

The Oak Leaves

Manchester University Issue XI - February 13, 2015

Norris Presents VIA on Domestic Abuse

Haylee Parrish
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 3 in Cordier Auditorium, Debbie Norris—a daughterless mother—took the stage to speak in front of the Manchester community about the dangers of domestic abuse. She had no speech prepared, no notes to go off of, but such things were unnecessary; her powerful message came purely from her heart. Norris began her daughter's heartrending story with the warning that her words would not be sugarcoated.

In 2007, after two years of suffering from her boyfriend's controlling behavior, manipulation, and beatings, Norris' daughter Heather was brutally murdered in a way that—as Norris emphasized—no parent could ever bear to hear. Yet from this tragedy, she has made it her mission to speak out on the topic and educate teens about domestic abuse by using her and her daughter's experiences as an example.

She identifies the warning signs of abusive behavior, encourages people to seek help and make reports of incidents, and encourages victims to find somebody trustworthy to talk to for support. Through doing this, Norris herself assumes Heather's Voice, speaking out on behalf of her daughter who never had the chance to do so.

Norris' account recalled many aspects of that time. She explained having conversations with her



POWERFUL MESSAGE Debbie Norris speaks during a VIA in Cordier Auditorium on Tuesday, Feb. 3. Throughout the VIA, she spoke about the dangers of domestic abuse. In 2007, her daughter Heather was brutally murdered by an abusive boyfriend that had manipulated and beaten her over the course of two years. She assumed Heather's Voice during the presentation in order to speak out on the behalf of her daughter who never had the chance to speak for herself. Overall, the VIA was well received by Manchester students and faculty members.

Photo by Savannah Riley

daughter about the toxic relationship and the way Heather always sought out the good in people, believing she could help them, which sheds light on the fact that many victims stay in relationships out of the hope of seeing their abuser change for the better . . . and that they do not.

Norris explained the process of going through court hearings, the impact the abuse had on Heather's health and her grades in school, her occasional detachment from friends and family, as well as the limitations that had

been placed upon her in communicating with others.

By weaving a horrific account of behavioral patterns and forms of abuse that she'd witnessed, she was able to connect to the audience and piece together a model of behavior that potential victims or people who might suspect another person is a victim need to keep an eye out for in order to protect themselves or those around them.

As a result of Norris' advocacy for further domestic violence education, "Heather's Law" was

passed in 2011 which encouraged schools to thoroughly address dating violence by collaborating with knowledgeable domestic abuse organizations to provide model dating violence reporting policies, educational materials and responses.

The Heather's Voice VIA was well received, garnering several responses from both students and faculty. "The VIA really shocked me," said Benjamin Dixon, an MU junior. "It seemed like a story I'd heard all too often, but I'd never heard of people

being killed like that. The guest speaker spoke from her heart. We need to get the issues out there so people can figure out exactly how important it is to be safe."

Sophomore Lauren Gates added: "Heather's mother is going out and telling her story. She does this all to save other lives or help someone who is in a dark place in their life, and all because she cares about these people she has never met." Gates continued: "The presentation opened the eyes of people, letting us know that

this is a problem. It let us know that this can happen to anyone at any time. The message was clear and hit home."

Manchester students who feel they are or might be in an abusive relationship can find support by contacting Danette Till or April White, both who are part of Manchester University's counseling staff. They may also find support in resident advisors, hall directors, health assistants or Anna Richison, the campus nurse. They may also contact Campus Safety, where students can make reports. "People tend to have different point people who they already know or feel comfortable with," Till said. "If a student went to any of those places, they could get support and then refer to it if they need more than that person can offer."

Support for potential victims may also be found in the surrounding community. Hands of Hope, a Wabash and Grant County organization, exists, as its website states, to "prevent domestic and sexual violence and stalking through education, advocacy, and intervention strategies," and they provide support groups and shelter services. With shelter services, male and female victims of domestic violence and their children may stay up to 45 days while having their food, clothing, and hygiene needs met at no cost. The shelter service also includes a case manager, a victim's advocate, and counseling.

