



The Oak Leaves



Manchester University Issue VII - October 31, 2014

MU Students Celebrate Halloween 2014

North Manchester campus hosts festivities for students, community

Jessica Klemm
Staff Writer

One doorway in Oakwood is dressed for Halloween. It's decorated with a bent metal picket fence, pumpkins with vines climbing up the hallway walls, a scary black kitty and a happy vampire bat. This door isn't alone for decoration in Oakwood. Practically every door holds a pumpkin, a skeleton or a ghost or two just in time for Halloween. In fact, all residence halls are ready for the spooky holiday, and Manchester has events going on tonight.

Each dorm on campus has their own tradition for Halloween. There is Haunted Garver, where the whole dorm is turned into a "haunted house" and students can tour the dorm. "It's a lot of fun to hear the kids scream their heads off and it's a lot of fun to participate in the scares!" said Codee Wallace, a junior art major and psychology minor.

Wing Wars takes place in East, where each floor decorates and holds a contest for which floor has the scariest and/or coolest floor. "It will be exciting to see all the different decorations that go up this year," said Cally Miller, a sophomore bio-chem major. "It's always great to see the kids come in and enjoy the different themes. Also the candy." The theme this year is Marvel vs. DC.

The children-friendly dorms are Oak-

wood and Helman. Oakwood did what they've done in similar years in the past, a trick or treat that's open to the town of North Manchester. Trick or treating took place on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 6 to 8 p.m. All dorms were open to trick or treating, but students have to provide their own candy. The Great Room in Oakwood was decorated and had activities set up for children to take part in. Helman painted pumpkins this year.

MAC, Manchester Activities Council, is hosting the yearly Costume Bingo tonight at 8:08 p.m. at the Jo Young Switzer Center. Prizes will be given out for prizes and winning bingo. Students should bring canned goods in exchange for bingo cards. The more canned goods a student brings, the more cards they may receive. Costumes are not required to be worn to attend Bingo, but are highly encouraged.

MAC, RHA, Oakwood, and Helman have joined forces to present "Rocky Horror Picture Show" on Thursday, Oct. 30. Students were given gift bags that contained toast, noise makers, party hats, etc. because the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" is a movie that invites viewers take a part in the film by performing actions that are taking place on screen, like throwing toast when there is a toast at dinner, tossing rice at the wedding and making a lot of noise (with noise makers) when there

is applause. More information on participation during the film can be found at <http://www.rockyhorror.com/participation/proplist.php>.

Clubs are participating in the festivities on campus as well. "Spectrum," Manchester's literary and artistic magazine, is hosting Art on the Cart in front of the Academic Building today from 10:45 to 1 p.m. Art on a Cart is where students can get a ride on a golf cart to their classes or dorm rooms and listen to spooky poetry along the way. Tea and apple cider will also be served.

Manchester University's physics club drops a pumpkin that has been doused in liquid nitrogen from the roof of the science building following their yearly egg-drop contest. Anyone may participate in the egg-drop contest. Students build little contraptions to protect an egg while being dropped from second floor of Science Building. The contest is held in rounds. If the egg is still intact after the first drop they go up a floor. If they are still intact, students go to the roof to drop.

Halloween on campus is huge, from door décor to riding on golf carts, flying pumpkins and toast. There are events happening for everyone on campus to enjoy.



ALL HALLOWS EVE During the week of Oct. 27, Manchester's main campus held various Halloween-related events for student and local community enjoyment. The annual All-Hall Trick-or-Treat was held on Wednesday, Oct. 29, and each dorm hosted unique activities. While Haunted Garver Hall spooked visitors, Schwalm celebrated "Halloween Around the World," Helman hosted pumpkin coloring, Oakwood welcomed trick-or-treaters, and East held a decoration competition between its floors.
Photo by Savannah Riley

MSO Opens Season with 'Vive la France!'



