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# Christmas Crèches Come to Campus



Shelby Harrell  
Staff Writer

Three wise men and an infant surrounded by a wide variety of livestock is the traditional representation of a nativity scene. However, thanks to Manchester University alumni Max and Joyce Douglas's donation of crèches to MU, the nativity scene is much larger. The Douglasses, who have collected over 500 individual nativity scenes, began their extensive collection during a trip to Germany as a pair of young adults. "We were looking for souvenirs," Joyce said with a gleam in her eye as she described how they happened upon what would be the first item in their collection. "We had to have it."

Located just inside the lobby of the Winger Building is a vast display of crèches, or nativity scenes, that were donated as part of the Douglasses' collection. Though each individual set contains the basic elements of a crèche, there are some subtle differences such as design, color, gifts and species of animal that makes each set stand out. "The designs and materials differ according to culture," Joyce said, "Each set reflects the culture of the country it came from."

One such example is a wood crèche that was purchased in 1988 on their trip to Thailand. This unique crèche has 18 pieces, including Mary holding the baby Jesus, three water buffalos, one elephant, one goat, one pig, one dog and nine chickens.

SEE NATIVITY, PAGE 2

# OMA Presents 'The World From A to Z'



First Year Bella



Sophomore Rebecca Ullom-Minnich

Maddie Jo Shultz  
Staff Writer

Lights, camera, fashion! Manchester University's Office of Multicultural Affairs celebrated international students' diverse backgrounds and cultures in its ninth biennial International Fashion Show, called "The World from A to Z." The show featured clothing, dances and music from 15 countries represented by MU students, as well as a stand-up comedy act, and counted as a VIA for the fall 2016 semester. At 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18, university students, faculty and other members of the community filled up the seats of Cordier Auditorium for the show.

The evening began with a short video of the participants practicing their catwalks, which garnered plenty of positive hollering from the audience.

Sophomore Sean Patton and first-year Chelsea Glenn hosted the event, introducing the models representing and information regarding the 15 countries, listed in alphabetical order from England to Zhōngguó/China. Sophomore Eve Hansen was the first model out on the stage, showing off the London look in a purple dress by English designer TNFC. Ethiopia followed with Dagmawit Alemu, Maraki Tihtina, Fotini Kristuli and Fiker Zelealem, who modeled both traditional and modern interpretations of the habesha kemis (hab-bisha-ka-mis), as well as dresses with cross designs often worn on holidays or to weddings. A total of six female models further exemplified Ethiopian culture, trading their heels for bare feet and igniting the stage with a dance.

Mam Samba strutted her stuff in a vibrant-colored Gambian gown, described by emcee Glenn as "an absolutely beautiful kente," with

geometric shapes. Patton, Glenn's fellow host, did a quick change into the typical Western men's fashion of Ghana: a practical but pristine white shirt and black pants.

Some individuals represented multiple countries during the show, such as TerraceUniq Johnson and Rebecca Mundroff, who modeled for both Hindustan/India and Israel. Sisters Bijal and Nicky Patel modeled the chaniya choli (chan-ia-cho-li) from India. These pieces have designs made of beads, can be quite heavy, and are worn for a dance festival known as garba (GAR-ba). Arpan Paul and Ryan DeMars both wore a sherwani; Paul's was more elaborate and formal, while DeMars' was a more casual, day-to-day version of the outfit. An Indian dance, featuring the Patels and Hansen, brought Bollywood to North Manchester, Indiana.

Junior Tabo Chata represented sunny Namibia in a formal, leopard print shirt, and brought many smiles and laughs to the audience with his stand-up comedy act. During his performance, Chata expressed a dislike of practical jokes and enjoys inserting irony into his humor. "Is there a right way to eat a tomato?" he asked the audience, then added, "I'm pretty sure you don't start by putting ketchup on it." Chata believes that babies should not vote because they are materialistic (desiring only food and sleep) and cry inexplicably. He added that if babies were reasonable creatures, they would turn to their parents and say, "You changed more than my diaper; you changed my life."

At the end of the show, Michael Dixon, the director of Intercultural Services, thanked Mariam Ibrahim for her hard work in putting the show together and before concluding the event, encouraged audience members to attend the International Buffet in April 2017.



Junior Tochi Helen Nwaclugo



Hermela Isayas & Dagmawit Alemu

# Students Star in Contemporary Love Story

Kelleen Cullison  
Staff Writer

At first glance, the fall play *The Shape of Things* is a classic Pygmalion romance: the ugly duckling transforms into a beautiful swan under the tutelage of another, and they fall in love and live happily ever after.