Manchester Students Explore Greece, Turkey

Collin Groves
Staff Writer

Religious explorations often take place in churches, temples, or even in one's own house, but Professor Justin Lasser took the concept to a new level by leading a trip to Greece and Turkey over January Session in search of the culture and history that molded modern religions into the practices and ceremonies commonly celebrated today.

With a wealth of countries and sites to choose from, Lasser picked Turkey and Greece for the countries' deep roots within the Christian religion and the Roman Empire, as well as Turkey's predominate observance of Islam. Regardless of the preferences of each country, the historical discussions that took place periodically during the adventure also covered Judaism, as the students that attended the trip studied all three religions, along with students from an inter-religion seminar and members from the Rethinking God class. However, he did not just pick the two countries for the history lesson, but also because of his previous pleasant experiences in both locations.

"I picked places I've been," Lasser said, "but also places that I love."



ROOTS OF RELIGION Professor Justin Lasser's January Session class poses for a group photo while overseas. Students from an inter-religion seminar and "Rethinking God" class spent the better part of January in Greece and Turkey studying the roots of religion in both countries. In particular, they studied Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Outside of class activities, the students had free time to explore both countries on their own.

Photo courtesy of Cheryl Driver

Upon arrival to their destination, the group's days consisted of touring about the country with a few stops for a quick discussion regarding historically relevant details typically brought upon by viewing remains dating back to the long-dead Roman Empire.

"Turkey has the best preserved ruins from the Roman Empire," Lasser said, "and at one time served as the center of the

Christian faith."

After exploring with the group, the students were allowed to go out on their own as long as they traveled in at least groups of four to ensure everyone remained unthreatened and safe, but still enjoying their time sampling a new environment and culture. "Part of exploring somewhere new is getting lost," Lasser said.

According to se-

niors Shannon Stephan and Emily Willmann, wandering about Greece and Turkey on their own is definitely one of the more memorable experiences, but the ruins in both countries caught their attention simply because of the history contained by the deteriorating structures. "It's interesting to think about what they might have looked like back then," Stephan said.

Aside from the ruins, both took advantage of the allotted free time by exploring the Blue Mosque and the Grand Bazaar in Turkey, and by attending the Greek festival of Epiphany during their stay in Greece.

During the ceremony, a cross carried by a priest is dropped into the icy, January-chilled waters, which is then followed by daring men and women that leap into the water

after it, in the hopes of retrieving it. "After they found it, you could just walk up and kiss it," Willman said.

Their visit to the Grand Bazaar while staying in Istanbul gave the two a taste of Turkish bartering and haggling that one would not easily find in the United States.

"It's like an indoor flea market and it's broken up into segments," Stephan said. "It's also massive."

Part of the appeal in Turkey, according to Willmann and Stephan, lay with the accepting and kind attitude of the natives, and even their Turkish guide added positively to the overall experience.

"He just knew everything," Stephan said. "We all had a connection with him."

The tour group stayed only a few nights in Greece, then ten whole days in Turkey, but soon enough the tour group found itself back in North Manchester, with just memories and a purchased tea set from a one of the various markets in the Grand Bazaar.

In the future, Lasser plans on traveling with students to Egypt, which would feature more visiting of old Christian-laden historical sites, and also snorkeling and a cruise on the Nile River.

Inside: Wrestling, 101 Days to Commencement, Men's Basketball

Around Campus

Seniors Celebrate 101 Days to Commencement

Allie Spillman
Staff Writer

Many members of the 2015 class came together last Thursday night to celebrate the remaining 101 days until graduation. The upper Jo Young Switzer Center was bustling with students reminiscing and sharing laughs as well as various faculty members taking on catering responsibilities.

Upon climbing the stairs to the upper level of the JYSC, seniors found their nametags at the check-in table and were greeted by representatives of Students Today Alumni Tomorrow (STAT). They proceeded to stand in a long line for professional pictures, and explored the snack tables.

Chartwells supplied many of the same appetizers at 101 Days that are found at other campus events, but there was something out of the ordinary displayed in front of the Hoff and Lahman Rooms. This time, students found a large ice sculpture forming the words "101 Days" along with the chiseled "Class of 2015" in the ice below. Surrounding the cold and melting display was a sea of shrimp and lemon as well as little "ponds" of cocktail sauce.