FIDDLELING AROUND The Manchester Symphony Orchestra opened its season with a performance called, "Vive la France!" which features music written by French composers. Judging from the success of the event, it could just as easily be called, "Vive la Manchester!" The crowd at Cordier Auditorium was filled with residents from Manchester's community as well as Spartan students. Since it was an afternoon of great elegance and sophistication, many people in attendance were dressed for the occasion. Some of the composition performed were "Symphony No. 3 in C minor" and "Op. 78" by Camille Saint-Saens. The symphony also performed "España," composed by Emmanuel Chabrier and "Reverie" by Claude Debussy. A well-known flutist, Kelly Horngarger, made an appearance on Cordier's stage, amazing the audience with beautiful sounds of her instrument. She played "Fantasie Brillante" from the operetta "Carmen." The end of the show produced a five-minute standing ovation from the audience, many of whom looked touched beyond belief by the artistry of the afternoon.
Caption by Teri White, Photo by Savannah Riley

Inside: Sibbs Saturday, Drug Testing, Spartan Men's Basketball



Around Campus



MU Participates in 'National Chemistry Week'

Tyler Roebuck
Staff Writer

Mounds of candy and the smell of pumpkin flooded campus this week, and not in the name of Halloween. Members of the American Chemical Society brought chemistry to Manchester in the form of candy. Events on October 22–29 raised awareness that chemistry is a significant part of even the smallest things in life.

Colleges around the nation celebrated National Chemistry Week through their chapter of the American Chemical Society, or ACS. This annual celebration of chemistry tries to inform the public about the importance of chemistry in their daily lives. Each year, ACS provides a different theme for its chapters to follow, and this year's was the chemistry of candy.

Chemistry Week at MU kicked off with its usual event of turning the sidewalks around the Science Center into a larger-than-life periodic table. To adhere to the theme, ACS initiated a full-scale candy scavenger hunt. "Every day this week, we have been hiding candy around the Academic and Science centers," said Kyle Carothers, treasurer of ACS. "The candies have notes on them with different facts about candy. On the back of the notes is a place for

