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# Dr. Planer Retires after 47 Years

Carly Kwiecien  
Staff Writer

Dr. John Planer, professor of music, is retiring at the end of this school year and will deliver his last lecture on Friday, May 6 at 2 p.m. in the Wine Recital Hall.

Planer has been a professor at Manchester University since the fall of 1969. Over the years, he has taught Music History and Analysis, Advanced Analysis, Jewish Faith, Arts and Ideas, First Year Seminar and several other courses. Although he will miss teaching his courses, he will miss his students the most.

"I will miss meeting them, knowing their stories, [their] joys and pains, watching them confront challenges, overcoming them, [and] growing into good, stable adults investing in their (and my own) future," Planer said.

He will also miss the faculty and many staff members, teaching diverse courses and helping to repair a broken world.

In his time at Manchester University, Planer has helped draft the mission and values statements with trustees, faculty, alumni, students and staff; he has created countless close friendships and has had significant conversations with students and colleagues. He has also attended faculty meetings to discuss the core program of integrative courses, but most significantly, he met, dated, and married his wife, Janina Traxler.

Planer has experienced the transformation of Manchester College into Manchester University, the changes of presidents and

the increasing layers of paperwork, regulations, forms, administration, reports and meetings.

"I have also witnessed the change from faculty ownership of the entire curriculum to department focuses [and] movement toward a business model: marketing, branding, profit, 'best' practices," Planer said.

Through these experiences, Planer has learned a lot about himself.

"I like and care deeply about people – friendships, relationships: students, colleagues and staff," Planer said. "I am a humanist – my interest is in the people who express themselves in the arts. I came to Manchester intending to be a music researcher; I evolved into a teacher."

He has also learned more about the world and humanity.

"Our lives are our arguments; we must walk the talk as parents and teachers – live with integrity," Planer said. "Polarization and hatred based upon racial, religious [and] sexual identities is easy to incite; unity, sensitivity to others and communal welfare are difficult to build and [are] very fragile."

Retirement will allow Planer to devote his time to his interests he did not have time to pursue before.

His bucket list is continuously growing -- he is interested in auditing graduate courses such as musicology, art history and critical biblical studies at Indiana University, Notre Dame and Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, and auditing Spanish, finance and perhaps even a calculus course at Manchester University.



Dr. John Planer

Planer believes in helping others and plans to look into volunteering, whether that be at a senior center, by tutoring or by being a big brother.

He plans to write about Jewish cantors living and working in rural Alsace. He also is interested in learning Italian in Italy.

When his wife retires,

they have plans to travel together, especially to France.

Although Planer is excited for retirement, he has some angst about this major life change. His fear could be a difficult transition of identity, but nothing is strong enough to stop him.

"Lifelong learning – it's not a slogan – it's a way of life," Planer said.

# Campus Community Honors Lost Lives

Aaron Lloyd  
Staff Writer

These past few weeks have been tough on the Manchester University community due to the loss of three students. Nerad Mangai, Brook Dagnev and Kirubel Hailu all touched the lives of people on this campus, and those close to them have mourned their passing in a couple of different ways.

Manchester's Activity Council has spent the last two weeks ordering and selling t-shirts to support the families of the students. The shirts are labeled with the phrase that has flooded the social media accounts of Manchester University students—#MUStrong. Shanon Fawbush, Director of Student Activities and Orientation, said that they have sold upwards of 600 shirts and they blew through the first shipment. A second shipment came in a few days after sales began. "We're still getting online orders from people off campus and we also sold a large amount to the College of Pharmacy," Fawbush said. Fawbush also said that the people ordering shirts online are either alumni, parents of students, or

people in the community that just want to show their support. The money that is made from selling the shirts will go towards the funeral expenses of the three students and the hospital bill of the student in the hospital, Israel Tamire.

The Manchester Student Senate is also doing its part to help out the cause. Last week, members set up a table in the Academic Center and had four Manchester University flags sitting on the table for passing students to sign to send to the families of both Israel and the late students.