Rounding the corner and weaving through mass of other partygoers, students approached the

beverage table and saw Professor Diesburg (Art) punch-tending festive, fruity drinks.

Senior English major Erica Graphman looked forward to the social opportunities of the event. "I came to the 101 Days celebration because I wanted to see everyone in our class in one room," she said. "I've never met everyone in the class before, and I was also looking forward to learning about what the alumni events in the future are going to look like."

Further down the hall beyond Gallery G, seniors also had the opportunity to pose with their friends at a selfie-station complete with props like moustaches on sticks, top hats, and large poster-board cut outs of the letters "MU," while listening to live piano music.

This was only the beginning of the celebration, however; the party was only getting started.

Near 5:30 p.m., seniors entered the Hoff and Lahman Rooms to find their designated seats and begin eating their salads. Faculty members dressed in Chef Gordon Ramsey-esque jackets served students the next course for which they had the choice between baked squash-macaroni and cheese, chicken, and beef entrées. Students rounded off their feasts with a slice of choc-

olate cake or cheesecake, and they awaited the next part of the celebration.

Students listened as three Manchester alumni spoke about their various experiences. Alumna Meghan LinVil McNab, '06, explained her decision to transfer to MU as well as finding new dimensions of herself and getting involved.

Jan Bledsoe Viehweg, '83, spoke about her "cataclysmic" year in which she lost close family members and her future involving basketball after a leg injury, but that she was able to overcome the events life had thrown at her with the help of caring faculty.

Mark Sherman '79 recapped the story of The Police, Sting, and a fictional man named Gideon from the play "The Last Ship," tying it all together as a message for seniors to "get out" and experience the world.

Students were not the only group of people who stood to gain something from this event, however, as Jennifer Shepherd, executive director of Alumni Relations, pointed out. "One of the reasons we decided to have this event," she said, "is that we have students who are very close to graduating and will be leaving our campus—leaving our nest, if you will—in May, and this is a great opportunity for us



HOME STRETCH The countdown begins for the class of 2015, with less than 101 days until Commencement. On Thursday, Feb. 5, seniors filled the upper level of the JYSC both in celebration of how far they have come and in anticipation of the remainder of their collegiate journeys. Three Manchester alumni, as well as President McFadden, supplied encouraging words to the students as faculty members served them their meal.

Photo by Savannah Riley

to celebrate the almost four years that they've been on campus."

"We also talk a bit about what it means to be a good alum from Manchester," Shepherd said, explaining Alumni Relations' goal of the event. "We want our students to understand that if we can get time and talent from you, that's being a good alumnus. It's not just about getting the treasure because some students aren't always ready for that."

The final speaker to take the podium was President Dave McFadden with a champagne flute in hand. He delivered a short list of his favorite keywords

from the messages of the earlier speakers while faculty servers returned to their respective tables. McFadden then paused, allowing time for servers to open sparkling grape juice bottles and sound the confetti-loaded party poppers. The celebration was then in full swing.

Students applauded Chartwells and the Office of Alumni Relations for their extra effort to make the event memorable. "After working in the kitchen during these events and being allowed to see the presentations in the past, I was excited to try the food and have the experience, myself," said Gary Knable,

a senior history major. "It did not disappoint. I enjoyed the food, the company, and the professors' willingness to serve us."

Confetti littered the floors as McFadden raised his glass for a toast to the class of 2015 becoming their best selves. All together, Manchester seniors raised their glasses as well and many turned to their neighbors nearby to share a laugh. The event concluded with a rendition of the Manchester University song "By The Kenapocomoco" led by members of the A Cappella Choir and strengthened by the voices of the class of 2015.

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Editors in Chief

Emily Barrand
Andrew Ellam

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Katharine Ings

Photographer

Savannah Riley

Advertising Manager

Karly Prichard

Staff Writers

Collin Groves, Jessica Klemm,
Rachel Laing, Haylee Parrish,
Samantha Reynolds, Allie Spillman, Loic Youth

Cartoonist

Trae Bruce

Newspaper Delivery Manager

Claire Mumma

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For advertising contact:
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 VIA Opportunities

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Ten Building Blocks for Making a Difference in the World and in Your Neighborhood
Cordier Auditorium, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19

History Matters, Children's Art Education Inside the Japanese American Internment Camps of World War II
Cordier Auditorium, 3:30 p.m.