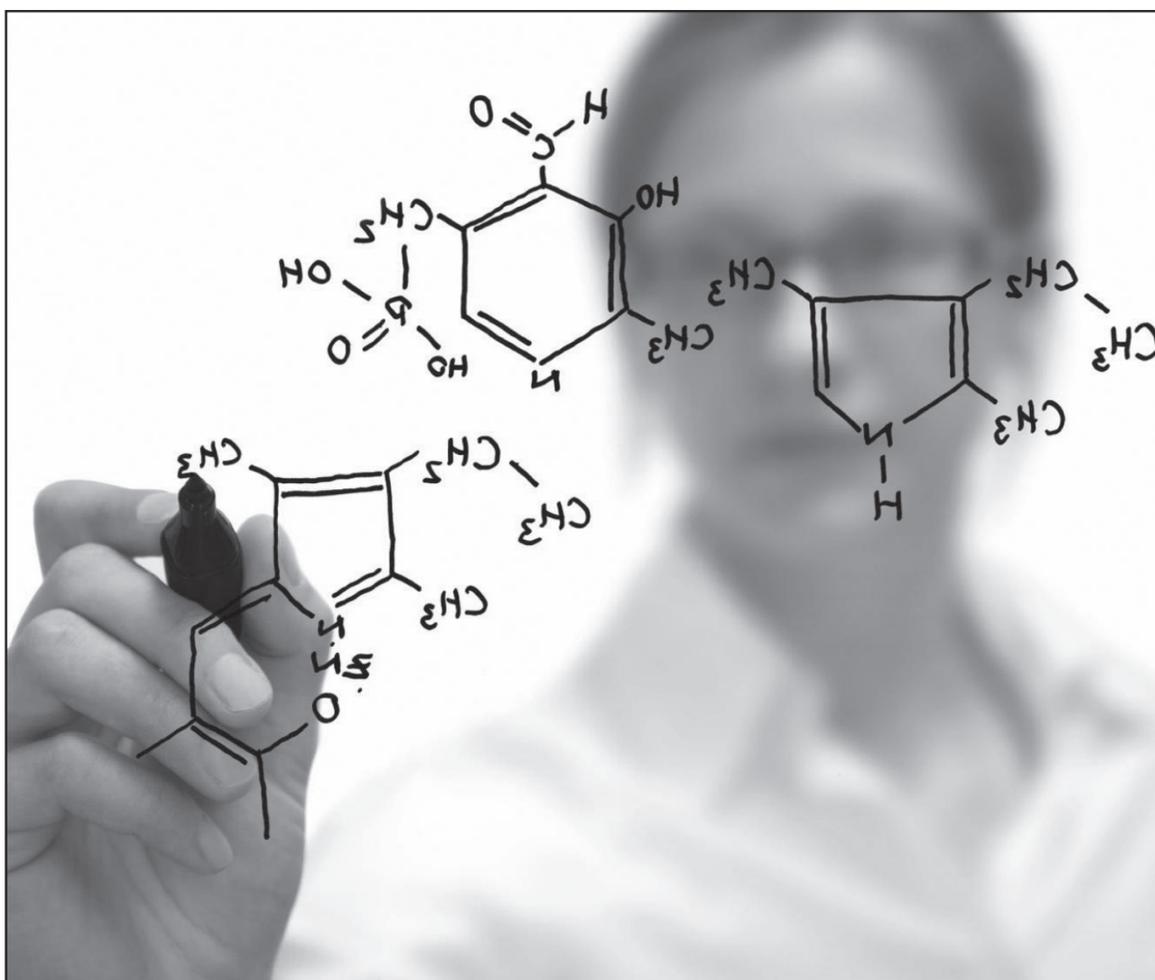


Image courtesy of engeecon.com

a name. When a student finds the candy, they take the note and drop it in a bucket outside Dr. Klein's office to win a prize." ACS replenished the stock of candy every day, hoping that students will find them and complete the scaven-

ger hunt.

The week continued with a variety of ACS sponsored events. On Monday, October 27, the Natural Sciences division's weekly science seminar featured a candy-themed presentation. Members

of ACS created a Power-Point to show the chemical makeup of popular candies and mints. Junior business management major Jessica Small attended the seminar because it sounded like fun. "They talked about how [the manufac-

urers] make sour patch kids, pop rocks, warheads, and a foaming candy," she said. "They also served those candies so that you could try them. This year was really special because they had a topic that people who are not in science

could relate to. I learned that warheads make their candies so sour by putting the highest legal amount of a sour chemical in it."

The smell of pumpkin filled the air on the night of Oct. 29, as ACS wrapped up the week of chemical celebration. Students from around campus carved pumpkins in the name of science. Given this year's theme of candied chemistry, engaging in the traditional Halloween celebration is an appropriate end to the week.

To Carothers, the goals of National Chemistry week are a thing of passion. He believes chemistry is one of the most important things in life. "Normally you do not think about chemistry while you are eating candy," Carothers says. The week demonstrated how the chemistry of everyday foods is hugely important for our bodies to work the way they should, and ACS intends to make people aware of what they take in every meal.

Dr. Susan Klein, President Clay Curtis, Vice President Timothy Pariseau, Archivist Jessica Noll, Treasurer Kyle Carothers and Secretary Loreal Richard run Manchester's chapter of ACS.

The Oak Leaves

Published by the students of Manchester University

Editors in Chief

Emily Barrand
Andrew Ellam

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Katharine Ings

Photographer

Savannah Riley

Advertising Manager

Karly Prichard

Staff Writers

Collin Groves, Alexis Hilton, Jessica Klemm,
Rachel Laing, Haylee Parrish, Lexi Pate, Emily Pleadwell
Samantha Reynolds, Tyler Roebuck, Derek Self, Teri White

Newspaper Delivery Manager

Claire Mumma

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

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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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UPCOMING VIAs

Presidential Inauguration

Friday, Nov. 7
1:30-2:45 p.m.
Cordier Auditorium

David Haskell, Working in the Hard Places: a social entrepreneurship theory of change

Tuesday, Nov. 11
3:30 p.m.
Cordier Auditorium

Literary Film Series: "Frida"

Thursday, Dec. 4
7 p.m.
Cordier Auditorium

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Pumpkin images courtesy of eofdreams.com



The Oak Leaves



MAC Hosts 'Sibs Saturday' on Main Campus

Alexis Hilton
Staff Writer

Sibs Saturday was held by Manchester Activities Council (MAC) last weekend on Oct. 25, and it offered a number of activities for Manchester University students and their younger siblings, between ages 13 and 18.

The day was lively from beginning to end thanks to exciting, Halloween-themed activities, which included carriage rides, face painting, zombie laser tag, and a haunted house. Starting at 10 a.m., families began arriving to register their siblings for the day that was ahead of them. During registration, there were carriage rides going up and down the road outside of the Jo Young Switzer Center. Manchester also had popcorn, elephant ears, and

smoothies available for the families to eat and enjoy.