Not only are the clubs and students on campus helping the cause of raising money, but so is the entire Manchester community—alumni, neighboring colleges and people close to the university. Allen Machielson, the dean of student experience, says that the development office in the Administration Building has received a stack of donations every day. Machielson spoke about one of the donations specifically. "We had money donated by an individual, anonymous donor to fund the trip of Professor Benson Onyeji to Nigeria and Ethiopia to meet with the families of the three deceased students," Machielson



Courtesy of Student Senate

**MU STRONG** Students gather in the Academic Center to sign their names on Manchester flags.

said. "The donor, I do not know if it is a he or a she, said they wanted us to send someone to send our condolences directly."

With these three students having had such an impact on the North Manchester campus, the university is planning to make a memorial on campus. "The very first thing that we are going to do is place an eight-sided peace pole at the Intercultural Center which

will have the languages of countries of origin for the students that were lost as well as the ones that are normally on a peace pole," Machielson stated. "It normally takes 6-8 weeks for the poles to be made and then we will more than likely hold a ceremony on campus for when we place it at the current Intercultural Center." With new plans to permanently move the current Intercultural Center, the university does not

want to place a large memorial and then have to move it within the next three years.

In the coming weeks, Manchester will create an email address using the #MUStrong tag so that students can send in their ideas of how Manchester can honor the passing of the students. "We want to hear from the students on how they think we should honor their classmates," Machielson said.

# 'Seek No Attention' Exhibit Attracts Crowds

Stratton Smith  
Staff Writer

The vivid colors bounce within and around the walls of Link Gallery as Moises "Mo" Garcia's artwork—on display for the artist's senior exhibition—fills the 63 year-old building.

A senior art major from Frankfort, Ind., Garcia was surrounded by fascination and a curiosity for art and creativity from an early age. "I loved art since I was little," he said. "It started when I was a kindergartener. It was the only thing that I really liked; I loved going to art class."

"I realized I was a little better (at art) than most of the other kids at the time," he continued. "The art teacher would give us projects to do, but I always wanted to bring it up another level."

Garcia took his talents to middle school and then to high school, where he began to thrive even more. "I started taking art seriously after middle school," he said. Garcia even designed a yearbook cover for Frankfort High School, home of the Hotdogs.

His professional commissions began one summer, when Garcia also designed a mural for a restaurant near his home. "A local Hispanic restaurant approached me to paint a mural on one of their walls," he said. "I'd come in every day for two weeks for about six hours. I got paid about \$600 for that entire piece." Garcia then added, with a smile: "Another benefit was that I got free food from them."



'Apples in a Row' -- Moises Garcia

Courtesy of Manchester University Department of Art

SEE ARTIST, PAGE 2

## SSDP

### Club Challenges University's Parent Notification Policy

**Kalie Ammons**  
Co-Editor

According to "The Source," Manchester University currently "reserves the right to notify parents or legal guardians of alcohol and/or drug violations and sanctions for those dependent students under the age of 21," something Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) would like to change.

"What about the fact that students who are 18 are legally adults" asks SSDP President Carissa Arnett. "Why shouldn't students consent to this letter the same way they consent to a parent accessing Gateway? Why are letters only sent

for some drug/alcohol violations and not other policies?"

Those who only skimmed "The Source" at orientation may not be aware of this policy. This is why SSDP hopes to begin a campus-wide conversation on the topic before executing a plan to meet about the issue with proper authorities.

The club ultimately finds the policy patronizing. "One part of coming to college is to learn how to be a responsible adult, and that should mean accepting the consequences of your own actions without relying on the threat of separate parental discipline as part of the conduct system," Arnett said.

### Kurtzhals Joins Education Dept.

**Caitlin Doyle**  
Staff Writer

A sense of homecoming surrounds Professor Kurt Kurtzhals' new job at Manchester. This year, he was a visiting professor for the education department and has been offered for the next year. He teaches Introduction to Exceptional Learners (also known as the Intro to Special Education) and is also pursuing his doctorate at Ball State with a focus in special education.

