strauss-Peabody Aquatic Center is the home of the Spartan Swim Team. “The park board approved the MOU





Spartan Sports

Baseball Anticipates Games in Myrtle Beach

Louise Magiera
Staff Writer

Manchester students cannot wait for the arrival of spring. The snow will be melted, the temperatures will be rising and students will be spending more time outside enjoying the weather. With the thaw comes spring training baseball — and the Manchester University baseball team is more than ready for the diamond.

"I'm looking forward to the snow not being on the ground," said Dan Maringer, one of the team captains and first baseman.

The baseball team has been practicing indoors doing various drills for about two weeks to prepare for the first round of games this season, which will be held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. While there the team will be playing seven games in three days. The team travels to Myrtle Beach by bus and will have games from March 1 – 3.

The baseball team looks forward to the Myrtle Beach trip each year, and it gives them an opportunity to bond on the long bus ride. "It brings the guys together, and it's a good chance to have team building," said Rick Espeset, head baseball coach and director of Athletics.

Dylan Padgett, one of five team captains this year and pitcher, has travelled to Myrtle Beach many times. "It's always fun for the team, and it's a good time to come together



CHAMPS Prior to the beginning of the 2013 – 2014 academic year, the sign on the press box at Gratz Field was updated to include the baseball team's accomplishments from last season. The Spartans were extremely successful, as the team won both the HCAC regular season championship and the conference tournament. In addition, Manchester won the NCAA Division III Midwest Regional and earned a berth to the 2013 NCAA D-III College World Series, where they placed seventh. The team plays its first games of the 2014 season next weekend in Myrtle Beach, SC. On Saturday, the Spartans will play a doubleheader against Manhattanville, beginning at 3 p.m.

Photo by Andrew Ellam

er as a team outside of practice and away from the school setting," he said.

The baseball team will be playing against many schools during their trip to Myrtle Beach, with colleges coming from New York and Pennsylvania. The team will arrive at Myrtle Beach late on Friday night and play two games on Saturday, two games on Sunday and three games

on Monday before returning home. They have been going to Myrtle Beach for the last few years to kick off their season.

Temujin Sery, starting pitcher and team captain, is also looking forward to the trip. "I feel like we have a great chance to open some eyes around the country and show people we are going to fight until the end," he said.

Currently, the team is ranked seventh on D3baseball.com's pre-season polls. "I expect the team to be good again this year," Padgett said. "We have several solid returning players from last year's team and a great group of freshman."

Espeset agrees with Padgett's expectations. "At this point, I like the chances of being a

pretty good team," he said.

The five team captains are chosen by the players on the team, and they are viewed as the leaders. This year's captains are Dylan Padgett, Temujin Sery, Dan Maringer, Jordan Nieman and Trevor Kimm. "The captains are a window to the team," Espeset said. "They are a liaison between the coach and players, and

are someone to look up to." Being a team captain is special to each student athlete.

"I feel honored to be chosen as captain," Maringer said.

Sery agreed. "It feels awesome to be captain," he said. "It is a great honor to be a captain with the four other guys. We bring our own 'thing' to the team."

MU Softball Covers All Bases for Spring

Alexah Parnin
Staff Writer

The softball team is working hard to start the new season as strongly as they

finished last year.

"I'm excited about this season," said Coach Tracy Cromer. "We're coming off winning a conference [title] and we have

a lot of high goals."

The team's goals include defending their conference championship and winning the conference tournament. Cromer

also mentioned the College World Series as one of their aims.

Sophomore Kalie Niezgodski expressed her optimism for the team to

win the conference tournament. "We were one game away last year," she said. "But hopefully we will make it a reality."

First-year Chloe Hensley, who plays 2nd base and shortstop, identified more team goals for this season. "Win regionals and have a 28-12 record, or anything better," she said. Their record for last season was 22-17.

High expectations for this season are matched with determination to achieve these goals. "Our main focus has been on improving each individual skill," Cromer said. "We have worked on becoming more efficient and stronger. We have been working on hitting, pitching and defense."

Aside from team goals, individual players have their personal areas they are working on improving. "I would like to stay around my batting average of .410," Niezgodski said. "I realize this will be an outstanding challenge." Hensley added: "My personal goals are to improve my skills as a player and as a teammate. Also, I need to develop more confidence."

