

The Oak Leaves

Manchester University Issue X - December 5, 2014

MU Peace Studies Attends Annual 'SOA Watch'

Alexis Hilton
Staff Writer

On Saturday, November 22, hundreds of human rights defenders, including a contingent from Manchester's Peace Studies program, gathered in the remote town of Lumpkin, Georgia, to protest the School of Americas (SOA) and the Western Hemisphere Institute of Security Cooperation (WHINSEC).

In Lumpkin, the largest employer is the Corrections Corporation of America at the Stewart Detention Center. This happens to be one of largest immigrant prisons in the United States where there are currently 1,800 men.

The men's only "crime" they are guilty of was to flee the economic and political violence in their respective home countries.

The violence that is taking place in their home countries is created by United States policies and training like at the School of America and Western Hemisphere Institute of Security Cooperation. The activists marched 1.7 miles from central Lumpkin to the Stewart Detention Center after President Obama's announcement about his executive actions about



SHUT IT DOWN Recently, MU's Peace Studies program traveled to Georgia in order to participate in the SOA (School of the Americas) Watch, an annual protest that advocates for the closure of WHINSEC (Western Hemisphere Institute of Security Cooperation) and the SOA. The combat school is known for training Latin American soldiers in warfare techniques, who in turn use the skills they acquire to commit atrocities against their own people, such as torture, rape and murder. Because of this, protesters from around the globe meet annually in order to generate attention to the issue through non-violent means of protest.

immigration.

Manchester University's Peace Studies program organized to have two professors, one staff member, and 14 students to attend the protest in Lumpkin. "I think everyone had a worthwhile ex-

perience," said Phil Keim, Peace Studies coordinator. "It was a great opportunity to learn why we're opposed to it while engaging our First Amendment right to peacefully assemble."

Keim, along with Dr. Katy Gray Brown, chair

of Peace Studies, was responsible for organizing the logistics of the trip. "I will continue to engage students on the issues of injustice in Latin America and the role of the US government in this oppression," he said.

Photo by Addie Neher

The point of the protest is to close the SOA/WHINSEC for good, and then, according to Keim, to "implement more beneficial policies in dealing with our relations to countries in Latin America." He hopes that the protest will gener-

ate more national attention for the movement, so that the school will be closed.

The national organizers of the protest work all year long to incite a policy change, as well as travel to countries to meet with leader in hopes that they will stop sending students to Fort Benning.

Members of the Peace Studies program will continue to inform students about the violence in Latin America and participate with The SOA Watch organization to continue the protest. However, students can still get involved all year long. The Peace Studies program encourages students to write letters to their representatives asking them to support the closing of the SOA/WHINSEC, as well as engaging in conversation with peers who may not be informed about the situation so that awareness can be raised and spread about our foreign policy priorities. "Students should care about this movement because it affects our global citizenship—we are all brothers and sisters in this world, and injustice anywhere should concern students here," Keim said.

OMA Stages 'International Fashion Show'

Fashion, attire from 14 different countries represented at bi-annual event

Emily Pleadwell
Staff Writer

Colored lights flashed as dancers with rainbow-colored shirts danced below them on the stage of Cordier Auditorium. With Michael Dixon lip syncing and everyone doing "the lawnmower" in tandem, a stray onlooker may have guessed it was one of Dixon's famous Zumba classes if the enormous crowd had not also been present. It wasn't Zumba – it was actually part of this year's bi-annual fashion show put on by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

On Saturday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m., students packed the front section of Cordier to attend the event, which for the first time in its history offered VIA credit.

After an intro complete with a somersault onto the stage, popular campus MC Mark Zinser proceeded to carry his co-host, Caniece Leggett, across the stage to the podium with him. The stage included a large fern and a gorgeous cherry blossom tree replica which debuted earlier during the 2014 Manchester Symphony Orchestra presentation of "The Mikado."