After leaving the North Manchester area when he was young, Kurtzhals eventually became a teacher. He spent the past 20 years teaching early elementary students, typically between two and eight year-olds. During this time he gained much experience of the diversity of students' learning. "Every year that I taught, for almost twenty years, I had multiple students with different learning needs and exceptionalities," Kurtzhals said.

The class he is teaching this year, Intro to Exceptional Learners, is a requirement for all

education majors. It has helped incorporate him into the department by exposing him to a variety of the education students. There are some from every year and all are different. The class opens many students' eyes to the realities of teaching all students and it further drives others' passion for the job. "I think that it is important no matter what your major is to have courses like that, to help you really get a sense of the way it is really going to be," he said. Kurtzhals decided to pursue a career in education after some of his teachers made a huge impact on his life. In school, he had several issues with learning: dyslexia, speech issues and a processing disorder.

His teachers helped him through these struggles that make learning more difficult for students. "Teaching for me is giving back to those that have had such an impact on my life—that taught me that you're never too old to make a difference, or too young either," he said. Kurtzhals tries to impact others outside of the classroom as well. Within the community, he is starting a basketball program for

young girls. The program would help foster love and discipline for the sport. He wants to give back to the community when he can.

Another reason for moving back to the North Manchester area was his family's farm just outside of town. It had been maintained from afar by his family and he wanted to come back to it. Eventually, he would like to incorporate the farm as an educational facet for his students. "Beyond the courses I teach here, I would love to open up more opportunities to connect the farm with the university" he said. "One thing I thought when I left public school teaching in Illinois, was, ultimately, if the PhD program doesn't work out, I'll turn the farm into a kind of education center and keep teaching through that."

Kurtzhals took one class to the farm in the fall, and it exposed numerous students to a rural lifestyle. It allowed those students to experience something that they may never have had the opportunity to be involved with otherwise.

### MU Theatre Heads 'Into the Woods' This Spring

**Kody Smith**  
Staff Writer

This spring, Manchester students and community members will present Into the Woods, a musical combining a number of famous fairytales. This story, which became a major motion picture in 2014, was written by James Lapine and the music and lyrics were created by Stephen Sondheim. The musical follows the story of a baker and his wife as they have a heavy desire to begin a family. Through their journey, they interact with notable characters from other fairytale stories, including Cinderella, Rapunzel and Jack from "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Kira Lace Hawkins, a theater lecturer at Manchester University, was drawn to this specific play due to the variety of characters that are offered. "One of the main reasons why I chose this musical is because there is not necessarily a lead character," she said. "There are not two people that the story necessarily revolves around. It is a huge ensemble piece, which makes it fun."

Twenty different people are members of the cast, including four individuals from the commu-

nity of North Manchester. This includes eighth-grade student Madison Schmidt, who plays the role of "Little Red Riding Hood." Additionally, Hawkins has a special relationship with one of the community members involved in the event. "It is great because my mother-in-law, Kathy Hawkins, is involved as well," she said. "She will be playing the role of Jack's mother in the musical." Additional community members include Emily Perkins, who will play the role of the Witch, and Angelina Jung, taking on the popular character of Rapunzel.

Sixteen individuals from Manchester University round out the cast list for the musical. Sophomore Addie Neher will play the part of Cinderella, senior Jacob Archambault will take on the role of Jack, sophomore Clayton Marcum will act as the Baker, and junior Joshua Dold will portray the Wolf.

Hawkins takes a primary interest in the female characters, due to her past experience with the musical. "I am partial to the Baker's Wife because I have played that role before," she said. "I believe she is a strong woman, along with the rest of the girls in this show. Even though the female characters take

on stereotypical female roles, they are all so strong and are able to stand up for themselves when needed."

Hawkins expects a great portion of Cordier Auditorium to be filled with excited viewers due

to the popularity of the musical. "People really gravitate towards this musical, especially after the movie came out a few years ago," Hawkins said. "People love it, and I expect a great turnout."

The presentation takes

place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16, as well as at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 17 in Cordier Auditorium. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$7 for students, but members of Manchester University will receive free admission.

