

The Oak Leaves

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MSO, Music Department Performs 'The Mikado'

Tyler Roebuck
Staff Writer

As the large, oriental-style wall covered with paintings rises from the stage to reveal the tiny, tiny town of Titipu, the Manchester Symphony Orchestra ignites with an oriental and classical mix. From the sides of the stage comes the men's chorus, behaving rather unlike any other typical men's chorus. The men scamper around, shuffling their feet and bowing incessantly toward each other, and the opening number to "The Mikado" begins: "If you want to know who we are . . . We are gentlemen of Japan."

The "gentlemen" started off the show with a tremendous amount of energy and well-practiced passion. "The Mikado," this year's gem from the Department of Music and the Manchester Symphony Orchestra, proved to be an astounding way to celebrate MSO's diamond anniversary. The energy the men's chorus opened with echoed throughout the entire three-hour program and entertained even repeat viewers. Not only was the performance energetic, it was also obviously well rehearsed, excellently cast, and extraordinarily hilarious.

The cast and pit orchestra worked together to entertain. Every moment that was supposed to be timed with music succeeded with precision so accurate that a watchmaker would be jealous. The songs were near perfection, and the voices never failed to impress.

While the entire



TREADING THE BOARDS Actors depict a scene during "The Mikado," a performance hosted by the MU Department of Music and the Manchester Symphony Orchestra over May Day Weekend. The show, which is an English comic operetta, was held in Cordier Auditorium and featured approximately three hours of energetic music and acting. Students who attended the performance held on Sunday, May 4, were awarded with VIA credit.

Photo by Savannah Riley

program was excellent, some over-the-top performers stood out amongst the rest. The duo of Pooh-Bah, played by Bennett Ritchie, and his lackey, played by Jeremy Nevil, provided a ceaseless source of entertainment, even when they were not the focus of the scene. Between Pooh-Bah's endless occupations and his lackey's constant sorting through the props to accompany them, whatever action the two took always proved to be among the funniest moments of the operetta. The part of Ko-Ko, played by Andrew Haff, was particularly well

portrayed. His occasionally sarcastic, partially omniscient role provided an inlet to the story for the viewer that they could not only understand, but also enjoy thoroughly.

Many moments of the show were superb, but several were obvious crowd favorites. Almost anything Pooh-Bah and his lackey did were hysterically comedic, and one scene stood out twice as the most comical part of the show. Coincidentally, both times were total accidents. After the song "As some day it may happen," Ko-Ko asks Pooh-Bah's opinion on his

upcoming wedding. Pooh-Bah answers in many of his capacities, which requires numerous prop changes between him and his lackey. Due to the sheer number of props, the lackey once dropped the nightstick of the "First Commissioner of Police" into the pit and once offered the wrong prop. Remaining in character, Pooh-Bah simply played it off as if his lackey was useless, and the lackey remained perfectly in character, allowing improvisation between them. Two of the three nights, this proved to be the funniest scene in the program.

This is not to say that the planned scenes were not hilarious. Ko-Ko's song "As some day it may happen" contained witty, current-event related satire, all related to decapitation, that crowds consistently found amusing. Including Scott Humphries and a reference to both Doctor and President Switzer localized the comedy, adding that North Manchester flair to make the performance more intimate. Ko-Ko's remarkable tale about his bird friend's suicide also proved to be humorous. It was as much the presentation as the

stuffed, squeaking bird puppet that made it so funny.

The mechanics of the performance, the staging, the set and the costuming, were also perfect. The staging precisely placed the most important characters in the best position to both be seen and heard, and did so consistently for every scene. The artwork for the set was simply beautiful. From the hand-painted mountainous backdrop to the color changing plastic windows, every inch of the set perfectly portrayed the scene. One can only imagine the tremendous time Debra Lynn, Robert Bucher, Jena Oke, Jeff Diesburg and all the unsung-heroes of performances like these must have put into creating a masterpiece such as this set. The costuming was also excellent. It portrayed what it needed to without going overboard, except for the Mikado, played by Tarek Al-Zoughbi. His costume was totally beyond that of anyone else, and it made his part that much more awesome.

The Mikado himself exists for the purpose of irony. Throughout the performance, he is revered as a godlike figure. His laws are just and he is the greatest Mikado Japan has ever seen. Said laws, however, are completely ridiculous. The only two mentioned are that flirting is punishable by death, and that the widow of a beheaded man must be buried alive with her husband.