Discussion Day 2015 Schedule Wednesday, Feb. 25

Living and Dying on Planet Earth: Global Health/Public Health

10 a.m.

Keynote Speaker
Paul Halverson
Cordier Auditorium

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Hunger Banquet
Speicher Room, JYSC
and Speakers Luncheon
Hoff Room, JYSC

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

First Set of Concurrent Sessions on Various Topics

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Second Set of Concurrent Sessions on Various Topics



Around Campus

Wrestling Team Members Recall Their Beginnings

Jessica Klemm
Staff Writer

The wrestling team is full of new and old faces this year. As the season starts inching its way towards the end, they review what brought them to where they are now.

Matt Burlingame, head coach for the wrestling team for eight years since fall of 2007, says that coaching for the Manchester wrestling team started off with a friendly joke. Burlingame has a background in fishery and before coaching at Manchester, he worked for The Indiana Department of Natural Resources in Columbia City. Professor Sweeten's daughter was interning there at the time, introducing Burlingame to Sweeten, who became friends. They joked about Burlingame becoming a Manchester wrestling coach.

When Burlingame was working part time as a middle school wrestling coach in Fort Wayne, Sweeten called him telling him of the opening for the assistant wrestling coach position, and he applied. "It was one of those right time

right place sort of a deals," Burlingame said. A year after becoming the new assistant coach, Burlingame was named head coach.

He started wrestling when he was seven years old. His father coached the middle school wrestling team and the neighborhood boys who lived down the street wrestled as well. Burlingame would go to their games and looked up to the boys as mentors. Soon he found himself wanting to learn how to wrestle and started out learning at the local YMCA, where his passion for wrestling grew.

Dustin Kult, a junior educational studies major from Lafayette, Indiana, started to wrestle when he was in the sixth grade, when his step-father got him interested in the sport. His current goal is to be able to make it the nationals this year and the next. When he arrived at Manchester, he wanted to play football instead of wrestle. He changed his mind, however, after going to a home wrestling game. "I just began to miss it so I told coach B (Burlingame) that I would join the team sophomore year,"

Kult said. "He was very accepting about my decision and allowed me to join the team." What was his most memorable wrestling experience? "In high school I won the conference championship the same week one of our assistant coaches passed away," Kult said. "That win meant a lot to me personally."

Ruben Rodriguez, Jr., a first-year, criminal justice major from Hammond, Indiana, started wrestling competitively starting his sophomore year in high school. His favorite memory from wrestling would be when he went to state his senior year—his highest accomplishment. "I didn't place in state and that was my ultimate goal in high school," Rodriguez said. "Since I didn't do that there, I felt like I had to strive for something better." Bringing him to play for Manchester was that goal.

Rodriguez entered the Manchester wrestling team with 20 other first years. Burlingame says that they'll be lucky to have four of those first-year students be senior wrestlers. "It's just a tough sport," he said. "Lots of time commitment, on top of classes and



TAKE DOWN A Spartan wrestler takes down an opponent during a recent meet at Stauffer-Wolfe Arena.
Photo by Savannah Riley

work. Wrestling is a different sport and the mentality is different."

Wrestling is one of the longest sporting seasons, slightly longer than football. The team starts to practice around Oct 10 and national qualifier is Feb 28; if they pass qualifying then the season continues on until the middle of March.

Burlingame also notes that going from high school to college is hard, which is another reason

why there can be a loss of members. "Winning a lot in high school is one thing," he said. "In high school you may be better than everyone in your division, but in college those odds change. Going from winning a lot to losing a lot during the first season is a hard adjustment."

Despite all of that, Kult says that he enjoys being around the guys on the team. "You become really close to the people

when you spend an hour of the day for five months with them, he said."

Rodriguez says: "Transferring was easy. Everyone didn't know much about college wrestling so we all bonded very quickly."