### Spartans Anticipate #SB2k16

**Keith Berry**  
Staff Writer

Manchester University looks forward to spring break next Friday, when students and faculty can enjoy a long, relaxing week—if they don't have homework. Spring Break is a time where the Spartans can go home, relax and recharge from a grueling first half of the second semester. It is also the only major break the students will have until the summer. During this time, some students will travel to warmer states such as Florida, Nevada, Texas, South Carolina and elsewhere. Other students who would rather not deal with the hassles of a road trip choose to go home to visit with family and friends. Here are some students who have volunteered to show off their SB2k16 plans:

Senior Mitchell Overmyer: I am traveling to Charleston, South Carolina with 3 of my friends. We like the outdoors, so we are going to the state park and other recreational areas. On top of that, we plan to go to the South Carolina

Aquarium to take a sea turtle hospital tour! Super excited!

Senior Morgan Povelka: The last two Spring Breaks my friends and I have gone to PCB. This year we are doing nothing; it's senior spring break and my bank is empty. I will probably go visit my friends and just relax at home.

First-year Evan Romie: For spring break I decided not to go to some place warm and beautiful; instead I will be going home to spend the week with my family. Since I play basketball for Manchester, I haven't been home since the day I left to come back after Christmas. I decided to do this because overall I just miss my family and I think that going home would be a lot more fun than going on spring break somewhere.

Senior Kalie Lastagarkov: This is our last spring break and we will be making every moment count! Justine, Kasey, Colleen, Jas, Becca, and I are all going to Daytona, FL for a fun, relaxing, and party filled trip! We will be hanging at the beach, going to clubs, dancing the night away, and so much more. I

can't wait to go on this epic trip and to make many more amazing memories with my best friends!

Junior Tanner Forsythe: Over spring break I am going to stay with my grandparents in Tampa, Florida. First-year Tyler Helm and Senior Keith Berry will be going on this trip with me. While we are down there we plan on spending time at the beach and maybe even catching a spring training baseball game. I'm so excited to get down there and spend a week in warm weather with two great friends!

Senior Colleen Reed: For spring break this year, a few of my friends and I are traveling to Daytona Beach, FL. We are excited to just hang out at the beach all day and have a relaxing and fun week away from the stress of school. Also during break I will celebrate Easter with my family by going to church and having a family dinner before coming back to school. I am excited to have some time off and have a great final spring break.

Classes will resume on March 28, 2016.

#### ARTIST FROM PAGE 1

Garcia's senior art exhibition, which ran from Feb. 12 through March 9, is ironically titled, "Seek No Attention." "This is a contradiction because that's what everyone wants," he said. "People seek attention, whether you know it or not."

Though this was Garcia's first personal show, he has been entering artwork in art shows since he was in middle school. "I put my expectations low (for the success of the show)," Garcia said. He was, however, shocked by its success. "I think the show went extremely well," he said. "I didn't expect that many people to show up—well over 50 people. It was a different vibe than a regular student show."

Garcia's parents and teachers drove over two hours to come see his exhibit. "My parents support my art 100 percent and I'm super happy about that," he said.

Garcia used several different media in his show. "Technology is advancing, so it's mostly graphic design and Photoshop," he said. "Don't get me wrong, it's fun using it, but I really like old-school style (painting, sketches, etc.). I'm working a lot more with mixed media such as paint, charcoal, pencil, etc. Mixed media is what I use the most."

Culture was also a significant theme within Garcia's art. "I lean more toward what's going on in our current society, but I also

like going back to what happened in our past," he said. One of his pieces even featured the mythical god Loki wrapped within a snake. "I really like mythical history," Garcia said.

Garcia also finds that he is quieting himself and letting his art speak on its own. "When I create artwork I try not to focus solely on me," he said. "I create artwork to create a story. You and I don't have to have the same story through one painting."

One story Garcia highlighted in his show was a collection of sketches based on the passing of his grandfather, who remained in Oaxaca, Mexico, after Garcia and his parents moved to the United States. Garcia used his art as

a way to grapple with the loss of his grandfather and even drew a story with his grandfather's right-hand-man, his dog. "He had a dog that was by his side everywhere he went," Garcia said. "Three days later, after my grandfather passed away, the dog passed away as well and ended up being buried next to my grandfather."

