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Photo by Addison Neher  
Ramallah, Palestine

Students Raise Awareness for Palestine

Lizzy Raimondi  
Staff Writer

Students for Justice in Palestine, a national club that can be found on a lot of college campuses, has arrived at Manchester and meets every other Thursday at 9:30 p.m. in the Student Activities Center in the basement of Calvin Ulrey.

"It was started to bring awareness and action to our campus, as it is so important that people know about conflicts happening around the world, especially this conflict in particular," said Michael Himlie, senior.

The club started nationally in 1993 and has continued to raise awareness about its cause. The goal of this club is to inform students of the toxicity spreading across the world, especially in Palestine. For instance, the club informs its members that a third generation of Palestinian children is now being brought up in refugee camps inside and outside Palestine, living in chronic poverty and denied the right to return to their family homes. Hundreds of thousands more Palestinians suffer discrimination over access to public services, land rights and employment within Israel itself.

Everyone and anyone is welcome to join the club or simply come to a meeting. "Many of the students who attend are those who are in social science departments, largely peace studies, philosophy, sociology and political science," Himlie said, "but it is certainly a goal to get everyone on campus to be aware of the oppression that Palestinians face under Israel, and how we unknowingly support that, and can avoid such support of oppression and injustice."

Himlie also wants to let people know that the Students for Justice in Palestine is not against the Jewish population. "We are a nonviolent group who invites and is open to anyone coming to learn and actively engage in the exciting discussion and work that we aim to do," he said.

A steering committee of five students currently oversees leadership of the club. "We have positions that are held to satisfy Manchester club policy, but disclose and dismiss our roles both as a team and to the public," Himlie said. "We share all responsibilities of the club equally." Every leader of the group has the same opportunity to help fellow students grow as a person and in knowledge for the people of Palestine.

Peace Pole Honors Fallen Students



Israel Tamire speaks at the Peace Pole dedication.

Oak Leaves Staff

Students, faculty, staff and the families of three international students who were killed last February in a car accident gathered on Sept. 16, a sunny fall afternoon at the site of the forthcoming Intercultural Center to dedicate a peace pole to those students.

The peace pole, which features the invocation "May Peace prevail on Earth" in eight languages, includes the Amharic language, from Ethiopia, in honor of Brook "BK" Dagnew and Kirubel Hailu, as well as the Igbo language, from Nigeria, in honor of Nerad Mangai. It is also inscribed with the hashtags #3FlyHigh and #MUStrong.

President Dave McFadden welcomed the guests and noted that the gathering was "bittersweet," as it both honored the students who died and introduced the architectural plans for the new Intercultural Center, to be named for Manchester graduate Jean Childs Young '54.

Michael Dixon, director of Intercultural Services and the international student advisor, remarked that "family" is a concept that defines the Intercultural Center. "BK, Nerad and Kirubel were family," he said. "BK, Nerad and Kirubel ARE family."

Benson Onyeji, professor of political science and director of the international studies program, recalled how bereft he felt when he heard that three African students were killed and one, Israel Tamire was seriously injured. "With their death, Africa was dead," he said. "And, I was dead, and so was everything about me and around me

at that moment. There was no difference between these students, my own children and the rest of us in this community. This Peace Pole Dedication is an expression of our appreciation of how we value these fallen students, what they mean to us as a community, and what they mean to each one of us personally."

In dedicating the peace pole, Campus Pastor Bekah Houff spoke of the pole's significance. "Our peace pole also stands here in the memory of the lives of students and dear friends, BK, Nerad and Kirubel," she said. "May it also stand for family, community, love, understanding, and of course, peace in the Intercultural Center, around this campus and around the world."

When Israel Tamire stood up from his chair in the back row and walked to the podium, it was difficult to see a dry eye in the attentive crowd. He talked about how the accident hurt him physically, it wasn't until two weeks later, when he learned that his three friends had been killed, that it "actually felt like a car hit me."