After registration and lunch, the students and their siblings went to the PERC, where there were inflatables set up, as well as mini golf, a photo booth, a mechanical bull, arcade games, a balloon artist, face painting, and temporary tattoos. Despite the heat and humidity of the gym, almost everyone seemed to have a great time. All the younger siblings, and even some of the students, looked red-faced and exhausted from jumping and running around the gym on all the inflatables.

In the late afternoon, some of the students and their sibs went to the Aquatic and Fitness Center to swim and cool off after running around the gym earlier. After swimming, the students and siblings ate dinner before the Hallow-

een-themed night activities began. Zombie Laser Tag transformed the Upper JYS Center, creating what seemed to be a post-apocalyptic world. Barricades were set up, and six players had only six minutes to battle it out, and only one could be the winner. "It was very well planned, and it seems like everyone had a really good time," stated Hannah Brown, first year student, about the zombie laser tag.

There was also a haunted house outside of the JYS Center, and a Halloween Photo Shoot in the loft of the upper JYS Center. "The haunted house was scary for the younger kids, and exciting for the older ones," said Rebecca Landers, a first year student. "MAC did a good job of making sure everyone had a good time." Once again, treats were avail-



REUNITED MU student Chelsie Fisher (pictured above, on the left) poses for a photo with her younger sibling during Sibs Saturday on Oct. 25. The event gave Manchester students a chance to hang out for an entire day with their younger siblings (between the ages of 13 and 18). Various Halloween-themed activities were available for students and sibs, including a mechanical bull (pictured left), carriage rides and zombie laser tag.

Photos by Savannah Riley

able for every one of all ages to enjoy. This time, cotton candy and churros, or "haunted fingers," were

served.

At 10 p.m., the festivities came to an end, and the siblings either stayed in

the dorms with their older sibling or returned home.



MU Swimming Makes Intercollegiate Debut



MAKING A SPLASH The Strauss-Peabody Aquatic and Fitness Center (pictured above) is home to MU's men's and women's swim teams, which are competing intercollegiately for the first time in program history this season. Last weekend on Friday, Oct. 24, the teams traveled to Franklin College and made their inaugural debut in a meet against Franklin and Defiance. Overall, the Spartans had several fourth-place finishes during the meet, including Emily Clark (women's 100 yard butterfly), Diane McAfee (women's 100 yard freestyle), Victoria Rundquist (women's 100 yard backstroke), Phil Zook (men's 100 yard backstroke), and Austin Kelly (men's 50 and 100 yard freestyle). Also, Ally Roskos was the top 1-meter diver in the competition, while a team consisting of Clark, McAfee, Rundquist and Kara Olson finished fourth in the women's 200 yard medley relay. The teams' next meet takes place on Nov. 8, when they compete against Rose-Hulman and Wabash at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind.

Photo by Savannah Riley



Around Campus



MU Athletics Conducts Randomized Drug Tests

Derek Self
Staff Writer

A student-athlete drug-testing program that has been in the works in the athletic department for the last three years was carried out on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Coaches were informed of the randomized tests via email at 10 AM on Monday, Oct. 13, and had the opportunity to communicate with their student-athletes prior to the tests on Tuesday morning.

The Manchester athletic department carried out randomized drug tests several years ago. Rick Espeset, athletic director, explained that the procedure for those tests fell short of his standards and decided that he and Erin Foreman, the head athletic trainer, needed to reevaluate their drug-testing program.

"For the last three years, Erin and I have been in discussions to create the protocol for our tests," Espeset said. "Anywhere from how the stu-

dent-athletes are selected to what happens if they test positive and where the students are referred if they do test positive."

Espeset said that he wanted to construct the procedures for the test in such a way that upheld fairness and student-athletes' rights. The investment of time in reconfiguring the drug-testing process far outweighed the financial investment in the drug test itself. At three dollars per test, with 10 percent of Manchester's student-athletes tested, the small investment was financed by an athletic operating budget.

"The cost of the test is very minimal," Espeset said. "But it is a cost of time for the athletic training faculty and staff."

So the faculty and staff were tasked with finding the most streamlined, effective way to conduct the tests.

All the tests were completed on Tuesday morning. In the event that a student-athlete tested positive, the athletic de-

partment wanted to give the student the opportunity to visit the local clinic to rule out the chance of an inaccurate test.

"The last thing we want to do is have a false positive," Espeset said.