Garcia is already looking ahead to the future after he graduates from Manchester. "I have an interview with a graphic design company (The Wilkinson Brothers Company) in Carmel after graduation," he said excitedly. "They design children's books for hospitals, create different kinds of logos and work with motorsport companies."



'City of Gold' — Moises Garcia

## Oak Leaves

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## MSO Presents Chamber Works Gala

**Karen Kanyike**  
Staff Writer

The Manchester Symphony Society hosted its third concert of the 77th season on March 6 in Cordier Auditorium. Students, faculty, staff and community members gathered to see the Chamber Works Gala, which featured a variety of short pieces played by small instrumental ensembles.

Manchester University's brass quintet (Mykayla Neilson, trumpet, Grant Ebert, trumpet, Laura Dickey, horn, Chris Hartman, trombone and Nathan Crain, tuba) opened up the event with "Die Bankelsangerlieder" by Georg Daniel Speer. This was followed by "Artichokes" and "Pomegranates" by Erich Zummack. The two pieces were played by Lila Hammer, clarinet, Mark Huntington, clarinet, Erich Zummack, bassoon, Freddie Lapierre, bassoon and Steve Hammer, trumpet.

"Vanishing Point" by Tim Reed, associate professor of music, was the next piece played by Scott Humphries, alto saxophone, Kathy Davis, flute, Lila Hammer, clarinet, Robert Lynn, cello, Darrel Fiene, bass and Tim Reed, piano. This marriage between wind, string and percussion instruments produced a fast and slow melodious sound.

"Crumpet the Trumpet" by Kristine Papillon, the featured composer, was the final piece played for the first half of the event. The piece called for a larger group of string and percussion instruments. "Crumpet the Trumpet" is a story about an enchanted village where musical instruments come to life. The story centers on baby Crumpet, the Trumpet who fails to go to sleep and whose mother solicits help from all the other musical instruments in the village. Multiple instruments come to help but all their efforts are in vain. Finally,



Photo by Savannah Riley

**STRING SECTION** The Manchester Symphony Orchestra string section focuses on its piece.

Hailey the Harp plays a lullaby that instantly sends Crumpet the Trumpet to sleep.

Andre Papillon, Kristine Papillon's husband, offered an animated narration of the story as illustrations were being featured on the screen located on the left side of Cordier Auditorium. "Crumpet the Trumpet" was voted the number-one musical gift for children in 2015. After the intermission, the Manchester Symphony Orchestra Winds performed "Serenade in E-flat major, op.7" by Richard Strauss and finally the larger orchestra that performed "Crumpet the Trumpet" (excluding the per-

cussion instruments) closed the event with "Capriol Suite" by Peter Warlock. At the close of the event, refreshments were served in Cordier lobby as attendees interacted with one another.

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the Music Union. Scott Humphries, conductor and director of instrumental studies and music education, talked about the setup of the orchestra. "It's a unique collaboration between the university, the community and the professionals that all come together for four concerts a year," he said.

Humphries also talked about what goes into preparing for concerts. He mentioned that he has to plan several months ahead for a season. By the end of this month, he will have already chosen what next season is going to be about. "With orchestras, you really have to plan ahead because of the instrumentation...you have to know what instruments you're going to need [and] what players you're going to need for each concert," he said. "I probably spend more time in orchestra administration than I do conducting it."

Some of the students that were in attendance were quite

pleased with the performance. "I especially liked Erich's and Tim's pieces," said Grant Ebert, a junior music education major with vocal and instrumental emphasis and member of the brass quintet from Peru, Ind. "I thoroughly enjoyed the 'Crumpet the Trumpet' performance. Overall, a nice change in performance style for the MSO."

Timothy Pariseau, a junior biology-chemistry major from Findlay, Ohio, was also impressed with the performance. "Despite being a volunteer-based function, their performance was delivered so professionally that it seemed like it was their job," he said.