He spoke of his emotional—and remarkable physical—healing, receiving a warm laugh from the crowd when he talked of his progress: "Four months after the accident—after the doctors said I couldn't play basketball anymore—guess what happened. I took my first jump shot. I missed, but you can't blame me. The sun was in my eyes."

As Tamire returned to his seat, the attendees acknowledged his remarks with the first applause of the afternoon, which continued as Alemayehu Hailu, Kirubel's fa-

ther, and Mekete Dagnew, BK's father, both spoke about their sons with great love and sorrow.

Upon its completion, the Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center will house a memorial pa-

tio dedicated to Dagnew, Hailu and Mangai. The peace pole will remain at the site, at the intersection of College Ave. and East St., until construction begins; it will return when the center is ready to open.



Manchester University's Peace Pole.

New Pastor Leads Petersime Chapel

Mack Leinweber  
Staff Writer

Rebekah Houff is Manchester's new campus pastor, having arrived on campus last spring, and now transitioning from a position at Bethany Theological Seminary. Before finding her way to Manchester, Houff earned a BA in philosophy and religion at Bridgewater College in Virginia while also coordinating outreach programs for the seminary. She served through Brethren Volunteer Service as coordinator of the National Young Adult Conference in 2008, and the National Junior High Conference in 2009.

At Manchester, Houff keeps a regular schedule throughout the week. "I prepare for congregation," she said. "I think of what I'm going to say, or what I'm going to highlight. I think of what announcement needs to be mentioned." Chapel services are held every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at Petersime Chapel, located in the center of campus.

Manchester's Church of the Brethren also offers multiple programs, including Religious Life. The Religious Life program, according to the MU website, asserts the right of students both to share their faith with others, while exploring and understanding the diverse faiths represented. Consistent with the University's origin in the Church of the Brethren, the Religious Life program creates opportunities for students with Christian traditions to care and grow their faith through worship, learning and service. The program welcomes and serves students of all faiths.

"I counsel, lead and work on strategies to carry out the message of the Brethren Church," Houff said. "The most enjoyable part is investing my time in people. If I can help in any way, students and community members should not hesitate to reach out to me." On Sunday mornings, students are encouraged to attend any local congregation. Houff leads weekly discussions are held in the chapel every Tuesday at 7 p.m.



Rebekah Houff addresses the group at the Peace Pole dedication.



# New Professor Is ‘Happy’ to Be Here



Accounting and business professor Dave McGrady

**Virginia Rendler**  
Staff Writer

Accounting and business professor Dave McGrady’s office might just be the happiest place on campus. After all, it’s full of McDonald’s Happy Meal toys, which line several shelves from the floor up, accented by cartoons framed on the wall. ‘

When he isn’t working on building his collection, the accounting and business professor is undoubtedly dedicated to teaching these subjects. “I enjoy it because I think it’s a challenge,” he explained. “I have professional experience in those fields, and it’s easier to teach something when you’ve lived it, and you’re not just reading about it from a textbook.”

McGrady received his BA in accounting and business from Franklin College and his MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington. He has worked as a tax manager, program director for financial planning at Eastern Illinois University and is a certified public

accountant.

He chose Manchester for its size and location. “I like the size of the school, and I wanted to stay in the Midwest,” McGrady said. “I was familiar with it. I grew up in Indiana, down by Lafayette.”

His children did not have the same attraction to the Midwest that McGrady feels. He has four children, spread across the country from San Diego, California to Richmond, Virginia. Their careers vary from pilots to architects, and they inspired his collection of Happy Meal toys that now adorn his office. “When my kids were younger, we used to go to McDonald’s fairly regularly, so I got tired of stepping on kids’ meal toys because they’d leave them lying out,” McGrady said. “Then students started giving me a lot of those too, so it’s become something to put on the shelf.”

McGrady’s transition into a new position has been aided by his colleagues’ support. “I think they’re very dedicated and they’ve been very helpful in terms of getting me oriented toward how things

work here,” he said.

The College of Business is new this year. This transition, bringing in fresh faculty and a redesigned program, has offered students new opportunities both within the business major and after graduation.