Nineteen student volunteers, along with Dixon, modeled fashions from 14 different countries which spanned 5 continents. Starting the show with casual wear from Ethiopia, model Andrew Burgess inspired laughs from the audience with his animated poses. The fun atmosphere Zinser set was maintained throughout the



CATWALKING IN CORDIER Student volunteers model on stage during the eighth International Fashion Show held for the first time in Cordier Auditorium on Nov. 22. During the show, which is hosted bi-annually by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), there was clothing featured from 14 different countries (spanning five continents), including Ethiopia, Japan and Mexico. In addition to showing fashion, traditional dances were performed and students in attendance learned different facts about the countries represented in the show. For the first time in its history, the event offered VIA credit to those that attended.

rest of the show.

This year marked the eighth International Fashion Show, and VIA credit wasn't the only new feature. In between the fashion presentations were question-and-answer sessions about the previous country, followed by a cultural dance. The Q & A was facilitated via Twitter using the hashtag "OMAIFS14" and the @OMAatMU Twitter feed. For the shier participant, Yik Yak was also utilized. "We're trying to do something where peo-

ple get to ask questions," said Multicultural Affairs Programmer Selamawit Nicolai. "We're trying to get students to Yak their questions in. We're trying to use Yik Yak in a positive way."

Not many questions were sent in, but one had the crowd entertained. Following the Azonto dance popular in Ghana, one student asked if the moves were actually traditional for the dance, or rather if it was a hybrid Zumba class of Dixon's as he is also a certified Zum-

ba instructor. The dance was performed to "Antenna" by Fuse ODG.

While the Azonto dance involved a cast of participants, the two remaining dances were solo performances by Jaspreet Kaur and Salwa Nubani. Kaur's dance was a Bhangra dance which is popular in Northern India. The music accompanying her performance was an lively hybrid of traditional Indian music along with songs currently popular within the United States.

Nubani's Palestinian belly dance was a hit with the crowd, serving as the closing dance performance of the evening.

Technology needs, another crucial component of the night was highlighted by sophomore James Pappalia, who helped with the show. "My job during the fashion show was working all of the tech, which included working the light displays throughout the show and adjusting audio levels as needed be," Pappalia said. "People may think

the show is all in the performance onstage, but there's so much work going on backstage to help complement the performance. You can't see or hear who's performing if there aren't any lights on or no microphones and speakers to put sound through."

"My favorite part was the dancing," said junior Jessica Klemm. "It really brought the show to life. Seeing the clothing was cool as well, but the dancing really brought out the culture."

The different styles and materials presented throughout the show offered students an opportunity to appreciate the culture of some of their fellow MU students. What may have been previously seen as just a popular fashion scarf worn by Palestinian students was identified as a Keffiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian Nationalism.

The show ended with a formal section, showcasing several of the female participants in prom dresses which dazzled under the stage lights.

The Multicultural Affairs Programmers (MAPs) responsible for the production were Andrew Burgess, Jaspreet Kaur, Elizabeth McKenney, Selamawit Nicolai, Heba Nubani and Salwa Nubani. The team worked hard to make the show go seamlessly, and they pulled it off. "They organized it very well," senior Nico Quintanar said. "It looked so much better than previous years and the idea of making it a VIA to make people go was brilliant."

Inside: Internet Issues, Mock Trial, Spartan Women's Basketball

Around Campus

ITS Works to Resolve Recent Internet Outages

Jessica Klemm
Staff Writer

The Manchester Campus experienced a huge internet outage on Saturday, Nov 1, which caused major issues for students, faculty and staff alike. Codee Wallace, a junior art major with a minor in psychology, was planning to work on an essay on the day of the outage. "It was extremely frustrating," she said. "I was going to do some more research on my paper, but everything I had and needed was in JSTOR. I had no access."

Wallace wasn't the only one who was frustrated at the internet outage and Manchester wasn't the only institution that expe-

rienced an internet blackout. Multiple colleges and universities experienced the same outage on Nov 1, including schools like Purdue, Indiana University, Valparaiso and most of the western side of the state. "The outage was caused by our internet provider, I-Light," said Travis Steele, Manchester University's new Director of IT Operations. "We had no control over it. It is just like when the internet goes out at home; it's beyond your control." I-Light is Indiana's internet provider for roughly 99% of the state according to their website, <http://ilight.net>.