Courtesy of Emily Ryder

**WHAT'S COOKING?** Meatballs stuffed with fresh spinach

## Bake, Blend, Broil: Res Hall Chefs Share Tips

**Sarah Farnam**  
Staff Writer

Manchester University's tradition of not serving dinner on Sunday nights leaves students to find their own food once a week. On other nights, students may not want to eat at the Jo Young Switzer Center (JYS), or may simply not feel like going out. And they don't need to, because students have access to any kind of dish they could want right in their residence halls.

When juniors Holly Conway and Nathan Hawkins grow tired of eating at the same restaurants around town and need a new way to spend date night, they hit the residence hall kitchen to cook dinner together. Conway's favorite dish that they've made is a buffalo ranch chicken pizza. "You get pizza crust, and then put buffalo sauce and lots of chicken on," she said. "Then you add blue cheese crumbles, mozzarella cheese, more buffalo sauce, and then cook it!"

Hawkins raves about the pizza as well, but has his own favorite meal. "We made some pretty good hamburgers for the Super Bowl this February," he said. "We made two different kinds - one had avocado, egg and salsa on it, and the other had pineapple and barbeque sauce - a Hawaiian burger."

If students do not want to

go out and buy their own groceries to cook with, sophomore Addison Neher has some tips for ways to work with resources found on campus. She and her friends make banana ice cream with ingredients that can be found in JYS. "You take three or four bananas from (JYS) and you peel them and stick them on a sheet and freeze them," she says. Once they are frozen, they should be blended, and Neher recommends adding some cinnamon, vanilla and coconut milk. "Or you can use regular milk from (JYS) if you're feeling thrifty!" she adds. "You blend it up and it tastes like ice cream, and it's healthy!"

First-year Emily Ryder was inspired to begin cooking on campus thanks to her January Session called "History of Foodways" taught by Professor Katherine Tinsley. Her biggest feat has been making apple pie from scratch, which took her over an hour to complete. "We put a layer of dough on the bottom of the pan, then we put the apples in the middle with cinnamon and sugar, then we put another layer of dough on top, crimped the edges, and slit the top," she explains. She has also made banana pudding, jello, meatballs and spinach.

Each residence hall is equipped with a variety of cooking supplies for budding chefs. According to Katherine Brown, resident assistant for Helman Hall, Helman

## Sree Organizes Jan. Trip to India

**Erin Fralick**  
Staff Writer

Next January session, students can venture to India and see one of the most endangered species on the planet for the class growth as sustainability. While in India, the students will visit several nature reserves and see India's dwindling tiger population first hand.

The focus of the class is learning about how economic development damages the ecosystem and how to promote growth that is sustainable. In addition to catching a glimpse of the almost extinct tigers, students will also get to meet local people and learn how their lives are affected by environmental laws and economic growth. Sreenath Majumder, associate professor of economics and professor for this class, described the course as "looking at the environment, look-

ing at the people, and looking at biodiversity."

Since the tiger population is so low, with only around 3,200 tigers left in the wild, the classes will be going to several specific tiger reserves that have high populations of the creature. One of these reserves is the Bandhabgarh reserve, which was a private hunting reserve turned tiger reserve in 1968 when it became an offense to hunt tigers.