Except the ugly one perhaps isn't who one might think, and the ending is most definitely not happy. The show places makeover culture under the microscope and into the hot seat with its well-timed (albeit often mature) wit and realism. The play pulls the carpet out from under the audience with its ending.

The production ran from Nov 18-20 in Wampler Auditorium. Written by Neil LaBute, playwright, filmmaker and one-time Fort Wayne resident, the play was directed by Kira Lace Hawkins, lecturer of Theater at Manchester. The gifted young cast of four all come from the Manchester Theatre Society, the highest placement for an actor at Manchester University.

The audience first met the two main characters of our contemporary love story in front of a statue of God, exhibited by the small Midwestern college. Evelyn, an art student, has plans to deface the statue in protest of certain censorship, while Adam, a poor English major just trying to make ends meet, spends the remainder of his night watch shift both discussing the nature of art and simultaneously trying to talk Evelyn out of it.

As these things tend to go, the encounter leads to a date, and from then on, a whirlwind romance takes place. Over the course of a semester, Adam transforms from a nail-biting, frumpy jacket wearing pushover to a confident, more handsome version of himself. The greater his feelings for Evelyn grow, the more willing he is to push the boundaries of his comfort zone.



'The Shape of Things' Stage in Wampler Auditorium



Cast: Clayton Marcum, Kenzie Hare, Stratton Smith and Emily Lynn

His transformation doesn't go unnoticed by his old roommate, Philip, and his fiancée, Jenny, whose long-suppressed feelings for Adam begin to resurface. The three friends enter a tumultuous period, with Evelyn at the forefront of the building tension as her hush-hush senior art exhibit draws nearer.

Clayton Marcum's portrayal of Adam brings life to the well-meaning "nerd," and is beautifully contrasted by the passionate, multifaceted Evelyn, Adam's modern-day "Eve," played by fellow junior Kenzie Hare. They portrayed the tender moments with the same level of ease and confidence as they did the moments of combativeness.

Stratton Smith did equally well as the cocky, hotheaded Philip, as did first-year Emily Lynn at portraying the position of sweet Jenny, who somehow finds herself in love with two, very different best friends.

The content of the play called for the actors to transition seamlessly from well-timed, (mature) humor to utter seriousness, both on and off the stage. "Stratton and I would be backstage, goofing off, and then, snap, be onstage and be sad or serious," said Lynn. The only underclass woman in the cast, Lynn carries herself with an easy and humble self-assuredness. "They say (in theatre) you have to know your product, know yourself and what you're good at," she said. "You can't compare yourself to another person or their experiences."

The Manchester University Theatre Society annually performs plays both in the fall and the spring. Lynn's advice for any potential auditionees is to "honestly, just want to try something different, and put yourself out there."

Students interested in joining can contact advisor Kira Lace Hawkins, and keep an eye out for acting opportunities on campus, such as those with the Theatre Society like the One Acts held on campus each year.

## Competitive Spirit Fuels CBC Food Drive

**Jensen Lassiter**  
Staff Writer

The Business Club's annual Holiday Food Drive collected over 1,700 items for donation to the local Food Pantry.

The effort was led by Renée Neher, director for Community Outreach within the College of Business. "I was involved with several committees, but Community Outreach has always been more of my calling," Neher said. While there are many different committees, hers focuses on the community aspect and reaching out to help. All of the food and other items that are donated are given to the Food Pantry in the North Manchester community to help benefit those who need it. "I'm excited to see [the Food Pantry's] reaction when we deliver the goods," she said. "It's not just ramen and boxed food, but other things as well!"

This year, in order to generate added interest, Neher's committee decided to host a competition to see which group could produce the most cans in a given time. "Competition sparks that giving motive," Neher said. "There's

something about telling someone it's a competition; it makes them try harder and put a lot more into it. Giving is definitely beneficial when paired with a competitive edge!

"It's especially fun when it's for such a great cause," she added. The theme that the committee chose for this year is "Superheroes," and each business professor has a sponsored superhero. "It gets super competitive between the professors!" Neher said. "Their excitement has pushed this goal even further."

This year, the committee decided to add goods such as toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex boxes and other items that cannot be bought with food stamps. With its current tally of over 1,700 items, the Food Drive has surpassed the organizers' original 1,500-item goal. "Last year we received about 1,200 items, so we set our goal for 1,500," Neher said. "I was a little nervous that we weren't going to reach it, but then we blew it out of the water compared to last year."