The team already has many recognized strengths for the upcoming season. "One of our biggest strengths will be our experience," Cromer said. Cromer explained that they have a many players returning from last season and that their offensive experience will be a strong asset.

Hensley described another strong team quality. "The team's strengths are the positive attitudes," she said. "We can pick each other up after a mistake."

Niezgodski added to Hensley's assessment. "We all get along so well," she said. "We're a fun group. We also work hard. With our ability we're a solid team and our chemistry pulls it all together on the field."

With that said, there is always room for progress. "Some of our focus for areas to improve is just our consistency to game to game," Cromer said. "That will be the biggest indicator of how successful we will be."

Hensley added: "There are improvements to be made, but with hard work we can accomplish anything. We need to keep improving on team chemistry."

All the snow has not disrupted their practicing, and as long as it does not get in the way of the season, the team is golden. "Our players realize what we are working for and we know that it will take some work," Niezgodski said. "We're ready for the season to begin, weather permitting, of course."

January Athletic Training Student of the Month



Jacob Meyer

Hometown: Highland, IN

Future Plans: Accepted a graduate assistantship at GVSU with the softball team, pursuing a Master's Degree in Higher Education

Campus Activities: MUATC Treasurer
Current Preceptor Assignment: Track and Field

January Athletic Training Student of the Month



Maureen Lund

Hometown: Huntington, IN

Future Plans: Attend graduate school for Athletic Training or Physical Therapy School

Campus Activities: MUATC Secretary, Student Orientation Leader
Current Preceptor Assignment: Wrestling



Spartan Sports



Men's B-ball to Host Regular Season Finale

Tyler Roebuck
Staff Writer

Manchester men's basketball has had a tough season, with a record of 5-18 (4-12 within the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference) at the time of publication. Continuing their streak, the team lost three difficult games in the past week to Rose-Hulman, Anderson and Mt. St. Joseph.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Spartan men faced the Rose-Hulman Fightin' Engineers at home. The Spartans started strong, but could not keep up the pace. Shortly before the half, Manchester led an impressive offensive, cutting Rose's lead nearly in half. When the teams took their halftime break, the score was 39-30 in Rose's favor, and the Spartans had momentum.

After the half, the Spartans came out of the locker room strong. With a little more than 15 minutes left on the clock, the Spartans were only down by one point, 43-44. However, Rose answered the Spartans' push with a 30-9 run over the course of ten minutes. Rose-Hulman won by a final score of 85-65.

Sophomore guard Brady Dolezal continued his impressive season by



MUSCLES Junior guard Grant Newlin looks for an open teammate during Manchester's home game against Transylvania on Saturday, Feb. 1. The Spartans won the contest, defeating the Pioneers 70-66. At the time of publication, the Spartans held an overall record of 5-18 with a 4-12 record in the HCAC. Tomorrow afternoon, the team will host the Hanover Panthers in its final game of the regular season. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m. at Stauffer-Wolfe Arena in the PERC.

Photo by Savannah Riley

leading the team with 28 points, his fourth 20-point-or-more game in the last five. First-year Blake Brouwer led in rebounds, returning eight. Leaders for the Fightin' Engineers were Julian Strickland with 41 points and Alec Houpt with eight rebounds.

The Spartans tried to shake off the loss as they headed to Anderson University on Wednesday, Feb. 12, to take on the Ravens. Despite a strong offensive combination of Jon Thompson, Brady Dolezal and Chase Casteel, Anderson managed to defeat

the Spartans 84-70. While the first half was almost unbearably close, the Ravens took flight in the second half, scoring 53 points in the half alone.

This was the ninth game this season in which junior Jon Thompson has scored in the double digits,

putting 18 on the board. Thompson also led the team in rebounds with 10. Dolezal added another game to his double-digit record, totaling 10 consecutive games with 19 or more points, mostly due to his exquisite shooting (five-of-seven from the field, nine-

of-ten from the line). Chase Casteel was also in on the double-digit shooting contest with 13 points.

One out of the three games in the men's road trip around the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference was over, and the team was on its way to the College of Mt. St. Joseph in Ohio. The game took place Saturday, Feb. 15, in the city of Cincinnati.

The first half of the game, the Spartans could not contain Mt. St. Joseph, entering halftime behind by 27. Manchester rallied after the half and played a valiant game, scoring 34 points to MSJ's 36. Despite the effort, MSJ won 92-63. For a comparison, the MSJ Lions made 47.8% of their shots and Manchester only made 37.5%.