Drug testing in college sports is not uncommon. In 2009, an NCAA survey found that roughly 92 percent of programs, from Division I to Division III, conduct random drug tests. At the Division I and Division II levels, year-round drug testing has been standard protocol since 1990.

At the Division III level, drug testing is often used as an educational tool. Such was the approach taken by Espeset and the training staff at Manchester.

"My intent as an athletic director is not to be punitive with the drug-testing," said Espeset. "Our job as an athletic department is to help educate and mentor 18-22-year-olds through this time in their lives."

Espeset hopes

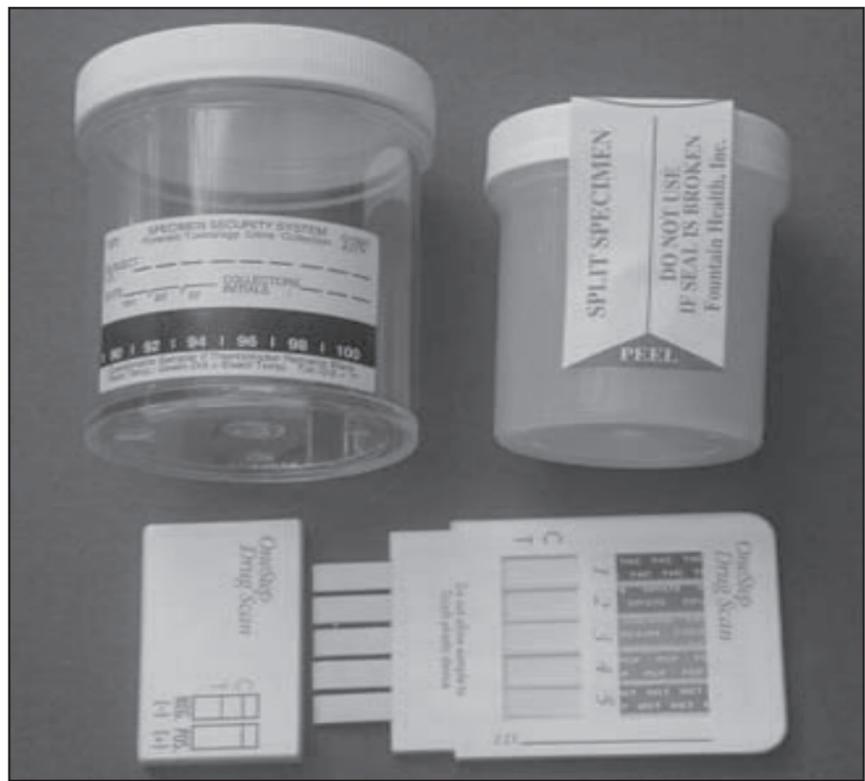


Photo courtesy of outofstepper.com

that the drug tests impacted the thought process of student-athletes. He explains that the end goal was to deter student-

athletes from making an unhealthy choice, and help those who test positive.

The NCAA has a policy that is much more disciplinary. Student-athletes are randomly tested at championship events and a positive test in that setting results in a one-year athletic suspension. According to Manchester's student-athlete handbook, those who test positive are not required to miss any games but are given community service as a minimal punishment. Coaches then have the authority to manage that player in the manner they see fit.

Players sign a random drug-testing form at the beginning of each season, declaring their compliance with the athletic department's policy.

"They know that it could happen," Espeset said. "We want student-athletes held to a very high standard, and being

part of the athletic department, we can hold them to a higher standard than the general student."

Dakota Nelson, sophomore wide receiver, understands that being an athlete means submitting to certain rules and upholding a reasonable amount of responsibility.

"[The athletic department] can do what they want in terms of drug testing," Nelson said. "We're athletes; and even though we're a small school, they still have that option."

Foreman and her staff will evaluate the effectiveness of the new drug-testing process. Espeset is confident that the program will continue in the future.



Photo courtesy of altogetherdrugtesting.com

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Spartan Sports



MU Men's B-ball Plays Exhibitions in Canada

Haylee Parrish
Staff Writer

Between Saturday, Oct. 18 and Tuesday, Oct. 21, the Spartan basketball team found itself traveling to Toronto, Canada to play five exhibition games against various colleges, including Redeemer University, Mohawk College, Durham College, George Brown and Fanshawe College.

The games were played in a split squad, so not every player participated in every game. All games were losses for the MU team, with scores of 70-47 against Redeemer, 90-77 against Mohawk, 80-72 against Durham, 68-41 against George Brown, and 54-48 against Fanshawe.