While I-Light does seem to have the problem fixed, Manchester's ITS

discovered that what they worked on over the summer didn't work. "We dramatically overhauled our Internet service this summer ironically to improve reliability and performance," said Michael Case, director of ITS. "However, we're using advanced Internet tools to make this happen."

The Manchester plan for the summer wasn't just to boost the coverage and speed of campus internet but to connect the North Manchester Campus with the Fort Wayne campus. So when the North Manchester Campus loses internet, the internet from Fort Wayne should be able to cover both sites and vice versa. The outage showed that what they set up over

the summer didn't work and the fail-safe failed as well. "This is the reason behind the controlled outages," Steele said. "So we can test if it works and pinpoint other problems."

The problem of internet speed and reliability is being solved. Fiber cables will be run through tunnels on campus and into buildings that go through switches. These new fiber cables will send out a larger bandwidth, so the changes will help with streaming and downloading. "We've seen complaints and we know it is a problem," Steele said. "Oakwood, for example, has 16 suites per floor, with 4 people per suite. A third of those people could be

streaming Netflix. Multiply that by 3 – it's not hard to see where the bandwidth is going. The changes should make an improvement with this." The changes should also improve lag for those who play online video games.

The dorms aren't the only ones who are being looked at, as Winger is also on the list as well. The ITS team plans to have the building surveyed to see what could be done to improve reception. "Winger is interesting; it's a concrete cell," Steele said. "Floor, ceilings, walls – all concrete. Winger is tricky, and WiFi is rough in the PERC as well. We might repurpose the old access points from the dorms for Winger

and the PERC." The last scheduled outage was Nov 19. "The testing went well and as of right now we do not have others planned at this time," Steele said.

Even though Wallace was extremely frustrated Nov 1, she still finds the internet to be what she calls "pretty good and overall pretty reliable." Though when it comes to the changes she is a bit optimistic. "It =if works, it works," she said. "If it doesn't work, a lot of people will be making a big stink over it." And by the way, she finished her paper and turned it in on time.

MU Students Look Forward to Holiday Traditions

Haylee Parrish
Staff Writer

With the holidays just around the corner and Thanksgiving a date in the past, that time of year is coming where students, faculty and staff receive their hard-earned break from the bustle of university life and are able to instead focus on one of the most important things of all: spending time with loved ones. But as an addition to that, it is also the time of year in which everyone is looking forward to something else, includ-

ing free time, holiday traditions and delicious meals. For two of Manchester University's North American students, the holidays are a particularly special time in those aspects.

First-year student Mary Powell knows the importance of cherishing time with her family especially well. Just over this past Thanksgiving, she was finally able to spend some long-awaited days with her brother Joseph before he had to return to bootcamp in San Diego for the Marines. While he will not be able to return home for

Christmas to spend time with her and the family, he plans on Skyping with them during Christmas dinner and while they are opening presents. "I'm looking forward to a long break at home spending time with my friends, family and boyfriend," Powell said.

Sophomore Hannah Hathaway feels similarly to Powell. "I am really looking forward to spending time with my family," she said. "With all of these classes I have, there's rarely time for me to see them." However, the factor that often makes each individual's holiday

experience unique and entertaining is the traditions that assert themselves through the years and never fail to keep popping up. Hathaway always goes to her grandmother's home for the holidays, where she eats homemade pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Her Christmas dinner always consists of chop suey, as well. "No idea why," she said. "It's just always been that way." After finishing up dining and opening gifts at her grandmother's, she returns home the next morning to have Christmas at her house.

For Powell, the holidays are the time of year when she gets to reunite with her "silly" family and create lasting memories. "Every year, my uncle makes a big joke of gifts and gives someone a gift that he thinks is so awesome, but is really just weird," Powell said fondly. "Like, he makes someone three-or-more mixed CDs of some really old band they have expressed only a slight interest."

Her family also asserts tradition through their meals. "Every year for Christmas, we get a

ham from 'Heavenly Ham' and my step-dad constantly tells my grandma how great it tastes," she said. "Last year though, my grandma got the ham from another place that my step-dad didn't approve of and she told him it was from the same place. He completely believed it."