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MU Campus 'Celebrates President Switzer'



HONORING ABILITY AND CONVICTION On Thursday, May 1, students, faculty and staff members gathered by The Mall between noon and 12:30 p.m. in order to take part in a celebration of President Switzer, who will be retiring at the end of June. The celebration included ice cream, music and even a flash mob! Professor Mary Lahman's advanced public relations class was responsible for planning and coordinating the entire event. Although President Switzer knew all about the celebration, she was completely unaware of the flash mob that took place following a dedicatory speech by sophomore Jake Burns. The flash mob was participated in by faculty, staff and students who had practiced the routine prior to the celebration. Michael Dixon, director of intercultural services, choreographed the flash mob routine.

Photo courtesy of the Manchester University Facebook Page

Inside: OWE Photo Journal, Research Symposium, MU Divided

Around Campus

Rittenhouse Awarded Fulbright to Teach Abroad

Emily Barrand
Staff Writer

While some seniors are still on the hunt for jobs and/or internships after college, senior Holly Rittenhouse knows exactly where she'll be heading not too long after graduation – to teach in Malaysia. Rittenhouse, recipient of the Fulbright grant for the 2015–2016 year, will travel abroad to teach English as a second language, with help from the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) program. The goal for Fulbright ETA's is, according to its website, "to assist in strengthening English language instruction, while providing insights on American culture."

To apply for a Fulbright, applicants start out in the fall of their senior year. They fill out forms and write two essays, a grant proposal and a personal essay (the latter includes the experiences that the applicant has which would qualify them for the opportunity). They also need three letters of recommendation. "[Then] we have an on-campus interview," said Lynne Margolies, associate professor of modern languages, and added, "Dean [Glenn] Sharfman participates in every one."

Once all of these requirements are met, the applications get sent to the main Fulbright office in New York, where the best applicants are chosen. "It's the best and the brightest all around the country that apply for this," said Margolies, stressing the competitive nature of the program.

After the best applicants are selected, other countries look at the applications, and once chosen, the recipients of the grant are notified. "The procedure is very long and incredibly selective," Margolies said. "We're very proud of Holly."

The Fulbright grant is one of the most prestigious awards given to college students, and Rittenhouse follows 29 other recipients from Manchester. Students in the past have travelled to countries such as Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Argentina, Germany, Belgium and more. Rittenhouse will be the first to go to Malaysia. "I'm excited and honored for this opportunity," she said. "The reality of it is still sinking in. I doubt it will really sink in until I'm actually there in Malaysia."

ETA's are typically placed in smaller, non-capital cities with little access to other native



FUTURE FULBRIGHT Graduating senior Holly Rittenhouse has been awarded a Fulbright grant, which she will use to teach English as a second language in Malaysia.

Photo courtesy of manchester.edu

English speakers, providing a truly immersive atmosphere. Rittenhouse is unsure exactly where she will be placed in Malaysia, but it will most likely be in a rural setting on the peninsula. "I may or may not live with other 'Fulbrighters,'" she said. "We'll just have to wait and see!"

As for the lan-

guage barrier, Rittenhouse says she has not spoken Malay before, but prior knowledge of the language is not a requirement to receive the grant. "Fulbright requires us to only speak English in our placements," she said. "My time in Malaysia starts with a mandatory orientation in which we'll receive training in

basic Malay. After that, we don't have to learn more Malay; however, I love learning languages and plan to learn as much Malay as possible."

Rittenhouse traveled to Ecuador for five months in 2012, and therefore has experience being immersed in a culture unlike her own. She also spent time in Chicago this semester, teaching at Inter-American Magnet School, a school with aims to form "ethnically, economically and linguistically diverse students," according to its website. Rittenhouse believes her time in Chicago helped her grow as a teacher. "It has helped me become more independent and confident, which are qualities that will help me wherever I go," she said. "I have also become a more skilled teacher, which will help me in teaching my Malaysia students."

Even with the experience she has, Rittenhouse still has a few worries about this opportunity. "I'm nervous to be away from my family, friends and everything familiar in such a new and different environment for 10 whole months," she said.

However, she recognizes that thriving in Ecuador for an extended

amount of time proves that she is capable.

The climate in Malaysia alone serves as something to look forward to. "I've heard it's actually pretty hot (80s–90s), but I love tropical places and hope to adjust to the climate just fine," she said.

In addition, she looks forward to the professional development that will inevitably occur. "I'm excited to learn about a whole different culture through the people I meet, students I teach and various experiences I have."

Rittenhouse will graduate with a degree in early childhood and elementary education, and minors in Spanish and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). "She is a terrific person," Margolies said. "It was a pleasure working with her this fall and getting to know her better."

Rittenhouse said: "I feel very honored. Not only am I representing Manchester, but I'll also be representing the United States. I hope to represent Manchester and my country well!"