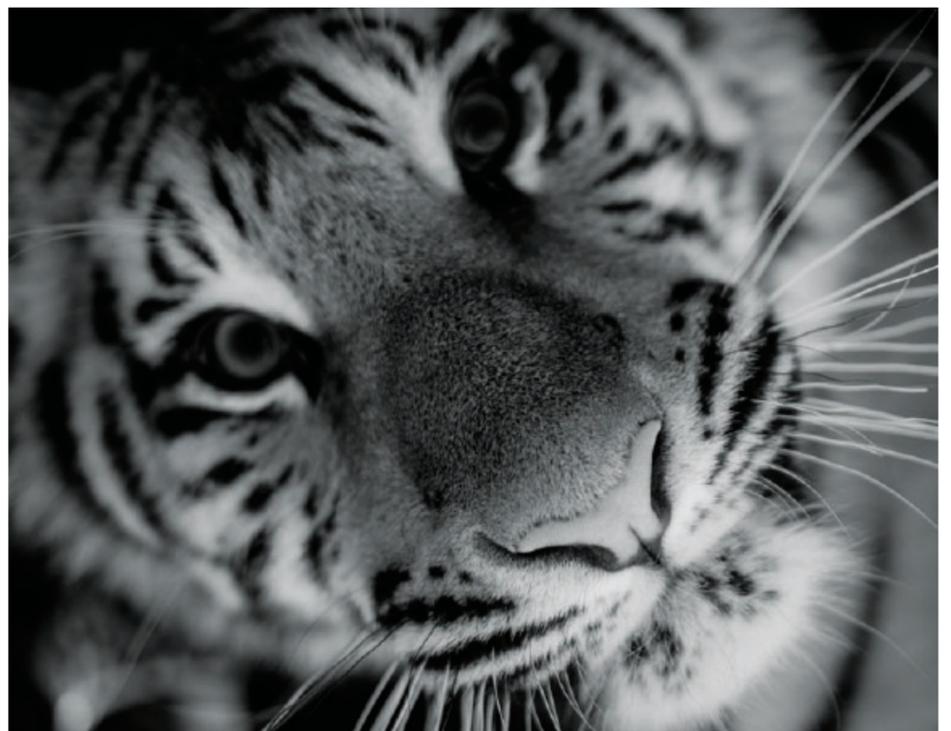
Another stop for this trip includes the Kanha reserve. The Kanha reserve officially became a nature sanctuary in 1933. Kanha is home to the tribes of the Baigas and the Gond. People from the Baigas tribe act as guides for the reserve.

One more notable reserve on the itinerary is the Jim Corbett reserve, which was established in 1936 under a different name. Jim Corbett reserve also began "Project Tiger," a movement to protect the

endangered species.

Majumder says the class won't just be about seeing tigers; the students will also get a chance to learn about a culture that is completely different than the one they are accustomed to. The object of the class is, as Majumder says, to "learn economic growth doesn't just have benefits, it has costs as well, especially to biodiversity and indigenous people."

This January session class will not be Manchester University's first trip to India in a search for endangered big cats. The last trip took 11 students to western India to see the only Asiatic land with lions. Majumder noted that the upcoming trip was between tigers and leopards, as it only made sense to continue the trend of large cats. The previous class, entitled economic development and innovation, took place during January session of 2012.



**FADING STRIPES** Students will visit preserves in India to see endangered tigers during January Session 2017.

has "pots and pans of all sizes, a can opener, a knife set, baking sheets, a pizza cutter, spoons and spatulas, oven mitts, mixing bowls, measuring cups, a crockpot and a blender." Though students must locate an RA

to get any of these tools for them, Brown believes that the search is worth it. "You can choose what you eat and make your own food, and it's also a fun thing to do!" she says. Though it is fun, Brown advises stu-

dents to be careful not to set off the fire alarms. "Setting off the smoke alarm happens a lot," Conway confirms. Brown also suggests that cooks clean up as they go so there is no daunting mess at the end.



## SPARTAN SPORTS

# Golf Teams Tee Off in Warm Weather



Photo by Savannah Riley

**PAR FOUR** Senior Tyler Huyvaert takes a swing on a beautiful day for golf.

**Zach Newcomer**  
Staff Writer

Manchester men's and women's golf teams are gearing up for their upcoming spring seasons. The men are aiming for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference championships in May, while the women are facing upcoming invitationals in April.

During the fall, the men's team completed their invitational season, garnering two top three finishes in only four competitions. Sophomore Spencer Jackson from Greenwood, Ind., returns with the best average score from the fall with

a 78.33, edging out senior Dylan Burns (Hamilton, Ind.) who collected an 83.33. On the women's side, sophomore Kaitlin Powers, Indianapolis, Ind., returns with the leading mark of 93.30, for the young Spartans.

Heading for HCAC play this spring, the Black and Gold are looking to be led by the only two upper classmen on the squad, Burns and fellow senior Tyler Huyvaert (South Bend, Ind.). "The seniors understand that in order to get better, everyone has to work together," said head men's and women's coach Tara Boone. "In order to end on a strong note, they know that each practice means something and they

instill that in everyone," she said. The Lady Spartans finished fourth place in the HCAC, with Powers receiving an 11th place finish.