After finishing their Christmas dinner, Powell and her family wrap up the night by eating Chinese food while they enjoy watching the classic Christmas movie "A Christmas Story."

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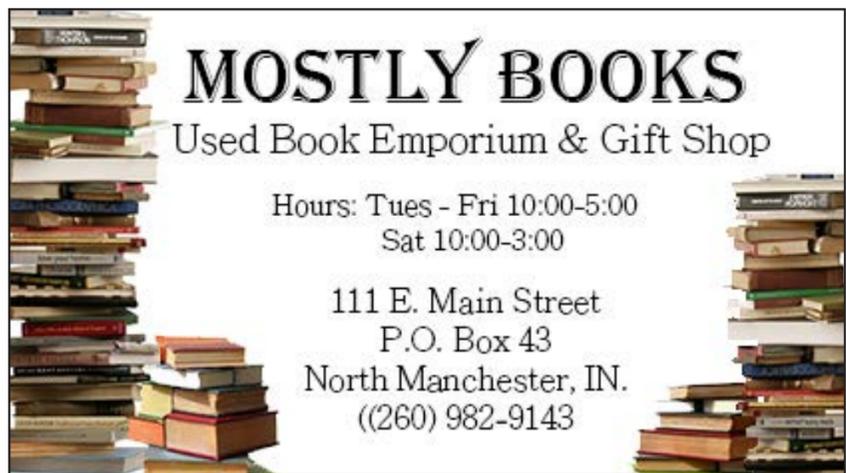


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The Oak Leaves



MU Mock Trial Team Competes at Illinois State

Derek Self
Staff Writer

It's a scene you'd swear was taken straight from an NCIS script: a play date gone horribly wrong when two young girls unlock a safe containing a gun. The two girls, "Sydney" and "Jesse," spend their summer days together playing violent video games and shooting Nerf guns, until one day, real tragedy strikes. After accessing the safe in "Jesse's" home, the girls begin playing a game with a real gun. The gun discharges, killing "Sydney."

These characters, though, are fictitious and the story is entirely made up. But for the amount of time and effort that 11 students on the Mock Trial team put into preparing testimonies, directs and crosses for weekend-long competitions, one might be quick to believe the charade.

"My role was a witness by the name of Emerson Couples, a child psychologist," said Shereen Antony, sophomore.

Antony explained that witnesses are tasked with finding the right personality for their respective characters. Some actors choose to play their character with a stoic presence,

while others opt for a more quirky personality, as they seek to make their characters more believable.

On November 14, 2014, Antony and the rest of the Manchester Mock Trial team travelled to Illinois State University to take part in a three-day competition against 22 different colleges and universities. During the three days, the team had the opportunity to act out the fictitious civil case following the invented death of Sydney Parks from the side of the defense and the plaintiff. The team competed in one trial on Friday, two trials on Saturday and one trial on Sunday.

Austin Kelly, sophomore and treasurer of the Mock Trial team, played an attorney and an expert witness during the tournament.

"This year at ISU, we decided to try a new strategy," Kelly said. "We used this tournament as a learning experience for the six new members on the team."

Despite over half the team consisting of new members, Kelly was pleased with the team's execution.

"We really focused on the content of the case for this first tournament, saving a lot of the formal-



Photo courtesy of pipelinepub.com

ties for Jan-term and spring semester," Kelly said. "We knew our content, and with the little experience most of the team had, we did very well."

Antony also acknowledged that the tournament at ISU was a learning experience for the young team, and was a good time to "test the wa-

ters."

"We have all the tools to become an incredible team: an amazing coach, talented actors/actresses and smart and charismatic lawyers," Antony said. "We are going to work hard to make the next competition, in January, a learning experience for the other teams!"

In a weekend full of debate, one verdict went uncontested: it was a rigorous weekend for the Mock Trial team at ISU.

"If we weren't eating or sleeping, we were trying to perfect everything," Kelly said.