Manchester Alumnus Speaks on Creativity

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Brad Reuille
Staff Writer

Shawn Kirchner, a Manchester alumnus and current Swan Family Composer for the Los Angeles Master Chorale, spoke to a full crowd on Monday, April 28, in the Upper Union. His presentation was on how to live according to "Hobbit time."

During the previous summer, Kirchner noted how, unlike those who have 40-hour work weeks, his schedule is vastly different. "Most of my scheduled rehearsals with my professional choir in Los Angeles or at the church are in the evening, which leaves me with many open days," he said.

After arriving back from a vacation that Kirchner described as "much needed," he had an epiphany. "Freedom isn't freedom if you don't use your time for the worthwhile things that you really value," he said. "After a draining, wrinkle-producing six months, I decided that a change was needed, so I decided to devise a new schedule."

And so, in accordance with his love for the stories of the Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings, Kirchner decided to make a schedule for himself based on the characters' schedules from the stories.

"After I discovered that I could assemble my day into Elf time, Dwarf time and Hobbit time, I was hooked!" Kirchner said. "I have been a J.R.R. Tolkien fan since junior high, and I have read the Lord of the Rings trilogy at least eight times."

For those who have never read the Lord of the Rings trilogy, Elves, Dwarves and Hobbits are three of many living beings that exist within Middle-

earth, the fictional world where the stories take place. Throughout the stories, readers will eventually pick-up on the idea that these three particular mythical beings follow extremely specific habits regarding the way they spend time for activities such as meals or work.

"Who wouldn't want Hobbit time in their day?" Kirchner asked. "There is time to breakfast once, or twice. Time to putter about the house and do some gardening. Wow... every day I get to do this!" he added.

Elf time follows Hobbit time, according to Kirchner. He describes Elf time as "elevating time" in which he has time to build his skills and gain knowledge. "This time is when I get to practice on the piano and practice on my voice, or to study some aspect of music history or composition. Every day I get to play Bach or Beethoven during this time."

The final time period of the day that Kirchner added to his schedule was dwarf time, which he dedicates to his regular work. "For me, the dwarf imagery is going into the mind, chipping away and hoping to strike gold," Kirchner said. "Dwarf time became project time for me. It's daunting to go into the unknown of a blank page every single day, or a section of a piece of music that you can't get to evolve into its final form."

"I found that starting the day off with Hobbit and Elf time gave me the inspiration and propulsion to get into the actually working part of my day," he continued.

Kirchner believes that in chipping away at activities during the day, large projects that take time to complete can begin



Photo courtesy of http://www.shawnkirchner.com/images/JVI_0195jbbweb_000.jpg

to morph into being. Today, he lives by what he calls "the Middle Earth schedule."

"Designed out of inspiration and necessity, it is a structure for my creativity," Kirchner said. "It is structure that makes my freedom more meaningful. Hobbit time and Elf time feed my inspiration, which I put to use in Dwarf time."

Giving advice to students who are about to graduate, or are a couple years away from graduating, Kirchner emphasized being patient. "I think people in their twenties expect everything to happen to them now, because they feel like they're so filled with energy and possibilities, and they just want to leave their mark on the world," Kirchner said. "In reality, it takes time for things to get established and it takes time for the connections to be made to get to that special point in their careers."

Some of the films that Kirchner sang on that are in theatres now include 'Muppets Most Wanted,' 'Heaven is for Real' and 'X Men: Days of Future Past'.



The Oak Leaves



Presenting: The Otho Winger Experience



FEEL THE EXPERIENCE The staff and faculty-led Otho Winger Experience rocked a packed Corrier Auditorium on Tuesday, May 6. Armed with a setlist including classics such as The Eagles's "Hotel California," Bon Jovi's "Livin' On A Prayer," and Ike and Tina Turner's "Proud Mary," the band kept a crowd of students, faculty, staff and community members singing and dancing. The concert, which lasted around 90 minutes, has been hinted at as being the band's final show.
Photos by Vivien Carter

Around Campus

MU Students Present at Research Symposium

Alexah Parnin
Staff Writer

Students presented their hard work at Manchester's 16th annual Research Symposium on Friday, April 25. The showcase is sponsored by Glenn Sharfman, vice president and dean for academic affairs.

The event began with a vast array of presentations that were hosted in the Academic Center. Various professors, including Dr. Michael Slavkin, Dr. John Planer and Dr. Sreenath Majumder, acted as faculty evaluators for the student presentations. Topics ranged from history to biology, and even comic books.