The trip to Canada, however, wasn't about winning so much as preparing for the upcoming season by forming camaraderie among the players and gaining more experience. "You can never quantify how a trip like this prepares you for the upcoming season," said head coach Brad Nadborne. "You certainly have to feel

like it impacts you in positive ways. Between getting experience, team bonding, and gaining confidence going into the season, you're prepared to meet the schedule ahead."

Under NCAA rules, the team is allowed to make the trip once every three years. This is the second time that the Manchester team has gone to Canada, the first time having been in preparation for the 2008-2009 season when they traveled to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. That was the first time a Manchester men's basketball team had ever been out of the country. Preparation for the trip included fundraising and ten additional days of practice.

"We made the decision last spring and contacted a number of schools in the Toronto area," Nadborne said. "We were able to come up with a pretty good plan in terms of games on the days we had available, which were Fall Break days."

Aside from facing off against the opposing colleges and universities,



OH, CANADA MU's men's basketball team unites in preparation for success. The team traveled to Toronto, Canada over Fall Break, competing in five exhibition games. This was only the third time that a Manchester men's basketball team had left the country. The scoreboard did not reflect the overall gain the trip had on the team. Not only did the players have the chance to learn about cultures outside of the United States, the trip also enabled them to build confidence and camaraderie with each other.

Photo by Savannah Riley

however, the team had fun immersing themselves in the cultural aspects of Canada. They were given free time to spend as they

pleased, so popular destinations included the Hockey Hall of Fame, the CN Tower and the University of Toronto. They also en-

joyed dining in Little Italy and ate a unique pre-game meal at a food market in the renovated Maple Leaf Gardens.

Men's basketball will kick off officially on Friday, Nov. 14, against IPFW.

'Prime Time at the PERC' Opens B-ball Slate

Emily Pleadwell
Staff Writer

One of the PERCs of basketball may just be having a superhero for a coach. On Friday, Oct. 24, when MU held its annual Prime Time at the PERC as an opener for the 2014-2015 Spartan basketball season, coaches Brad Nadborne and Josh Dzurick made their initial appearance via video: Dzurick, clad in a Robin costume, went to Nadborne's aid after some car trouble. The video concluded with a sync-up to Nadborne, Dzurick and his dog Champ all making their entrance through the far door of the gym wearing their same outfits from the video.

The introduction of the men's and women's team ensued, with a number of basketball mini-games forming the rest of the program. One highlight was the involvement of President Dave McFadden, when one of the starting members of the men's team tried to jump over him multiple times in order to make a trick shot. "I had so much fun," McFadden said. "I was happy I had my back

to him, though, so I couldn't see him coming!"

McFadden wasn't the only person not on the team to get involved. Each of the events required participants from the audience who were chosen via raffle tickets and announced by popular MC Mark Zinser.

In a three-pointer game where the participants had to score as many points from five different positions as possible within a time limit, audience member Conner Shank blew the crowd away by sinking one of his team's sparse number of shots. Spartacus cheered on the sidelines along with the other enthused viewers.

Ending the contests with a game of knock-out, students Donald Campbell and Jess Chorak won their bouts at each hoop.

On the sidelines Michael Dixon's toddler son was inspired by the team and the audience's efforts. He made his own attempt at scoring hoops, clad in Elmo slippers, as his dad lifted him up and he tossed his black balloon towards the hoop.

MU first year Tim Hernandez said he thoroughly

enjoyed the event, despite not being lucky enough to end up with a free t-shirt.

Knock-Out participant Trinity Schelich did too. "I had a blast with my awesome, fifth-grade basketball skills," she said. "I'm looking forward to supporting my fellow Falcon alumna Abby Lang this coming season."

After the event McFadden said: "I think it's a great way to start off the season."

Both teams are gearing up to start their conference seasons this November. The girls have yet to play the court, but Coach Dzurick's Robin costume may set him up as an appropriate sidekick in showcasing the girls' superhero skills on the court.

The boys have thus far played five non-conference matches. The scoreboard has yet to be in their favor, but the season is still ahead of them.

Men's Soccer to Wrap up Regular Season

Lexi Pate
Staff Writer

Manchester University men's soccer team is at the part of their season where they are competing in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) conference.