The next wrestling match is the Midstates Conference Championships at Olivet College of Michigan on Feb. 14 at 9 a.m.

Students Spend Jan. Session at Timbercrest

Rachel Laing
Staff Writer

Students that took Dr. Kim Duchane's January Session class, Aging: Health and Wellness, gained something more than just the knowledge they expected—many walked away with a new friend.

The class, taken mainly by Exercise Science majors and Gerontology minors, is a mixture of practical experience conducted at Timbercrest Senior Living Community through discussion-based instruction.

The class is structured to allow students to go to Timbercrest in the mornings and participate in a chair aerobics program with the residents. After the morning exercises, the students would meet with a Friend of Manchester—a resident who is a Man-

chester alumni and still involved with the school. They asked them interview questions relating to that day's class, and then headed back to school to discuss the day's topic.

According to Duchane, this hands-on experience is helpful not only for learning the practical skills, but also to break up the three-hour long January class sessions. "I know it's a long time to listen to someone teach," he said, "and I know it's a long time for me to talk!"

Duchane also noted that it's important for him to take different learning styles into consideration. "A lot of people in our department learn best by doing," he explained. "They're kinesthetic learners. Even the students who aren't primarily kinesthetic learners benefit from working directly with the residents."

First-year student Jared Bourff agrees that getting the experience is something necessary that lets students know if working with senior citizens is for them. "I think it's essential for the class," he said. "There's not that many people who are able to work with older people."

Conversing with someone every day for three weeks makes it difficult to not make a connection with them, as students can testify. Senior Caleb Murray was surprised to find how easy it was to relate with Dr. Wilbur McFadden. "I got to know my personal resident really well personally, to the point that he was making me coffee and muffins by the end of it." Murray said. "I was expecting it to be much more formal than it ended up being. He was much more down-to-earth and engaging than I expected him to

be."

Several students were even invited back by their residents after the class ended, including Kara Smith, who's gone back to Timbercrest several times already with other students. "We all met up at Timbercrest and had lunch for about two hours, just talking," she said. "It was my resident, Dortha Williams', treat. Before we left, we made plans to have a dinner party." The dinner party actually turned out to be a different kind of party, however: "When we walked into the dining room, there was a birthday cake there for me!" Smith said.

Murray has also been back to Timbercrest to visit McFadden, who showed him his collection of model trains. "We ended up becoming fairly good friends," he said. "That's just kind of an old-man

adorable thing to do, to invite someone over to look at your trains."

Bourff is grateful for the experience. "You never know who you're going to meet, the connections you're going to make," he said. "When you meet with somebody every day for three weeks, you become friends with them. It's weird to say you're friends with somebody who's 89 years old, but I am." Bourff's resident, Warren Garner, also gave him a full look at Timbercrest. "The last day we were there, I went on a tour for about 20 minutes," he said. "I got to meet his wife, which was pretty cool. It was just a great experience."

For many students, the class as a whole was an enriching experience. "Being there for two or three weeks was pretty heartwarming," Bourff said. Smith likened bonding with

her resident to gaining another grandparent.

Duchane has formulated the structure of his class down to something that he knows works. "There is a give and take; both the students and the residents have something to offer," he said. "It's the human aspect of learning, the idea of an older adult mentoring a young person."

For Smith, the January session was priceless. "For me, it was a very rewarding class," she said. "A lot of kids around here, they experience being abroad, you know, or going somewhere cool over JanTerm. For me, I want to work with the older generation, so just making them happy and making them smile and hearing how much they talk about you through the whole entire building is really special."



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Spartan Sports



MU Men's Basketball Looks to Finish Strong

Loic Youth
Staff Writer

According to Coach Brad Nadborne, who's in his eleventh year as head coach of Manchester men's basketball, "mental toughness and extra effort" are a perfect description of his basketball team. That is because there still is some optimism in the men's basketball locker room despite waning chances of making the conference tournament.

An 81-78 defeat away at the hands of the Engineers of Rose-Hulman over the weekend was yet another blow to Nadborne's hopes of making the conference tournament. A three-game winning streak after Christmas was a welcome boost after a disappointing first half to the season, and that gave the Spartans a renewed belief that they could go on and reach the tournament. However, at the time of publication, four defeats in a row have left Manchester with an uphill battle to achieve that goal.