Sophomore Jacob Ray, an English major, presented a paper he wrote for Professor Stacy Erickson. His presentation was entitled "Paratext Equality: Watchmen." Ray explored the advantages that comics book have with their large amount of paratext, which is anything that is not the actual text. Using PowerPoint slides, he illustrated the advantages of paratext with examples from several different com-

ic books.

"It was nerve-racking until I was speaking," Ray said. "Because of the subject matter, it was easy."

Senior Kaitie Kemper, also an English major, agreed. "Presenting was really good," she said. "Everything went well. It was nerve-racking leading up to this."

Kemper's paper was entitled "Venison vs. Vegetables: Dietary Habits and Social Status in Elizabethan England." She explored the diets of nobility and of peasants. Throughout her presentation, Kemper illustrated the conspicuous consumption that the nobility took part in during this time period and how they feasted for the sake of showing how wealthy one is.

Erickson was the faculty mentor for both Ray and Kemper at the event. "I am very proud of my presenters," she said. "They worked really hard. They both were nervous and they proved they could do it."

Kemper was equally happy with Erickson. "Stacy is the best



SYMPOSIUM SMILES English students Jacob Ray and Kaitie Kemper pose with their faculty mentor, Dr. Stacy Erickson (center) following presentations at the Research Symposium.

Photo courtesy of the Manchester University Department of English Facebook page

mentor ever," she said with a smile.

Following the paper presentations, an undergraduate poster ses-

sion was hosted in the upper level of the Jo Young Switzer Center. During this session, students presented their research to a trav-

eling audience by using posters that were set up on temporary panels. This arrangement allowed the audience to view all of the work and, if they wished to do so, stop and ask the students questions about their work.

Junior Rowan Caylor, a psychology major, presented two posters; one with a group and one on her own. Her individual project was called "Motivating Factors of Successful Students."

"This project was based on a mini study I did last year," Caylor said. "Overall, I feel pretty good. I'm somewhat nervous because I don't like being the center of attention."

Marcie Coulter-Kern, professor of psychology, finds great benefit from the annual research symposium. "For scientific research to be spread and have an impact, it needs to be presented," she said. "It's a perfect mechanism for teaching students the skills they need. This project single-handedly hits every skill."

Caylor agreed. "The more you attend re-

search conferences, the better," she said. "You will become familiar with what goes on."

However, the benefits of presenting research are not limited to the sciences. "It's good practice for continuing the experience as an English major," Ray said. "I'd like to be an author and this is good practice for the research and presenting I may have to do in the future."

Coulter-Kern commended the students' hard work. "We're so proud of our students for doing this and we want to congratulate them for preparing for life after graduation," she said. "This is why our students are getting into better graduate schools."

The symposium also hosted a graduate and professional student poster session in the room next-door to the undergraduate session. There, graduate students in pharmacy and athletic training presented their research.

Students and Faculty Compete in MU Divided

Jacob Sweet
Staff Writer

Competition-based events are always a popular occasion for students on campus and Manchester University Divided was another one of those events.

At this event, Manchester students, faculty and staff members formed teams and competed against one another in a series of games, such as dodge ball and home run derby, in order to earn points. The team with the most points at the end of the event would be crowned the champion.

MU Divided was coordinated by Eric Russell, Mackenzie Mance, Brianna Martinez, Brad Newcomer and Nick Tirro, students a part of Dr. Ryan Hedstrom's event management and promotion class.

The teams were made up of one faculty member and five students, with one last-minute entry that consisted of all students. Six different games

were played that determined the points and who took home the championship at the end of the day.

Home run derby was the first game played. Cones were set up in the outfield exactly 200 feet from home plate and each batter had exactly 10 pitches. If a batter swung or made contact with the ball it counted as one of the 10 pitches. If a ball was hit behind the four cones then it was ruled a homerun. Points were rewarded to teams that had batters hit homeruns. Three members of each team batted while one of their teammates pitched to them.

Mark Zinser, Matthew Suderman, John Raderstorff, Zach Dashner, Nick Williams, Jacob Meyer, Bill Dusa, Paul Ehler, Josh Collier, Coach Johnston and Brenner Cruce all scored points in the derby. Team Yanez finished with one point, while Team Messer and Team Johnston finished with three.

Tug-of-war was the second game of the

day. It was an intense battle with a lot of strategic planning by each team. At the end of the competition Team Paulson was the winner with five points, while Team Wheeler finished second with three points and Team Dzurick with one point.

The next game led to some people leaving with wet clothes. The water balloon toss has always been a fan favorite because of the excitement it can generate. Everybody partnered up with someone on his or her team and stood across from him or her in a straight line.