The overall record so far this year for the Spartans is 5-12, and their overall conference record is 1-7. Their one win in the conference so far is against Hanover. The Spartans recently received losses against Earlham, with a score of 3-2, and Franklin, with a score of 2-0.

Michael Cheesman, a first year that starts at the outside left back, was not able to play against Earlham due to an injury in his foot. "It was sad seeing my team playing out there and knowing I couldn't help them," he said. Cheesman plans on getting back on the field soon and playing in the next game against Franklin. He said that it would be great to get back on the field again and join his teammates again.

Since the men's soccer team is in last place for conference, they are not in the top four of the

HCAC tournament. The tournament contains the four teams that have the highest records, and will host a semi-final and final game from Nov. 4 to Nov. 8. This will determine

who is first in this year's 2014 conference.

Mark Zinser, senior, says that the team definitely has potential to be in the top four. The teams they have played,

they have played down to the wire. If they were to keep a better focus, Zinser believes that they would come out with a win. "We are definitely not a 5-11 team," he said. "Our re-

cord doesn't show how far we have come and how talented this team is."

Another first-year, Tod Oram, says that the team has played with some unfortunate luck.

The team has to figure out some communication things, but Oram knows that the team has what it takes to work the kinks out. "We should be in it," he said, referring to the final four HCAC tournament. "We have fought all year." The team has just had some minor lapses in their games that led them to losses. Oram said that the team was focused in all their games; they just couldn't capitalize.

The men's soccer team's season will end on Nov. 1 when they play their last home game against Mt. St. Joseph. Zinser will feel a loss once his last season of soccer is over. "It's really tough to accept that my competitive career is going to be over," he said.

He continued to explain that the end of the season is going to be difficult for the team's sake as well. The Spartans have worked hard to progress this season and Zinser said that unfortunately, their record doesn't show the strides they have made as a team.



LOOKING TO FINISH STRONG Manchester's men's soccer team huddles up to discuss a play. The team, with an overall record of 5-12 and a conference record of 1-7, will soon wrap up its season on Nov. 1, competing against Mt. St. Joseph at home at 3 pm. Their HCAC win against Hanover may catapult the players toward a successful conclusion of the season.

Photo by Savannah Riley



Spartan Sports



Lady Spartans Hope to Clinch Postseason Berth

Samantha Reynolds
Staff Writer

Manchester University's women's soccer team has two more games to advance in their standings before conference approaches them. They are certainly eager to show that they have what it takes to come out strong while their season winds down to the last couple of games.

The team as a whole is ready as they move toward their last games, and there are certainly some memorable moments for some of the players. "We have a lot of seniors this year who have been playing together since freshman year so it is a really bittersweet feeling getting toward the end of the season," said Katelyn Barta, senior. "We are focusing on reminding ourselves who we play for to try to stay strong for the next couple games left."

As the team has gone forward with practices and games, they have begun to think deeply into emotions as to why they are playing and for whom they are playing for. "We are playing with a lot of heart," Barta said.

Brandy Crouse, junior, agreed. "Practice in these last couple weeks are centered on finding our focus on the field and playing our hearts out for each other," she said.



KICK-N-STRIDE First-year defender Alyssa Cox looks to advance the ball downfield during Manchester's home game against Franklin College on Tuesday, Oct. 28. In the end, the Spartans were shut out by the conference-leading Grizzlies by a final score of 2-0. Currently, the team is 7-9-1 overall and 4-3-1 in conference play. At the time of publication, the team is still in position to clinch a spot in the HCAC Tournament. Tomorrow at 1 p.m., the Spartans will host Mount St. Joseph in their final match of the regular season.

Photo by Savannah Riley

The team has not only been trying to find their focusing, but they have also been focused on connecting as a unit in order to improve themselves during practice. "We practiced connecting from the defense to the midfielders to the forwards, not just forwards connecting with forwards, and so forth," Barta said. "We are working on

connecting passes in the middle of the field and supporting each other on the field."

They are also continuing to communicate with one another on the field. Communication is also a part of their wanting to be a unit. The team seems to be about supporting one another and working together instead

of being individuals playing. "We have been working on telling each other to shoot the ball when we are open, to call for the ball for a pass, to tell our teammate if there is a man on," Barta said. "We have been working on the simple and small aspects." These details can go a great way to paying off in the long run when it comes to practicing

and working together as a team. After all, they are all playing for the same team, and have the same goal of achievement in the end.