Kelly leaves no room for error. He noted that he and his teammates

plan to work diligently over winter break to perfect their case. "We know our information and we know how to work with each other," he said. "Now we need to work towards perfection."

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Spartan Sports



Upperclassmen to Lead MU Women's B-ball

Rachel Laing
Staff Writer

For first year Katie Byers, college basketball has been a big step up from high school games. "High school was pretty easy, so I think the intensity of the practices was a wake-up call for a lot of the first years," Byers said. "I had knee surgery a few weeks ago so I missed the first few weeks of practice, but once I got into my first practice, it hit me like a brick wall."

To help them through this transition, the first years have had an abundance of leadership in the form of seniors and juniors. "The upperclassmen have done a really great job of making the first years feel included," Byers said.

She's not the only one who's impressed with the upperclassmen. Coach Josh Dzurick is grateful for the amount of leadership on the team. "The first years are overwhelmed, but we've handled it well because of the upperclassmen," he said. "You start with the core returners, and when you look at it, it balances out the first years."

Byers likes the way the team is looking, heading into the season. "From my perspective, I think the



DEFENDING THE HOME COURT Junior guards Justine Kruger (left, #10) and Kelcye Daugherty (center, #23) play defense during Manchester's home game against the University of Chicago on Nov. 22. The Spartans prevailed, defeating the Maroons by a final score of 64-61. With the win, Manchester was crowned champion of the 2014 Main View Tipoff Tournament, which was held throughout the course of the weekend at Stauffer-Wolfe Arena. At the time of publication, the women's basketball team was 2-1 on the season, and they were about to enter overtime against Defiance on Dec. 3. Tomorrow, the Spartans will hit the road to face Earlham.

Photo by Savannah Riley

team is meshing really well, and we're a tight knit group," she said. "Most of my best friends here have come from the team!"

Dzurick credits the cohesion this year to the leadership. "We have five seniors and four juniors,

which is more upperclassmen than we've had the past few years," he said. "The senior and veteran leadership aspect has been pretty strong. We're confident with more time and experience the first years will be just fine."

Even with the upperclassmen to show them the ropes, the first years have had a lot to get used to. "The level of play and competition is much higher and everyone is a lot more athletic than high school," Byers said. "I also wasn't

expecting to have 7 a.m. weights during preseason either; that was a shock to me!"

Despite all the positives, it's Dzurick's job to worry. "I'm always concerned about something," he said. "I've got a lot of

trust and faith in the upperclassmen, though. They're focused and hungry, and I'm confident we can handle whatever we face."

What should fans be on the lookout for this season? "Other than Sport Management club throwing prizes?" Dzurick said. "That was my attempt at humor. You're going to see an exciting group that plays hard."

The team's focus is on doing their best. "We haven't sat down as a team to lay out all our goals, but every season we say the same thing," Dzurick said. "We're not obligated to win, we're obligated to give our best effort."

Thanks to all of the team's preparation and the upperclassmen's strong leadership, Byers feels that they're in good shape as they move into the season. "I feel really confident," she said. "We have a really awesome group of seniors leading the way and taking charge; with them I don't know how you couldn't feel good for the whole season!"

Spartan Sports- Weekend Events

Saturday, December 6

Wrestling

2014 Indiana Little State Championships
@ Manchester University, 9 a.m.

Men's and Women's Swimming

vs. Illinois Tech/Lincoln College
@ Illinois Tech, 1 p.m.

Women's Basketball

at Earlham, 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball

at Earlham, 4 p.m.

Men's Basketball Begins Conference Play



RUN AND DRIBBLE Senior guard Caleb Jackson (#31) looks for an opening on offense during Manchester's home game against Wright State-Lake on Nov. 22. In the end, the Spartans won by a final score of 84-70. Following an exhibition game at IPFW, a Division I program, on Nov. 14, the men's basketball team began its season on Nov. 19 at Olivet, losing 57-61. However, the team bounced back in its next game against Wright State-Lake in order to claim its first victory of the season. Currently, the Spartans are 1-5 on the season. Tomorrow, the team will hit the road to face Earlham, a conference opponent. Tipoff is set for 4 p.m.

Photo by Savannah Riley