"When we donated last year, the Food Pantry was amazed," she continued. "They weren't expecting that much. This year they're not going to expect how much we actually have."

The committee has



worked hard in preparing for the Food Drive in recent weeks. "It's definitely a team effort," Neher said. "We all have to work together on this. Without them it wouldn't have been possible to accomplish this much."

Not only do their items impact families in the surrounding area and community, but they also impact the Committee members and everyone who is involved. "I want more out of life than just going to work and coming home," Ne-

her said. "I want to give back to the community in many ways, big or small. This is just one way I can get involved. I can see the worst come out in people during competitions, but this is different. This impacts a lot of people."

## Students Look Forward to Holiday Season



**Cass Ratliff**  
Staff Writer

Manchester University students, staff and faculty are getting excited for winter break starting on Dec. 17, 2016. As cold weather moves in and break gets closer, so do the holidays.

Some people are looking forward to celebrating Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, over winter break. "I like everything about Christmas," said sophomore Lauren Rodts. "There is nothing to dislike about it."

Christmas sweaters are especially appreciated as a Christmas celebration. "I get to wear ugly sweaters without judgment," said Delaney McKesson. "What other time of the year could I wear a sweater with bells on it and no one would question it?"

Christmas movies are a popular pastime during the holidays. "Every year my family and

I watch 'It's a Wonderful Life' on Christmas Eve," Rodts said. "And, I think I'm going to continue that tradition myself." Traditions are comfortable and people like to stick with what is familiar to them. "Every Christmas we all stay in the house all day and wear our pajamas," McKesson said. Both students were raised in Catholic families and have celebrated Christmas as a part of their faith since they were born. Other people are looking forward to celebrating Hanukkah, an eight-day celebration of the rededication were the Jewish Maccabees were successful in a revolt against the oppression of Greek-Syrian rule. While according to professor emeritus John Planer, Hanukkah is a "minor holiday," it is a family holiday celebrated with the lighting of the menorah and the giving of small gifts. One candle is lit every night until all eight candles are lit. Prayers are sometimes said before lighting a candle.

"Other common traditions include things like playing a game with a top called a dreidel, eating latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and giving presents," Seth Mayer said.

During Hanukkah, people enjoy spending time with family. "After each member of my family lights their own menorah, we usually turn the lights off and sit silently for a minute to look at the candles," Mayer said. "It's my favorite part of the holiday because the light of the candles reflecting in the window can be very beautiful, and I appreciate sharing a quiet moment with family. I'm not sure whether that's something that other Jewish families do, but it's something we've done for as long as I can recall."

Whether Hanukkah, Christmas, or another holiday is being celebrated by people this winter, looking forward to traditions, family and a break from school is universal among all.



### NATIVITY FROM PAGE 1

"The animals are very different from the ones we are accustomed to," Joyce said. "The elephant and other animals are characteristic of Thailand."

Another example is unique for its design—a Peruvian representation of a nativity scene that was purchased in Santa Fe, New Mexico during the early 1980s. The piece's shadow box design was enough to intrigue both Joyce and Max. "We saw pieces of this type in

a shop window and were taken by the idea of such an intricate design in a shadow box," Joyce said. "The Peruvian folk art is a charming way to represent the nativity."

Many of the crèches on display were made by sculptors, including one by artists S. Sitarski and J. Thedorowicz. Made of natural wood and muted colors, this piece was purchased in the Polish town of Hamtramck, Mich. in the early 1970s. "I'm not sure I was looking for a variety in the collection at that time," Joyce said. "But I liked the charm of the piece, and it certainly

presented a European flavor."

Each and every piece of the collection has a place in the Douglasses' hearts. Joyce describes a time in which the couple feared the worst when the baby Jesus had gone missing from a set that they had been planning to showcase. "We searched everywhere," Joyce said. "We later found the baby Jesus at the bottom of the packing peanuts." The Douglasses' donated crèche collection will be on display on the ground floor of Otho Winger Memorial Hall for the remainder of the semester and throughout January.



# Oak Leaves

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## OPINION

# Palestinians Fights for Basic Rights

**Anjel Clemente**  
Staff Writer

Tensions in the Middle East have been considerable in the last couple of years. One thing that most Americans don't face in their everyday lives is the restriction of their own freedom. In America, people have the right to voice their opinions. Regardless of whether what they say is offensive to someone else, or may not be understood in the eyes of others, everyone is protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution to say whatever he or she wants. People in Palestine don't get that freedom.