For the women's team, MU faces a very young and small squad for the upcoming spring schedule. Four golfers will take to the tee this season, two sophomores and two first-years. Coach Boone is figuring out who will be the leaders this year on the course. "I've put my two sophomores in charge of a lot," she said. "I want to see if I give them a task, they're able to make sure everyone completes it." The Spartans will begin their slate of invitationals in April and participate in three invites at University of St. Francis,

Franklin College and Manchester.

The teams have been practicing weekly to get better on the course and do well against the opposing schools this season. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday the teams have work-outs to build up strength and conditioning, while each Tuesday and Thursday is spent in Fort Wayne, hitting at Bobick's Golf Headquarters. The team has learned a lot since last fall and learned to make changes from their mistakes and not repeat them in the future. "We all got better and stronger as a team and we definitely saw improvement over the year before," Jackson said. "We have a lot of potential and we're hoping to see that

this spring."

While in the midst of the offseason, the Spartans lost a member of their family. Coach Boone's father, Douglas Boone, passed away. Her father attended nearly every tournament MU participated in. She was unsure if she should keep coaching due to losing him, when he was the one who first taught her and showed her golf. However, she decided to stay due to the support from her student-athletes. "They were there for me and my family and that meant a lot," Boone said. "That alone showed me how great these student-athletes are and I knew then that I had to keep coaching."

# Spartan Tennis Gets into the Swing of Things

**Guerby Ruuska**  
Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams have jumped into action this past weekend with a tennis match against Alma. Tennis is a spring sport for the men and a fall sport for the women, but that doesn't stop either squad from scheduling a few matches here and there, which is exactly what MU's game against Alma College was.

"Our first match against Alma College was not the outcome we wanted, but we were honestly happy with the way we played," said sophomore Spencer Thomas of Yorktown, Ind. "Our scores didn't show the competitive matches that

were played among the entire team. With any season opener, you can't expect too much. We're still a little rusty, but we're now better prepared for our season."

The women's season doesn't officially start until fall, which leaves open the possibilities for more talent coming in. As of now the women are relying on number-one singles player Erin Cordill, who joined forces with sophomore Katy Ashpole for number-one doubles.

First-year Sierra Crane of Bedford, Ind. explains what it's like to be the youngster on the team. "Being the youngest helps because I can compare myself coming in," she said. "Since they have been there and done it all before, it helps me

improve. It always helps you get better when you play someone better than you. Everyone has a different playing style so I just bring my own playing style into the mix."

Alma has been known to have a tough tennis program. The last time the Spartans met them face-to-face was back in 2008. In this outing, the Spartans still performed well, even though the score didn't show it and especially considering the fact that the women came in having had only one practice this season.

With three women from the regular season gone—two graduated and one is studying in England—it will be interesting to see what the squad of eight can pull off. "The squads are small,



Sophomore Katie Peden (front) and senior Megan Buckner (back)

but for tennis, it's a good number having around 10 players," said Head Coach Eric Christansen. We try to become a close-knit group and support each other. They are all fighting for spots in the line-up, but in the end, they all work for what is best for the team. Both teams have been great this year in creating a family-type atmosphere."

Junior Stratton Smith of New Palestine, Ind., leads the men as the number-one singles and pairs with Thomas for the number-one doubles spot. With 11 men, the Spartans have put together a young group of hard working talent.

"As a team we have higher expectations than usual," Thom-

as said. We have some really talented first-years joining us, and our team chemistry is better than ever. Our conference is competitive, but we expect to make the conference tournament for the second year in a row, despite the preseason polls saying we won't. We're all about proving people wrong and having fun along the way."

"I think a few teams are going to overlook us, so I'm hoping that is where the surprise comes in," he said. "But, it is up to us to prepare and put ourselves in a situation to get those big surprises. The guys are hungry and support each other, and that's a good combination."



Sophomore Erin Cordill

Photos by Savannah Riley