Regardless of the disappointment, Nadborne still feels "rewarded" by the season in which Manchester was "offensively outstanding," he said. Defense, on the other hand, has been the team's Achilles heel, and Nadborne was quick to point to that as he said, "defensively is where we are probably our weakest; we have gotten a lot better and we still have a long way to go, but really that's been the deciding factor in terms of winning and losing games." With four games remaining, Nadborne will be hoping to see some more of that of-



IS ANYONE OPEN? Junior Brady Dolezal (#15) looks for an open teammate during Manchester's home game against the Franklin Grizzlies at Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Wednesday, Jan. 7. The Spartans lost to the Grizzlies by a final score of 82-91. At the time of publication, Manchester had an overall record of 5-16 with a 4-10 record in the HCAC. Tomorrow afternoon, the team will host Mount St. Joseph in its final home game of the season. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m. *Photo by Savannah Riley*

fensive spark and maybe another winning streak.

The Spartans out-muscled Hanover, Bluffton and Earlham in January to record three successive wins. This was a period which Nadborne describes as "an outstanding tribute to the players" mainly because the team had not enjoyed a lot of success up until that point. "Once the wins started coming the guys were positive; they

believed, and it was the way it's been around here when we have had championship level teams," Nadborne said.

Junior player Keith Berry said the team had "energy and we played with passion, like we wanted to win."

Fellow teammate Connor MacDonald highlighted how "everyone was hyped about it." Though that purple patch came to

an unfortunate end, MacDonald would certainly love to finish out season in similar style—"we have already played each team, it's just who wants it more in the second game that we play," he said.

The waning chances of making the tournament have not dampened spirits in the basketball locker room, however. Berry and MacDonald highlight positivity and brotherhood

as two of the main strengths that have kept the team knit together. Defeats, especially close defeats like the aforementioned loss to Rose, could have affected team morale, but it is the positive team spirit that has kept them going. "We still stick together; we are still positive; we still help each other get better at practice and games," Berry said. "I think just because we have a bad record does not re-

ally affect us as a team."

Despite needing just a win to better last year's overall record, the players and coach say that is not something that the team has really thought about. For Berry, it is all about going out on the court, executing the game plans and improving on a daily basis—"the record will take care of itself if we execute the game plan," he said.

Nadborne has already sorted out some weakness in the team that they will be looking to straighten out. First and foremost, an extra year of experience is always good, and the team will be looking to better this season's defensive performances. Also, by getting bigger and stronger, Nadborne is hoping it will improve his team defensively. MacDonald believes the team needs to figure out a way to start games with intensity, so they do not get blown out early on leaving themselves with an impossible mountain to climb. However, compared to last season, the Spartans are scoring a lot more points; much to MacDonald's delight—"we were able to score the ball a lot better than we could last year."

From Nadborne's point of view, the only regret this season is the fact that it took the team some time to gel, so it was a while before the team started playing its best basketball—"I certainly would have liked to have been playing as well as we are now all season," he said.

Women's B-ball Fights for HCAC Tourney Spot



HANDS UP Senior Jocelyn Hamilton (#33) guards Katelyn Smith of Transylvania during a home game against the Pioneers at Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Saturday, Jan. 31. In the end, the Spartans lost by a final score of 60-70 to the first-place Pioneers, who are currently undefeated in conference play at the time of publication. Following the loss to Transylvania, the team bounced back with a 64-55 win at home over the Bluffton Beavers on Wednesday, Feb. 4. However, they lost a critical conference matchup at Rose-Hulman on Saturday, Feb. 7 by a final score of 31-63. As of Wednesday, Feb. 11, Manchester has an overall record of 10-11 and a 7-7 record in conference play. The team sits in seventh place in the conference standings, which currently means they would fall short of clinching an HCAC Tournament berth. Therefore, picking up wins will be crucial for the team in its remaining games. On Saturday, Feb. 14, the Spartans will host Mount St. Joseph in the team's final home game of the season at 1 p.m. *Photo by Savannah Riley*