Even though they lost, four Spartans scored in the double digits. Thompson scored 13, marking his tenth time this season. Jarod Schrock and Blake Brouwer scored 12 points each. Schrock also blocked two MSJ shots. Brady Dolezal scored 10 points, marking the eleventh game in which he has scored in the double digits.

The final game of the season will be at home against Hanover on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Lady Spartans Look to Reach HCAC Tourney

Tyler Stevenson
Staff Writer

The Manchester University women's basketball team continued its hot streak of four straight wins, beating Anderson University on Wednesday, Feb. 12, and the College of Mount St. Joseph on Saturday, Feb. 15.

The Ravens came to North Manchester looking to knock the Lady Spartans out of the top four in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) play. A strong defensive effort and dominant performances inside the paint from senior forward Erynn Meiklejohn and sophomore center Stephanie Barmes would prove to be the difference, however, as the Spartans prevailed over their rivals 54-39.

Meiklejohn led the team with 18 points and grabbed six rebounds, while Barmes chipped in 13 points and four rebounds. Junior point guard Jocelyn Hamilton directed the offense with four assists while also pulling down five rebounds. The win was the sixth in a row for the Spartans in their annual rivalry with the Ravens. "It's a big deal," Hamilton said. "Coach talks about the rivalry all the time. We came out with the mindset that we're going to win."

Junior forward Abby Lang characterized the competitiveness of the rivalry even with the Spartan dominance of late. "The rivalry has kind of gotten lost a little bit, but the players still recognize it," she said. "We had a lot to prove against them and wanted to show our fans and ourselves what kind of team we are."

The Lady Spartans then focused their attention south as they traveled to



TIP-OFF Senior forward Erynn Meiklejohn attempts to gain possession of the basketball during the tip-off at Manchester's home game against Transylvania on Saturday, Feb. 1. The Pioneers won the contest, beating the Spartans 76-54. Following the loss, Manchester won its next four games, keeping them in contention to earn a berth into the HCAC Tournament at the end of the regular season. Tomorrow afternoon, the Spartans will celebrate Senior Day by playing their regular season finale at home against Hanover. Tip-off is set for 1 p.m.

Photo by Savannah Riley

Cincinnati to face the College of Mount St. Joseph. They struggled to put the ball in the basket against the Lions, shooting 37.3 percent from the field and only 12.5 percent beyond the arc. They focused on winning the battle on the glass as junior guard Alyssa Smith collected a team high 17 rebounds as part of a 53-29 rebounding advantage that helped lead them to a 58-49 victory.

The win kept the Lady Spartans in fourth place in the HCAC heading into the final week of the regular season. They are in position to host a conference tournament game

next week if things stand pat. "We're definitely focused on our next game," Hamilton said. "Coach does a good job of making sure we don't get too far ahead of ourselves."

However, they didn't discount the momentum hosting a first round tournament game would give them. "It would be huge for us," Hamilton said. "We haven't hosted since I've been here and it gives us the opportunity to show off our hard work in front of our friends and family."

Lang echoed the boost it would give the team off the court. "It would

be amazing," she said. "We wouldn't have to travel on Tuesday which would help

our bodies recover and our studies, which are huge this time of the year."

With head coach Josh Dzurick currently in his ninth year at the helm, it has become tradition going to the conference tournament. "We've been in every conference tournament since coach has taken over," Lang said. "We make it our goal every year to make to the tournament because it's what we expect."

Lone senior Erynn Meiklejohn is on the minds of everyone as the season comes to a close. "We want to win the conference tournament for her," Hamilton said. "It's going to be different without her next year. I don't even want to think about it."

Lang also expressed her desire to send Meiklejohn out a winner. "We have this rule where you don't lose on senior day, ever," she said emphatically.

The Lady Spartans close out the regular season with Senior Day against Hanover College on Saturday, Feb. 22. Tip-off on Saturday is at 1 p.m. at Stauffer-Wolfe Arena in the PERC.

Spartan Sports - Weekend Events

Friday, Feb. 21

Wrestling
at Mount Saint Joseph, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 22

Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field
at 2014 HCAC Championships, 12 p.m.

Women's Basketball
vs. Hanover, 1 p.m.

Men's Basketball
vs. Hanover, 3 p.m.