After one throw, one line of people took a step backward and that continued to happen as long as the water balloons were caught. After the water cooled everyone down, Team Dzurick and Team Yanez came away with the win with five points. Team Johnston finished with three points.

Then it was onto the relay race that was held on the track. This

game had some people leaving with scratches on their hands because these were not traditional running relays.

Each leg of the race measured 100 meters. The legs consisted of the wheelbarrow race, the golf ball on a spoon, the crabwalk, and the anchor was the two-legged race. Team Messer won and earned five points followed by Team Johnston who earned three points and Team Dzurick who earned one point.

After four events, the race for the top spot was intensely close. Knock out helped determine the seedings for the final game. Knock out was played the normal way. When the first person shoots the basketball and cannot make it into the hoop before the person behind them, then they are out. Two games were played starting on the foul line and shooting at the two middle hoops. The remaining winners then moved to the main hoop to determine an overall win-

ner.

Zeth McNalley, Coach Messer and James Bryant were the final three, with Coach Messer coming away with the individual title. Team Messer earned five points, while Team Dzurick had three and Team Lasser had one point.

The final event was dodge ball and the teams were given a seed number depending on how many points they had. The number-one seed was Team Messer followed by Team Johnston, Team Dzurick, Team Yanez, Team Paulson, Team Wheeler, Team Lasser and Team Hedstrom. The seeds played each other starting with one playing eight and so on.

It was single elimination for the teams and if someone was hit once that person was out. The points among teams were close, so to determine places some interesting things that had to happen.

First, Coach Dzurick played Team Messer,

Team Messer won, which means they are third unless Team Paulson won. Team Paulson lost to Team Johnston, so Team Paulson took over third. Team Messer and Team Johnston played for the championship because they both had 16 points. The championship game became a sudden death game, which Team Johnston won. Team Johnston was crowned the 2014 MU Divided Champions.

Dr. Hedstrom was extremely happy with how his students coordinated the MU Divided this year. "[They] planned a good event, it seems like everyone liked the games they were doing and it was a very good turnout," he said.

Sophomore Mackenzie Mance was impressed with how everything went. "It was definitely surprising to see all the people who came out and it seemed like everyone enjoyed it," she said.

Senior Education Majors Honored at Banquet

Devin Clark
Staff Writer

On Thursday, May 1, 2014, the Manchester University Student Education Association (SEA) hosted their annual Education Banquet to honor the graduating seniors from the education department. Chartwells provided an elegant dinner for the students and their families.

The banquet dinner was held in the Upper Jo Young Switzer Center and pinned the seniors graduating from the education department. The banquet included a pinning ceremony. Each senior was invited to bring a mentor to "pin" them with a MU Education pin. The seniors then explained to the guests why their mentor-

-sometimes their parent-inspired them to pursue a career in teaching. Emotions were high as each senior took their turn to give their speech.

"During the pinning ceremony, there were many emotional tears that I shed," said Kandace Terry, reflecting upon the ceremony. "I was inspired by the story behind why these graduates decided to become educators themselves and encouraged to keep pursuing my dream to become an educator even when times get tough.

"I was moved by all of the seniors in how they honored their parents and had them do the pinning," Terry continued. "I could relate to a lot of what they are saying, especially

when my mother stays up with me all night while I finish a lesson plan that is due for the next morning."

During the ceremony, the SEA also honored a Manchester alumnus as the teacher of the year. This year the recipient was Ryan Evans, who gave an inspirational speech about his past teacher who inspired him to lead a classroom.

In the past years, SEA would honor only one senior the Outstanding Senior Award, but this they decided to honor four seniors for their work both inside and outside the program. These seniors were Miranda Piercy, Erika Kahlenbeck, Meghan Stalbaum, and Josh Benefiel.

"I am hoping that when I graduate from here,



I will be able to look back on my sendoff banquet and smile when I remember why education is so important to me." Terry said.

TEACHERS OF ABILITY AND CONVICTION (L-R) Megan Stalbaum, Josh Benefiel, Miranda Piercy and Erika Kahlenbeck each pose following the education banquet, where they were each awarded the Outstanding Senior Award.

Photo courtesy of Miranda Piercy

Around Campus

Suderman, Myers To Enter 'Teach For America'

Cody Goble
Staff Writer

Every year, thousands of students all across the nation apply to Teach For America, an organization that sends graduates to teach in underprivileged schools for a minimum of two years. Its goal is to help improve the quality of education for everyone in the United States.