The College of Business focuses on preparing Manchester students for a career in a variety of businesses and organizations. Students have the opportunity to explore many facets of the business world, including internships and experiential learning.

McGrady has many goals for the semester and for his career. His goals range from the modest—understanding Canvas—to honing his already impressive teaching skills. “I’ve already taught most of the content I’m teaching now, so I’m mostly just getting a feel for what level of knowledge students come into the class here with,” McGrady said. “Long term, my goal is to continue to get better at teaching. I think anybody who teaches wants to get better at their craft.”

# Sociology Professor Immerses Herself in MU Culture

**Zoe Vorndran**  
Staff Writer

A Wisconsin native and Green Bay Packers fan, Dr. Erinn Brooks is a new faculty member in the sociology department.

No stranger to small town atmospheres, Brooks was

born and raised in Beloit, a small but diverse Wisconsin city. “I guess it pushed me into sociology because I met a lot of people and different cultures,” Brooks said.

It may have been the small-town mixing pot that led her to become passionate and study inequality within society. In high school, Brooks dabbled in psychol-

ogy and other social sciences that intrigued her. During her early education, her interests were in sports such as softball and basketball. It was not until college that Brooks was introduced to her future career path.

As a first-generation college student, Brooks’ plan was not always to pursue a degree in sociology or to teach, but when the opportunities presented themselves, she gladly accepted the challenge. She completed her undergraduate degree at Beloit College, where she double majored in sociology and education. Following her education at Beloit, she became a Teach for America Corps member where she taught in Los Angeles, Calif. From Los Angeles, she moved across the nation to North Carolina to pur-

sue her MA and PhD in sociology. Through connections with Parker Marden, a former dean at Beloit College and 1994–2005 president at the then Manchester College, Brooks found her place at Manchester University.

Brooks is looking forward to working at Manchester University not only to immerse herself in the culture, but also to watch her students grow. “I really enjoy seeing students progress and improve,” she said. “I like when it clicks for students and when they are engaged. Even students who are more resistant; I love when they have those days when they just want to be involved.” She delights in the feeling of accomplishment, and finds it rewarding to watch individ-

ual achievements. Brooks hopes to bring her love for sociology to life in the classroom and encourages everyone to give it a shot.

Currently, Brooks can be found on the second floor of the Academic Center where her office is located in the department of sociology. She maintains a considerable schedule this fall, teaching three courses: Introduction to Sociology, Sociological Theory and Practicum in Sociology. When not teaching, Brooks plans to attend football games, VIA presentations, and other school events to become absorbed in Spartan school spirit. During her free time, she also enjoys planting flowers, watching football and being with her wife, one-year-old daughter, and two cats.



Sociology professor Dr. Erinn Brooks

# Gambill Schools Spartans on Politics in Education

**Cass Ratliff**  
Staff Writer

Keith Gambill, the vice president of the Indiana State Teachers Association, presented to Manchester University’s Student Education Association on different aspects of politics in education on Sept. 13, 2016, at 7 p.m. in Flory Auditorium.

Gambill, a 26-year educator in the Evansville Public Schools, is a middle school arts and drama teacher. Before becoming vice president of ISTA, he was the president of the Evansville Teachers’ Association. Gambill is also the chair of the ISTA foundation.

After garnering years of experience, Gambill wanted to emphasize to his audience of Manchester University undergraduates the importance of getting out and voting. “Regardless of what year you are, elected officials will be making decisions that affect your work in the classroom,” he said. “If you do not play an active role in making sure the right people are voted into office, then you have to live with the consequences.”

Gambill noted that there are four essential layers of politics that affect education as one considers voting. The first is the federal government. Laws that come from the federal government are the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaces the No Child Left Behind Act that most current college students went to school under, Common Core and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. These are federal laws that schools across the nation must abide by. The president of the United States appoints the secretary of education and sets forth the agenda. “While I supported President Obama, I have been disappointed in his education policy,” Gambill said. “I think ESSA is the best thing that’s come out of that. In my personal opinion, he gave too much credit and invest-

ment to charter schools and did not invest enough in public schools.” Following the federal government level, Gambill explained, is the state level. This is where the governor sets the agenda for each of the four years he or she holds office and works with the budget. Indiana is on a biannual budget system where the budget is effective for two years before it is changed again. January will be the next time when Indiana’s budget is reset.