"We still have the same goals that we did before the season; make and win Conference Tournament as well as make our presence known in the NCAA tournament," Crouse said.

While the women's soccer team has their goals set, they still have to continue to work together as one, and communicate during practices and games because in the end, there is really no telling of how a game is going to play out for them. "Our main focus is to take one game at a time," Barta said. "We cannot focus on what other teams are doing or what is going to happen next game."

"We are currently the fourth place seed to go to the conference tournament, but we need to win against Franklin and Mount St. Joe on Saturday," Barta continued. If the team wins against these two teams, they could potentially move into third place.

While there is no guarantee of the outcome, the team can still look ahead, and strive for the best possible outcome.

"The conference schedule that we have has a lot of skilled teams, but we keep up with all of them," Barta said. "Our main focus is to take one game at a time."

The women's soccer team seems that have their focus right where it needs to be; taking each game one at a time, and striving for the best outcome possible, and working together as a unit.

Confidence is High for Spartan Football Team



DUAL THREAT Junior quarterback Logan Haston (#10) attempts to shake-off a tackler during Manchester's Homecoming game against the Defiance Yellow Jackets on Oct. 11. The Spartans won the contest 37-23. Ever since the Homecoming victory, the team's morale and energy has been high, even though the Spartans lost their next game at Bluffton on Oct. 25, by a final score of 24-16. Currently, Manchester's overall record is 3-4, with a 2-3 record in conference play. The team looks to improve its record tomorrow afternoon in the Hall of Fame Game at Rose-Hulman. Kick off is set for 2 p.m.

Photo by Savannah Riley

Rachel Laing
Staff Writer

Tight end Michael Love is more than halfway through his senior season, but he isn't slowing down.

Overall, he's enjoying the season that has three games left; the Spartans most recently played Bluffton, losing 24-16 but pulling off a two-touchdown streak in the fourth quarter. "We have had some tough losses this year and those wins could have made it better," Love said. "But hopefully we can win out the rest of the year." He's also impressed with team dynamic, underscoring how they work together as a unit. "We play for each

other and play with passion," he added.

Love isn't the only one who's noticed how the team as a whole is handling the season. Head coach Shannon Griffith has observed a lot of good sportsmanship and high spirits. "I think our guys' positive vibe has been refreshing this year," Griffith said. "We never get too high or too low."

The energy has also been high since winning at Homecoming, as the players get a bit of a break. "We were able to give the guys some time off over our bye week and came back with a little more intensity to get back into game mode." Griffith

said.

Love agrees, citing the win over Defiance as being a confidence booster for the entire team. "Our team morale has been very high," he said. An important factor is that the team is functioning as exactly that: a team. "This team is a tight knit team that holds each other accountable," Love said.

Though he can't point to any one thing in account for the team's success, Griffith regards this year's practices as being on-point. "Our guys have been very consistent in their prep work," he said, adding that they've seen excellent leadership from the seniors.

Love sees a few things about the team that he thinks make them unique this year. "We have multiple players who are explosive and can make big plays," he said. "This season we're playing with a very up-tempo offense and have been very effective doing this."

Something that the team is still getting used to is playing away games; all but two of their matchups have been on home turf. "I think the biggest difference is routine," Griffith said. "We have to adapt to the change in routine, but we are very detailed in how we travel."

The overarching theme this season is the

confidence everyone has in the team, which Griffith expressed, stressing that the attitudes of the team can't just last while on the field. "I think we have a great belief in each other and what we are doing scheme-wise," he said. "We really focused on forming winning habits in practice and off the field. It all goes hand-in-hand: the more things you do right, good things happen.

You have to have belief that good things will happen."

That belief is something Love shares.

The Spartans' next game is Nov. 1 at Rose-Hulman. The contest, which is known as the Hall of Fame Game, is set to kick off at 2 p.m.

Spartan Sports Weekend Events

Saturday, Nov. 1

Wrestling
at Kaye Young Open, 9 a.m.

**Men's and Women's
Cross Country**
at 2014 HCAC Championships
@ Earlham College, 12 p.m.

Women's Soccer
vs. Mount St. Joseph, 1 p.m.

Volleyball
vs. Rose-Hulman, 1 p.m.

Football
at Rose-Hulman, 2 p.m.

Men's Soccer
vs. Mount St. Joseph, 3 p.m.