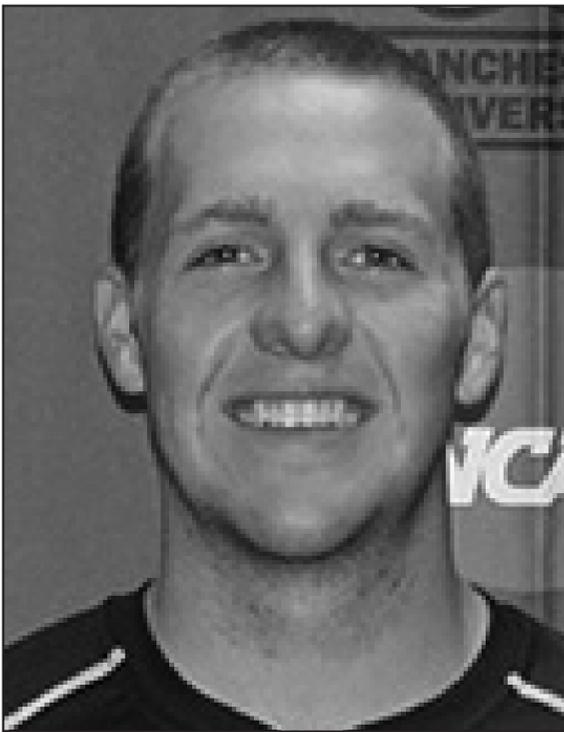
Teach For America is highly competitive, and has a low acceptance rate. Out of 48,000 applicants in 2011, the organization accepted only 11 percent. This year, two Manchester seniors, Joseph Myers and Matthew Suderman, have been accepted into the program, and both share similar feelings about the news.

"I'm immensely elated about it, to say the least," Suderman said. "I love learning, tutoring and teaching."

Myers, who was in the fifth tier of interviews, also was also pleased about his acceptance into the organization.

"I feel great," Myers said. "Not a lot of people can say they got the first job they applied for. Also, knowing I got picked so late is also a good feeling."

Each senior had to undergo a rigorous process to be selected by Teach For America.



Following their application submissions, the two individually underwent a phone interview and finally a day-long interview session, also separate from one another.

Suderman and Myers found out about the program from Professor Lynne Margolies. Margolies is the director of the Manchester University Fellowship Center, which provides information and assistance to those applying for national grants, such as the Fulbright, the Boren and the Marshall. She also assists those applying to

Teach For America.

"I am so proud of them," Margolies said. "I know they are going to do a great job."

Each interviewee had their own reasons for applying. For Suderman, the program allowed him to follow his passions.

"I felt like it was something I could get into," he said. "I love teaching and sharing what I have learned."

For Myers, who also loves teaching, the program's work with those in disadvantaged areas appealed to him.

"I knew that I wanted to teach, but I was not yet ready to commit to graduate school," Myers said. "And after looking at information about the graduation rates in low-income areas, I knew this program is what I wanted to join."

According to Teach For America, only 8 percent of kids growing up in low-income communities graduate college by the age of 24.

Following graduation, Suderman and Myers will partake in a training. Come August, they will then travel to different schools to begin teaching. Myers will teach secondary English in Phoenix, AZ, where less than a third of the state's high-school graduates attempted to take the ACT in 2010, according to the Teach For America website.

Suderman will be teaching Spanish in Memphis, TN, where only 4 percent of those who graduate high-school are prepared for college.

However, despite the good work of the organization, Teach For America generates a lot of controversy for sending people without degrees in teaching to teach full-time. However, Suderman believes in the good that the organization does.

"They help a lot of kids, and a degree is



TEACH FOR AMERICA Seniors Matthew Suderman (left) and Joseph Myers have been accepted into the prestigious organization Teach For America. Suderman will be in Tennessee, while Myers will be placed in South Dakota.

Photos courtesy of manchester.edu

not always necessary," he said. "You just need a passion and a talent for teaching."

Professor Margolies also believes in the organization and the work that it does.

"I feel Teach For America fits with Manchester's mission of conviction and ability," she said. "Also, the program has a proven record of success."

According to the

association's website, Wendy Kopp proposed the idea for Teach For America in undergraduate thesis in 1989. A charter corps of 500 college graduates joined Teach For America a year later. Since then, nearly 33,000 participants have reached more than three million children nationwide.

Bauson Three-Peats in Molasses Mile Victory

Tyler Stevenson
Staff Writer

History was made on April 13 at the third annual Molasses Mile when junior Peter Bauson defended his back-to-back championships and smoked the competition in slow motion to take home the trophy for a third straight year. The Molasses Mile is in its third year and is an annual event put on by Spartan Sport Management and is a reverse bike race. The objective is to finish last and be the slowest rider.