Gambill told his audience how, this year, Indiana will be voting a new governor into office. He or she will set two budgets into place during his or her time, and education funding is a huge part of that budget. Indiana has received more funding in this area; however, due to a 300-million-dollar budget cut Governor Daniels made while in office, public schools are still six years behind where they should be. More money is also going toward vouchers and charter schools. ISTA is asking for a delineation to see where funding is going to.

Gambill also noted that committees that affect the jobs of educators are appointed at this level. There are the State Board of Education and the Indiana Education Employment Relations. The State Board of Education chooses the tests teachers will be given and sets the deadlines for those. This committee also deals with the ratings of teachers. The Indiana Education Employment Relations makes decisions that affect a teacher’s accrual work life in terms of hours needed to work and other extra duties outside of the classroom.

Following the committee appointments, Gambill said, the House and the Senate then receive the budget and add their own modification before they release it on the first of May. At this level there is a senator and a representative that get voted into office. “We will be electing a senator and a representative or someone on your behalf will

elect because if you don’t someone will still be elected into that seat,” Gambill said. At this level, the House and Senate decided what tests to take and how and when to evaluate teachers.

Finally, Gambill noted the level of the local government, which involves the school board. The local government has a budget called SILA, which includes the general fund, capital projects, bus transportation, bus replacement and debt services. All of these funds previously came from property taxes until Gov. Daniels decided that the general fund, the fund that pays the teachers, would come from state sales tax. During the time Gov. Daniels made this decision, Indiana was in a recession, which meant people bought less and teachers got paid less. This is why schools can spend money on expensive updates and still have to cut teachers—they are two different funds. During this time, schools had to survive at the local level and made cuts everywhere, including using fewer buses and hiring third party food and janitorial services.

Gambill’s speech inspired students to make sure they pay attention to how politics affect their careers as educators. “I love how informational he was on politics that are personal to myself,” said elementary education major, Toni Papandrea. “I’ll vote for all of it. It’s not affecting us now, but it will later.”

Other students enjoyed how comprehensive Gambill was. “I loved how he knew to approach the subject to us as college students,” said SEA Sophomore Rep., Britanie Jernigan. “It’s kind of really scary because a lot of people our age don’t vote, and if the wrong people get into office we’re screwed for the most part...It’s not just the president, it’s also the governor who will affect our first day in the classroom.”

 Oak Leaves

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Leilte Assefa

## Assefa Interns at African Union; Acquaints Self with Ambassadors

**Maddie Jo Shultz**  
Staff Writer

Over the summer, MU junior Leilte Assefa traveled from Indiana to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to work as an intern at the African Union (AU).

Assefa interned at the AU for two months. She first worked at a branch called the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA), where she remained for two weeks and received her orientation. During her time there, she did not work on projects focused solely on her chosen field of study. “They were focused more on East African terrorist attacks,” Assefa says about CISSA. “And I was more into the law.” She explains that she was more interested in how the AU makes laws and how the organization deals with conflict.

After the first two weeks, Assefa moved to the Peace and Security Council and worked under its commissioner, Ismail Chergui. “We had to attend meetings for him

and take notes and write speeches,” Assefa says. “We were more like a connection for him.” Eighty-five percent of the African Union is funded by the western world, so a primary job for interns is to make a lot of connections and try to get funds; however, Assefa says that the fundraising was her least favorite part of the internship. “I wasn’t very happy at first,” she admits. “I was very young and nobody took me seriously, so I had to stand up for myself. I had to make sure people knew what I was saying was important. I had to force myself to be heard. Then I showed them what I could do.”