Instead, citizens from Palestine live with a corrupt government that has very tight restrictions on a person's individual freedom, especially when it comes to speaking their minds about the government in Palestine and the way it is being run. The government arrests, charges and imprisons people for sticking their tongue out at the government. People who live in small villages are evicted from their homes, and then the houses are demolished. For five decades, violence has filled the Middle Eastern territory, but a potential bright future could be possible despite the constant civil unrest.

Manchester attracts many international students, some of whom may come from a part of the Middle East that is greatly affected by the civil war going on between the public and its government. With so many negatives in the area, it is difficult for people to attend a school or to get an education. But many teenagers who see their opportunity take the chance to come to America to earn a degree and ensure a bright future for themselves and their future families.

Many of the students that originate from Palestine major in peace studies, political science or other majors that would make them more qualified, informed and prepared to be able to accurately and positively make a difference in the Middle East.

It's no secret that the Middle East is not a comfortable, easy-going place. People face a struggle every day that a majority of the people in North America never come close to experiencing. In Palestine, people fight for their freedom to say what they want, to do what they want and to be able to live in a country that isn't dictated by a corrupt government. Palestinians fight for their right to be human beings.



Children in the Gaza Strip



## OPINION

# We Need to Embrace Diversity on Campus

**Zoe Vorndran**  
Staff Writer

Look around. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? In a constant, ever-changing society, we forget to appreciate and value the simplicity of diversity that engulfs us on our campus, in our communities, and within our nation. As a progressive thinker in promoting cultural and sociologic diversity, poet and writer Maya Angelou once stated, "In diversity, there is beauty and strength."

Understanding and valuing diversity within universities and campuses is crucial. Aaron Thompson, a professor of sociology at Eastern Kentucky University and coauthor of "Diversity and the Col-

lege Experience" offers eight reasons as to why diversity matters. He claims that it expands worldliness, enhances social development, prepares students for the future, prepares students for work in a global society, increases our knowledge, promotes creative thinking, heightens self-awareness, and enriches our perspective.

Interacting with people of different backgrounds expands our views on issues and magnifies the richness of our own culture. We need to accommodate to the changing demographics to our nation. The quote, "Today's learners are tomorrow's leaders" makes it clear that everyone, despite color, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation, needs to understand their capacity. As stated in Manchester

University's mission statement, we believe and "Respect the infinite worth of every individual." Despite those words, I believe that Manchester is not sufficiently promoting its plethora of cultural diversity. "Michael Dixon is doing very well at promoting diversity and connecting with the intercultural students and I think the student clubs are doing a fabulous job promoting themselves," said Bri Leatherberry, senior. "As a whole, I don't think the students are promoting diversity well."

While we have events such as Taste of Africa, the International Fashion Show and plenty of clubs such as Manchester University International Association, Hispanos Unidos, Asian Awareness

Association, Black Student Union and African Students Association, I do not think enough students are involved. My concern also reflects Leatherberry's statement that these events will "Never be enough to understand the richness of someone's culture."

To involve the students more often, we can promote diversity through more VIAs pertaining to cultural differences. We can also promote it through writing, for example, posters or toilet talks are an entertaining and colorful way of disseminating information and ideas. Leatherberry suggested that the school create a monthly cultural food day or decorate the JYSC. By making a conscious effort to expose students to different cultures, Man-

chester could improve its stance on accepting and appreciating diversity.

As a university and community, we can find hope and power in our differences because they unite us to other cultures and global experiences. Stephen Covey, a highly influential business man, educator and rights activist, once said, "Strength lies in differences, not similarities." We have to take time to allow ourselves to experience new things, talk to different people and explore cultures in order to understand the functions of this world.

"America is founded on diversity," Leatherberry said. "We are a mosaic and we have to promote the thing that joins us together."



# SPARTAN SPORTS



Sophomore Adrian Johnson

## Men's Basketball Scores Season's First Win

**Destinee Boutwell**  
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team defeated Olivet 99-67 at home on Wednesday, Nov. 30, marking their first victory of the season. The team came out with the energy and determination to obtain a large lead and defend it until the final buzzer. Manchester positioned themselves with a 49-22 lead going into the first

half by aggressively attacking Olivet's zone defense.

The game had a large turnout, with many Spartans supporters filling the stands to cheer the men to victory. As the clock wound down to the final seconds of the game, the crowd seemed to hold its breath in anticipation to see if Manchester would score 100 points; however, when the buzzer went off signaling the end of the game, the red digital letters read 99.