Bauson won

in a time of 4:13 (minutes:seconds) in the championship heat, beating out the duo of Lucas Lebbin and Lucas Grammer by 23 seconds. Lebbin earned second place with a time of 3:50 while Grammer rounded out the podium with a time of 3:05. "It feels good to win again," Bauson said.

Taking center stage in the middle walkway on the grass mall on a cool spring evening, the participants ranged from students to professors and coaches. Assistant Professor of Accounting and

Business Joe Messer and Women's Head Basketball Coach Josh Dzurick headlined the faculty side. They even managed to stay on the leaderboard for a few rounds.

The wind provided a challenge for the cyclists as they struggled to keep in their respective lanes. If you fell off your bike or went out of your lane, a time penalty was deducted from your final time. It seemed that every participant except Bauson incurred some sort of penalty. There were nine heats with a maximum of three

cyclists in each heat.

The race was a back-and-forth battle with several lead changes taking place before the final heat when Bauson made his first appearance on the course. With all eyes on him and the music cranked up to the maximum, he did not disappoint. The two-time champion teased the competition with a time of 3:54, making it look easy as he appeared to stand still on his bike all the way down the sidewalk. He took so long to finish that emcee Mark Zinser ran out of adjectives to describe

Bauson's brilliance during his race. He had such a comfortable lead that when everyone else finished in his heat, he took off on his bike and crossed the finish line. Bauson was quick to give credit to the field though. "The competition is getting stiffer," he said.

While winning any competition three times in a row is usually a tall task and has some sort of magical formula, Bauson's secret to success might surprise you. "I just ride my bike around a lot," he said. "I get a lot of practice riding

through campus."

For his efforts Bauson was awarded a bike wheel, the annual Molasses Mile trophy. The environmental studies major from Kokomo plans on defending his title next year and is excited to try for the clean sweep of the race and end his collegiate career a perfect four-for-four.

Sophomore Cole Kellogg was in charge of marketing, organizing and running this year's event.

March Athletic Training Student of the Month



Jillian Bower

Hometown: Kokomo, IN

Future Plans: Attend graduate school with graduate assistantship

Campus Activities: Member of the women's tennis team, President of MUATC

Current Preceptor Assignment: Softball

The Mikado continued from Page 1

The Mikado's costume further reflects the distinction from the views of the citizens of Titipu and those of the audience. With an absurdly large overcoat, not to mention a hat that is several times larger than it should be, and three-foot long fake arms, the sheer preposterousness of the Mikado as a character is a source of great irony.

The music, provid-

ed by the always-wonderful MSO, was exceptional. The vocalists were on time and in tune, barring a few phasing mishaps with Sunday's performance, and several stood out. Yum-Yum, played by Erika Refitt, had a solo "The sun, whose rays are all ablaze," that was purely striking, definitely one of the best musical moments of the show. However, the hands-

down best song of the show belongs to Katisha, played by Kelly Iler, with her solo "Alone, yet alive!" This was hauntingly stunning, with her crisp, operatic soprano cutting to the soul.

Perhaps the most beautiful aspect of "The Mikado" is the plot. There are no "good guys" or "bad guys", no real hierarchy among the promi-

nent members of the cast. Manchester University's rendition of the Gilbert and Sullivan production was a resounding success. The countless hours spent by the cast, directors, students, musicians, staff and everyone involved were worth every minute.

Photo below by Savannah Riley





Spartan Sports



Track and Field Teams Prepare for Final Meets

Kalie Ammons
Staff Writer

As the year winds down, Manchester University Track and Field competitors wound up the competition on Saturday, May 3, at Indiana University's Billy Hayes Invitational. Both the men's and women's teams competed in the meet.

Students whose performances particularly shone included senior Alissa Niswonger (javelin), first-year Mariah Jordan (distance runner), senior Jon Caffarelli (distance runner), first-year Shay Aator (hammer throw), and junior Stephen Coble (hammer throw).

Niswonger landed fifth with her toss of 104 feet, 11 inches, becoming the second-highest NCAA Division III finisher in the 13-thrower field, according to muspartans.com.

Jordan accomplished the second-best record in her field with a personal best time of 4:58.85 in the 1500m. Caffarelli completed the 1500m in 4:09.41, snagging 28th place.

Coble threw the hammer 160 feet, four inches, earning 13th place. Aator also earned 13th place with her throw of 130 feet, seven inches.

While Aator used her hammer-throw skills in

the last meet, she does not limit herself in the field. "I throw hammer, discus and occasionally shot put," Aator wrote in an email this week. "I am still trying to master my two turns and get comfortable with my form. It is a process, but I get better each day, which is the goal."