In fact, Assefa was fortunate to obtain the internship at such a young age. “It’s very hard to get to work at the African Union,” she says, “especially if you don’t have your Bachelor’s or Master’s yet.” She recommends the internship to other students; and, although it was a volunteer project, Assefa says that it looks great on a résumé. “Working at the African Union really opens

your eyes,” she said. “Just because I am African doesn’t mean I know a lot about other African countries. I learned a lot.” Assefa described, for example, how colonization has shaped the way in which Africa is divided into different countries, and how the western world has influenced both the African people and their culture.

Assefa met many ambassadors in Addis Ababa, and even attended a meeting when the president of South Korea visited the AU. Her favorite aspect of the internship was the work experience. “It opened up my eyes to how it would feel to work as a diplomat,” she says, “and what it’s going to be like to actually work in my field.” Assefa is studying political science with an international studies minor, and she plans to study international law after she graduates. Her goal is to work at the ICJ, the International Court of Justice, and after law school she hopes to also become a designer with her own fashion line.

## Aspiring Diplomat Works with Arab League

**Kelleen Cullison**  
Staff Writer

Deep in the heart of Egypt, past the Nile River and the Great Pyramids of the nation’s past, lies the center for the Arab World’s future: the League of Arab States. This is where Manchester student Mariam Ali Ibrahim, aspiring diplomat and political science major, spent her summer interning under some of the most influential political figures in the Arab world.

The Arab League consists of representatives from 22 states and serves many of the same purposes for those Arabian and African countries as the United Nations does for its members. The orga-

nization’s purpose is to strengthen bonds and coordinate policies among member countries. Based in Cairo, Egypt, the League is the area’s international relations powerhouse.

For almost two months, Ali Ibrahim worked 9 to 5 on various projects in many of the Arab League’s departments. She worked in human resources, international relations, and was able to sit in on a diplomatic training session. “The session was presented by the UN-HCR and was on the definition of refugees and stateless people and their rights,” Ali Ibrahim said. “I was sitting in a room full of diplomats, which was amazing.”

Her work involved

NATO, the EU, and even extended to academics, when the League put Ibrahim in charge of developing a new strategy for Model Arab League in universities. “They want the Model Arab League to become as widespread and popular as Model United Nations,” Ali Ibrahim said.

The challenges Ibrahim faced during her internship were a reflection of the difficult application procedure. The fierce screening process filters over 1,000 applicants down to 115 lucky interns. Not only did candidates have to undertake an individual interview, but they were re-quired to take part in group interviews as well. “The group interviews were really important.” Ali

Ibrahim said. “They wanted to see how well we worked with others.”

For Ibrahim, the hard work paid off. “My favorite part of this internship is definitely the first time I got to meet Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the secretary general,” Ali Ibrahim said. By the end of her time at the Arab League, she was offered another internship opportunity with the League’s ambassador to the EU, who is responsible for the arms-dealing file.

Ali Ibrahim herself is certainly impressive; she’s fluent in two languages and is learning two others. She’s involved in several groups on campus, such as Student Senate, and keeps a job as a special assistant for the Office of Multicultural

Affairs. To top it off, she also plays tennis, along with other recreational sports. “I like sports,” Ali Ibrahim said, “playing or watching.”

She comes to Manchester from Cairo, where she lives with her parents and her younger brother. Her mother currently works in human resources for Microsoft, and her father is the own-er of a medical supplies factory.

Her grandfather was also a diplomat for Egypt; however, regardless of that, Ibrahim assures she would have been drawn to the diplomatic world. “I’ve always wanted to be a diplomat,” Ali Ibrahim said, “but the International Law class I took at Manchester helped assure me. It was amazing.”

## Art Department Attends Eel River Arts Festival

**Brittany Dilley**  
Staff Writer

The North Manchester community kicked off the Eel River Arts Festival with a drizzly start on Saturday, Sept. 10.

The rain did not hinder the celebration and appreciation of art, though, as members of the community gathered around, set up canopies and flexed their art muscles, showing off different art forms, from silverware to painting to jewelry.

The art department of Manchester University joined in on the wet fun with a stretch of family-friendly booths offering face painting and inviting children to

paint. MU art student Glynnis King kept charge of the painting booth for children. “I really just like to see all the artists and some of their different works,” she said. “It’s a really good way to get involved with the community and just kind of learn what’s around the neighborhood.”