Chatter and excitement

quickly resumed as the celebration of the Spartans' first victory this season began. "I was so happy to be a Spartan when we won," said Aireanna Parrish. "I know how hard the boys have been working, so I was really proud of them. Being in the audience was great because it felt awesome to be a part of a community that was as excited as I was."

Other students in the attendance came to the game to hang out with friends. "I came to support some of the guys from my SOL

group and my bestie Derrick," Taylor Gandy said. "I also love basketball, and wanted to do something fun with my friends, so it was a win, win, win situation."

After the game, students were talking about the many moments that left them on the edge of their seats. "When Tyler Alexander had his dunk and Adrian Johnson hit a 3-pointer under a lot of pressure and almost a foot back from the three point line, the crowd went wild," Gandy said. "I got chills be-

cause it was so exciting and fun to watch." These comments were echoed multiple times; Alexander's dunk and Johnson's 3-pointer were the highlights of the game.

The win was encouragement for both the team and its fans. "I felt that the win was what the boys needed," Gandy said. In addition, the audience has a renewed enthusiasm for watching the Spartans win. "I wish so happy they won, especially since it was their first win of the season," Parrish said.



Sophomore Faith-Alexis Graham focuses on shot

## Lady Spartans Ready for a Win

**Tanner Edge**  
Staff Writer

Although fans may be familiar with what the Lady Spartans do on the basketball court, they may not know the process the team follows to get ready for their games. One thing is certain, though - the Lady Spartans know how to prepare and hype each other up.

Beth Schaefer is a sophomore guard/forward from Fort Wayne, where she attended Carroll High School. Having one year of experience on the team leaves her with plenty of knowledge of what it is like to prepare for a college basketball game. "We usually have a shoot around in the afternoon, then

we go back to the locker room and listen to music to get pumped up for the game," Schaefer said. "My favorite thing about being on the team is getting to spend time with the girls and make memories."

Preparing for games and getting hyped is something the Lady Spartans look forward to each game day. "We also always sing the fight song as a team before the starting lineup is given and the National Anthem is sung," Schaefer said.

With a rocky 0-6 start to the season, the Manchester women's basketball team remains resilient to loss. Whether the girls are just hanging out, practicing, preparing for a game or playing a game, they are always making memories together. "We are all su-

per close and that's what makes the season so much fun," Schaefer said. Although the start of the season hasn't been so very memorable in terms of a winning scoreboard, Schaefer and the rest of the Lady Spartans have much more of the season to look forward to. With a strong team bond and the will to make each other better, they hope to bounce back with a conference run against Defiance, Mt. St. Joseph and Earlham Colleges.

Visit Manchester University's website for information such as game schedules, statistics, team standings and player bios.

The Lady Spartans' next home game will be against Mt. St. Joseph, at the Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Dec. 10.

## MU Cross Country Finds the Right Fit

**Alaina Lewis**  
Staff Writer

There are many different types of shoes to choose from in the world of cross country running, from metal spikes to rubber spikes. Depending on the course, one might even use track sprinting spikes.

"My favorite shoe for running is the Asics GT-2000 series," Connor Bresnahan said. "I have been using this model since my freshman year of high school. I like them because I haven't had any significant injuries while wearing them, so I've had no need to change."

"In addition to those, I have three different shoes for running," he continued. "I have a pair of Asics trainers that I wear for all of my recovery and long runs. I get a new pair of these every six to eight weeks, and I have a pair of Adidas racing flats. I wear these for my workouts. Also, I have a pair of Adidas spikes that I wear for races. My favorite non-running footwear would be Teva sandals."

Overall, the Manchester cross country team seemed to favor the

brand Brooks. Part of what makes Brooks so unique is that, unlike most cross county shoes, they are not unisex; they have specific men's and women's choices, meaning that sizing is more traditional. Additionally, they have a variety of sizes and widths, along with designs and spike size.

"My favorite shoe is Brooks Adrenaline," Blake Harris said. "I like them because they help me stay healthy. I currently own four pairs, but we go through them regularly. My competition shoe is Saucony Endorphin and my favorite non-running shoes are my Nike sandals; they are easy to slip on and comfortable"

Taylor Aeschliman had no problem identifying her favorites, either. "My favorite shoe is Brooks Glycerin; it's my favorite because at comfortable and high stability," she said. "I own five pairs of cross country shoes, and my special competition shoe is my pair of Brooks or New Balance spikes. My favorite footwear other than my running shoes are either my Birkenstocks, Converse or Sperry's."