Aator senses the team has met personal and communal goals during their time this year. "Overall, the team has done really well," she said. "As a team we ended up coming in third on both the men's and women's side at the end of our conference weekend."

Aator speaks about her part in the success the team has experienced throughout the season. "My best memory was conference weekend," she said. "Everyone was so supportive of each other and we ended up scoring a lot more points than expected. I even won my event!"

However, Aator will not let success stunt her from continuing to make personal goals to strive for each day. "My goal was to break 40 meets before conference and I got it! My next goal is to hopefully break the school record before the season is over," she said.

As with many sports, clubs and organi-

zations, a team is difficult to leave once they have shared so much hard work and dedication through the year. While the team will be losing some seniors and others who have moved on to new challenges, Aator plans to return and continue her work in her events.

"I plan on doing track all four years that I am at Manchester," she said. "The coaching staff is super supportive and knowledgeable, and it is a great atmosphere to be in!"

Those who wish to see the teams compete should be prepared for travelling. Upcoming events for the year include: a meet in Naperville, Ill, against North Central on May 8; another meet in Naperville, Ill, also against North Central on May 15; and a meet in Delaware, Ohio, at the 2014 NCAA Division III champions on May 22.



READY, AIM, THROW! Sophomore Luke Scheel competes in the javelin throw event during the Huntington Invitational on April 5. The men's outdoor track and field team finished third at the meet, while the women's team placed seventh. Both teams will send a total of six athletes to the North Central (Ill.) Last Chance Meet, which began yesterday afternoon. The meet continues today, with events set to begin at 2 p.m. *Photo by Savannah Riley*

Baseball Looks Ahead at HCAC Championship



FOR THE FANS Sophomore infielder Sean Knepper tips his helmet toward the fans in the bleachers at Gratz Field after hitting a two-run home run during Manchester's home game against Indiana Tech on April 29. Although the Spartans hit two home runs that afternoon (the other was a two-run shot from junior infielder Logan Hug), the Warriors prevailed 14-8 in six innings due to inclement weather. Over May Day Weekend, the Spartans dropped a home series against Transylvania two games to one. However, the team still clinched the outright HCAC regular season title and hosting duties for the 2014 HCAC Championship this weekend. Conference tournament action continues today with games beginning at 9:30 a.m. *Photo by Savannah Riley*

Louise Magiera
Staff Writer

If you are looking for something to put off studying for finals and to soak up some spring-time sunshine, head on over Gratz Field Thursday, May 8—Saturday, May 10 to watch the 2014 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship games.

During May Day Weekend, the Spartans hosted a three-game series against Transylvania. Although the Pioneers were victorious in the first game of the series on Friday, May 2, the Spartans clinched a share of the conference title as well as hosting duties for the 2014 HCAC Championship because Anderson, who was second-place in the conference behind Manchester, fell to Earlham 5-4 that same evening.

On Saturday, May 3, Manchester and Transylvania split a double-

header. Despite the fact that the Pioneers had won the series, the lone victory for the Spartans was enough to clinch the HCAC regular season title outright.

Manchester is hosting the tournament for the second successive year in a row. The other schools involved in the tournament are Anderson University, Rose-Hulman and Franklin College. Manchester's first game is on Thursday, May 8, at 12:00 p.m. vs. Franklin College.

Pitcher Dylan Padgett is excited that Manchester is hosting the tournament this year. "The home field advantage is always a big deal in sports," he said. "It's nice to know that we have a slight advantage going into the tourney by being on our home field." Faculty, staff and students can attend the tournament for free by showing their Manchester

ID.

The winners and losers of each game will play on various times on Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10. Those interested in which game to watch can keep up with the current scores posted on www.muspartans.com, which will have live statistics and audio of each game. The winner of the conference tournament will move onto the NCAA Regional Tournament.

"I am extremely happy that we won the regular season title, but the season isn't over yet," Padgett said. "Our next goal is to win the conference tourney and make it back to regionals to give us a shot at the World Series again."

2014 HCAC Baseball Championship

May 8-10
Gratz Field

Thursday, May 8

Game 1

#1 Manchester vs. #4 Franklin, 12 p.m.

Game 2

#2 Anderson vs. #3 Rose-Hulman, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9

Game 3

Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2, 9:30 a.m.

Game 4

Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2, 12:30 p.m.

Game 5

Loser Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4, 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

Game 6

Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 5, 12 p.m.

Game 7**

Loser Game 6 vs. Winner Game 6, 3:30 p.m.

** = If Needed