Even MU professors were upbeat throughout the downpour. “It wasn’t really even a choice,” said Professor Jeff Diesburg. “It was: ‘We are having an art festival in Manchester and we are the Manchester University art department,’ so we didn’t really discuss, like, ‘Should we do this, are we gonna go do this,’ it was: ‘Oh they’re having this art festival and we are an art department and we’re definitely going to be down there doing it.’”



Art major Abby Lynn paints Miriam Struble-Hedstrom’s face at the Eel River Arts Festival.

## Plans for Chinworth Center Flourish

**Jensen Lassiter**  
Staff Writer

After two years of comprehensive campaigning, Manchester University has a plan to replace the Administration Building with a brand new building.

While the original plan was to tear down the current Administration Building, the plans were eventually revised to place the new building, the Lockie and Augusta Chinworth Center, elsewhere. “We were going to tear it down and build a smaller building in its place,” said President Dave McFadden. “We received a major gift from Herb Chinworth for 5.1 million dollars. When we did the planning for the building that was going to go in (the Administration Building) spot, we had realized it was better located north of the Jo Young Switzer Center.”

The original plan had been for a two-story building that would house the administrative offices, student services and admissions offices. Over time, the plan evolved to include a third story to house the College of Business.

“When we added the third story, it increased the cost of the building,” McFadden said. “We’ve been fundraising in addition to what was previously raised.”

Manchester University is still in the fundraising stage. The project has raised around 6.5 million dollars, including the donation from Chinworth. With the addition of the third floor, the approximate cost of the building is 11 million dollars. With 4.5 million dollars left to raise, questions on the probable timeline have also arisen. “We don’t have a fixed date,” McFadden said. “This is fall 2016; I don’t think we will break ground any earlier than 2018. That would probably be the earliest.”

“One of the problems with a project like this,” he continued, “is if it takes too long to come to fruition, it kind of languishes out there. We need to continue to press. Raise the money and get the shovel in the ground!”

With a gift like Chinworth’s, which is the single largest individual donation to the university, alumni’s love for Manchester seems to flourish. “One of the best parts of my job is talking to people

who love Manchester—sometimes with people who have a tremendous capacity to support Manchester,” McFadden said. “It’s being able to connect them to something that they love, while having something like the Chinworth Center. Herb Chinworth wanted to make sure that he could honor his parents when he made the donation. The Chinworth Center will carry their names, Lockie and Augusta. He has resources, a love of Manchester, of his parents; and this project connects those three things.”

The new Lockie and Augusta Chinworth Center will serve many purposes in addition to housing the new Administration Center and College of Business. “I think it will really serve our students well in terms of the space that they’ll have,” McFadden said. “If a student has a need, there’s a single location for them to go; they don’t have to go from building to building to get everything done. It will be a tremendous academic resource. We have a great Science Center and Academic Center, and this is another new space. This will be another step forward with academic spaces for students.”



Leslee Botoroff shows off her painting prowess at Eel River Arts Festival.





## MU Volleyball Builds on Winning Streak

**Alaina Lewis**  
Staff Writer

The Manchester Spartans volleyball team has a winning streak six games long; this momentum could signal the beginning of an unstoppable team.

The team is significantly younger this year, comprised of mostly first years and sophomores with one junior and two seniors. “The positives of having a younger team is they will learn and build on playing with each other, and will grow as a group over the next couple years,” said Sarah Pruden, the assistant coach. “The negative is trying to get some of the underclassmen to step up as leaders. They are still young and still learning how to be a leader, so it is hard to just have some of them step up into that role as an underclassman.” The coaches have quite possibly achieved the goal of getting the players to act in unison and getting leads to step up if the invitational wins are anything to go by.

According to the statistics, the team is on an upward winning streak, having had somewhat of a rocky beginning, starting the

season with three losses. The team has turned it around; winning the past two games. “Winning is an important part,” said Riley Patterson, first year, “but also having fun while playing the game definitely is important. If you’re not having fun, what’s the point in playing?”

The team played four games last weekend—two on Friday and two on Saturday. On Friday the team played Governors State University with a final score of 3-0 and Wilmington College with a final score of 3-0. On Saturday the team played Great Lakes Christian College with a final score of 3-0 and IU-Northwest with a final score of 3-1.

The volleyball team appreciates support. “Just having the student body and a large crowd is helping the team out a lot,” Pruden said. “Last year and this year there have been more students at the games than there have been in a long time. What will really help when we start our conference games is to have as big of a crowd there as we can get.”

The next home games are Saturday, Sept. 24, at 1 p.m. versus Franklin and Wednesday, Oct. 12, versus Defiance.



Courtney Hersick charges down the field with the ball at her feet.

## Women’s Soccer Remains Hopeful

**Shelby Harrell**  
Staff Writer

Throughout the beginning of the fall season, the Manchester University women’s soccer team has shown the determination and hard work that is necessary to be successful in athletics. Though its official box scores may show that its season has not been their best in terms of wins to losses, the women’s soccer team still remains hopeful moving forward.

The women’s soccer team season officially began on Sept. 2, with the Spartans losing a hard-fought battle to the Belles of Saint Mary’s College. The game lasted for 90 minutes, with the Belles pulling slightly ahead in the number of shots made. Eventually, the evening resulted in the Spartans scoring an average of one goal while the Belles earned four goals total. The next day saw no better results as the Spartans traveled back to Saint Mary’s College to face the Kalamazoo Hornets, who shot a total of six goals to the Spartans’ one.

Though the Manchester women’s soccer is currently 0-5, the women remain optimistic by not defining the success of a season based on total wins and losses per

individual game, but by the amount of growth they experience as a team and how they build off the progress that is developed through each game. Junior mid-fielder Courtney Hersick said that she would definitely consider this a season to rebuild. “Our new coaches have brought a new culture to the team that has helped us develop more as players,” she said.

Manchester women’s soccer head coach Christine Johnson joined the program in early August. Johnson, who is the former assistant coach of the Fresno State University women’s soccer program as well as a former professional soccer player for the California Storm and Football Club bay area pride teams, easily has the credentials and background experience necessary to ensure that the Spartans meet their goals of qualifying for the conference tournament. “Despite not having had a great start, the women’s team has continued to grow, fight and mature as soccer players,” Johnson said. “What I love most about this team so far has been the way they continue to respond to adversity by fighting and growing closer as a team instead of quitting or turning on each other.”

Though the season is merely three weeks underway, the

women have already experienced a boost in morale. “Our new coach has definitely made us more excited and passionate about the game,” said junior defense Abbey Krupp. “She brings a lot of knowledge and inspires a greater work ethic in all of us on and off the field.”

Hersick also commented on the amount of discipline that Johnson has brought to the team. “One thing that she always says to us,” Hersick said, “is ‘to be disciplined, do the little things consistently.’”

With consistency, any team has a better chance of achieving its ultimate goal. In the case of the women’s soccer team, its goal is to qualify for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) tournament. The HCAC is currently scheduled to take place on Saturday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m.

In order to qualify for the HCAC, Hersick also said that they need to improve morale all together as a team. “We need the mentality of a winning team,” she said. Though the conference tournament is still pretty far down the road, the women are already experiencing success in terms of growth as a team and are looking forward to the rest of the season.



Senior outside hitter Courtney Chowning

## Football Focuses on Team Chemistry

**Brenden Damron**  
Staff Writer

It’s September and football season is officially upon us. That’s right, it’s time to watch the Manchester University Spartans suit up for another year on the gridiron. Though they are only a few games in, the boys are already making progress.

The season opener was against Trine University at MU’s Carl W. Burt Memorial Field. This was not an easy game, considering Trine University football is ranked in the top 30 in Midwestern universities. Still, this didn’t stop the Spartans from getting on the board first with a field goal. When the opposing team answered with a touchdown of their own, the Spartans answered back, but failed in their

extra-point attempt. After the back and forth action, the White Tigers pulled away, resulting in an ending score of 23-9. “We competed the whole game,” said head coach Nate Jensen.

The second game played by the Spartans was also on their own turf. This time, it was against MU’s Michigan rival, Alma College. During a rough, rainy first quarter, Manchester had a hard time even getting a first down. Alma, on the other hand, had no problem scoring a couple of touchdowns. After the first quarter ended, the MU Spartans came back with three touchdowns in a 15-minute period. After leaving the half with a three-point lead, things were looking up for the Spartans. During the second half, however, was a different story, any attempt by the Black and Gold

was rejected. Alma ended up taking the game with a 31-point lead over Manchester’s 20 points.

As MU enters the end of a bye week, the Spartans prepare to hit the road to Cincinnati on Saturday, September 24, to face the Mount Saint Joseph Lions, who should prove to be a worthy opponent. Will the team have implemented any changes during its week “off”? “More often than not, the chemistry of a team is more important than X’s and O’s,” said Daniel Heim, senior defensive lineman. “We’ve had a grasp on X’s and O’s, and now that we’ve focused on chemistry, the team is progressing much more smoothly.”

Box scores, a recap and photos of this opening game for the HCAC conference play will be available on MU’s Athletics website.

### OPINION

**Anjel Clemente**  
Staff Writer

They say that sports team perform better at home because they have what’s called “home advantage.” At Manchester University, home field/court advantage is most definitely present at sporting events. But it’s not just parents, fans and students that fill the bleachers at these home events, it’s the other sports teams as well that go and show their support and patriotism for Manchester Athletics. And their presence is certainly known.

A prime example of this occurrence is during football games. Not only are the Saturday night lights a fun environment in which to see friends and socialize outside of the classroom, but

they’re also a place where an immense student section appears. In fact, it’s a student section so big that it has to be divided into two separate sections, one at each end of the bleachers.

But these sections aren’t just filled with students; a very strong percentage of these students are athletes, sitting in groups with their teammates, showing up to support their Manchester Spartan football team and scream at the top of their lungs for a “Spartan First Down!”

Apart from football, most of the fall sports of 2016 are getting big support from all of their respective student athletes. As a soccer player myself, I notice teams like cross country (both guys and girls), along with girls soccer, a part of

football, and some of the volleyball team present at our soccer games.

From a personal opinion as a student athlete, there isn’t a better feeling than walking onto the field, and hearing a bunch of your friends and peers screaming your name and encouraging you to perform well. It certainly hypes you up to an extent. Soccer of course, returns the favor, and we try to attend as many athletic events as possible, and we’re not the only ones.

On Wednesday, Sept. 7, the volleyball team faced St. Mary’s from Indianapolis, at home. The students had to make sure the volleyball girls were getting the best home court advantage we could give them. Once the game commenced, close to the entire football team had taken up the entire four

or five rows of bleachers placed behind the north end of the court. Apart from that, the men’s soccer team, plus additional students and various other athletes were able to make their presence felt by sitting together and taking up a majority of the bleachers on the west side of the court.

The students all gathered together to scream before a serve of a St. Mary’s volleyball player, in hopes of a service error. When a Spartan player prepared to serve, the gymnasium became dead silent, and soon after the serve, the student body continued its loud, obnoxious shriek to distract the opposing team and assist our Spartan volleyball team with an ace.

From chants, repetitive phrases like the birds from “Find-

ing Nemo,” to plastic hand clappers, and vuvuzelas (which were immediately removed), the student body showed its support and became an extra player on the court to help our team achieve victory on our home court. Although the Spartans weren’t able to pull off a victory, the student support was definitely in place.

Athletic events aren’t just places to socialize, they are places to show school spirit and cheer on friends and help show how great your team is, regardless of the sport. It’s all about supporting our own team, not about disrespecting the other school. Manchester has a ton of talent on and off the field. Supporting other sports makes Manchester Athletics an exciting experience.

## Sports Unite Manchester Athletics