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Seniors Toast to Graduation



Shelby Harrell
Staff Writer

An aura of elegance and sentiment filled the room as approximately 400 members of the graduating class of 2017 entered the Upper Jo Young Switzer Center last Wednesday evening.

There they were presented with a wide array of hors d'oeuvres, ranging from spanakopita to shrimp cocktail, as they were encouraged to mix and mingle to celebrate the annual 101 Days Till Commencement.

Jennifer Shepherd, the director of Alumni Relations at Manchester University, spearheaded the event. Shepherd graduated from MU's class of 1984, after which she spent a number of years working as an educator before returning to Manchester in 2011. "The 101 Days Till Commencement is basically a celebration that the students' education is complete," Shepherd said. "It's a testament to the amount of hard work that they have put in."

Shepherd was not alone in her own hard work toward putting on the festivities. The event was a product of a collaboration between the Office of Alumni Relations and Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT), an MU organization comprised of students who wish to build on the relationships between the university and its alumni. Shepherd describes the purpose of the organization as a means of facilitating a network of communication between past Manchester graduates.

SEE 101 DAYS, PAGE 3

Young Artists Hit Stage This Weekend in Opera Workshop

Ciara Knisely
Staff Writer

Manchester's Opera Workshop, titled "Love: Sublime and Ridiculous," premieres tonight in Wine Recital Hall, featuring the operas "Tales of Hoffmann" by Jacques Offenbach and "Amelia Goes to the Ball" by Gian Carlo Menotti. Tonight's and Saturday night's shows are at 7:30, while the final performance on Sunday is at 3 p.m.

These classical French and Italian operas feature a comical and satirical modern twist—but don't worry: the show is entirely in English, and supertitles, or the cast's lines, will appear above the stage to help the audience understand and connect with each word. After all, this performance is equally a continuation of the Italian art of singing as it is an enjoyable, interactive experience with a storyline and, of course, outstanding vocals. The opera serves as a vessel to tell a story through song.

"There couldn't be anybody who wouldn't find something to be entertained by," says Dr. Debra Lynn, director of Choral Activities and Voice Study. To complement Valentine's Day, the performance's central theme is romance, though the audience will be laughing more than anything else.

This cast auditioned in October 2016, received their scripts before leaving for Winter Break, and studied, practiced and lived their parts throughout December, January and part of February for the performances this weekend.

As evidenced by rehearsal, members spent countless hours practicing, and the show tonight will reveal that talent. The piano, played by Dr. Pamela Haynes, will serve as the only music, and the cast will perform without microphones.

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"Tales of Hoffmann" cast, left to right: (Back) Laura Stepanovich, Michael Rueff, Hayley Cochran, Kevin Frierhood (Middle) Shannon Lee, Kenzie Hare, Sandy Geist Funk (Front) Courtney Douglas, Sierra Lehman



"Amelia Goes to the Ball" cast: (Back) Michael Rueff, Jeremy Williams, Matt Grothouse, Kevin Frierhood, Freddie LaPierre (Front) Daniel Baker, Grant Ebert, Emily Lynn, Clayton Marcum, Nolan McBride

Davis Shows MU Students True Bravery

Virginia Rendler
Staff Writer

How does a 10-year-old child, harassed and battered because of his race, go on to reeducate members of the Ku Klux Klan as an adult? Daryl Davis told his story at the 49th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance and Rededication Ceremony on Feb. 2 in Cordier Auditorium.

Davis was the only black member of his boy scout troop, and when people began throwing cans and bottles at him, he couldn't understand why. "Why are they hitting us?" he thought. "They must not like the boy scouts. There must be a reason." But as it turned out, they were just hitting him. He thought of every reason except his race.

His life's work is dedicated to understanding and fighting racism through civil communication and discussion with members of the Ku Klux Klan, such as Roger Kelly, who became the Imperial Wizard.

A Chicago native, Davis was raised by parents worked for the U.S. embassy and the family traveled across the world while Davis was young. He has been to six continents, and he said that this contributed to his lack of understanding about racism at an early age. He said that America was the first place he experienced discrimination in schools, as international schools were full of diversity.

Davis has influenced many members through civil conversations, to leave the Klan, even giving him their robes and masks after they left. He has not destroyed those robes because he wants to preserve this shameful part of American history in order to continue education. "The Ku Klux Klan is as American as baseball, apple pie and Chevrolet," Davis said. He said that he was just a jazz major, but if he could change people's minds



Daryl Davis speaks to a packed house in Cordier Auditorium. Davis presented for the annual Martin Luther King VIA.

just through peaceful conversation, anyone can, and society needs to: "Hate stems from fear of the unknown, but we have the tools to bring light to the unknown."

Davis's talk attracted professors, students and community members. Sydney Abbott, a first-year biochemistry major said that Davis struck her as incredibly brave. "A main takeaway that I had from this VIA was ignorance versus stupidity," Abbott said. "Davis says that members of the KKK are ignorant and it is our responsibility to educate these people, but if I were in his place, I'm not sure I would have the tolerance to do that." Abbott said she agreed with Davis that our ideology needs to catch up to our technology.

First-year education major Chelsea Glenn also thought it was compelling how Davis demonstrated tolerance for people that showed him none. "I think what stood out the most was just his in-

teraction with someone who's supposed to hate him," Glenn said. "I think he was a perfect speaker to have on campus to remember MLK. I went to Atlanta for my Jan term and I learned about Dr. King and about how he wanted to peacefully protest, and that's kind of what Davis did, he peacefully interacted with the KKK."

"My favorite part was showing the CNN interview and that actually did happen, him showing the KKK robes and him playing the piano, because it showed everything he was telling."

Many students seemed surprised by how compelling Davis's message was. First-year English major Destinee Boutwell said she was skeptical about the talk, but was glad she ended up going, because Davis's message was so powerful. "His relationship with the leader of the KKK was so ironic and unlikely that it spoke volumes about how alike we are even if we

think we are different," Boutwell said. "It just showed how ridiculous the social barriers we create are. We are raised with prejudice, some not as dramatic as the Klan, but we want to hold on them because they are comfortable and that's what we know."

Students also said they left the VIA with a new perspective on how they interact with people with differing opinions. "My favorite part of the VIA was when he stood before us, surrounded by proof that even the deepest rooted prejudices and hate can be changed with a conversation," Boutwell said. "He held the white hood of his friend, a former member of the KKK, and said that change happens when two people can sit down and just talk to each other, and more importantly, listen. We try to preach to each other and all that does is offend those we are talking to."

Manchester Marches On Washington

Kelleen Cullison
Staff Writer

Over 1 million people flocked to the Women's March on Washington, D.C., on Jan. 21. Among them were Manchester students, faculty, staff and members of the surrounding community concerned about the future of women's—and human—rights in the United States.

The sheer number of protesters—four times the estimated number of attendees, according to the march website—backed up the designated route, causing marchers to spill out onto the streets surrounding the National Mall, blocking traffic and interrupting businesses. “The best moment was seeing the streets flooded with people,” said Jesse Langdon, first-year.

Fellow first-year McKenzie Weadick spoke with equal awe of the crowd. “There was a moment when my group was going uphill on a street, and we looked back and to our sides and just saw thousands and thousands of people” Weadick said. “It was a great thing to actually see all these people with their signs, with their children, with their voices being heard.”

Many marchers wore their hand-

knit “Pussy Hats,” in various shades of pink, which became a visual symbol of the march. The easy-to-make knit cap squared off at the top, creating cat ears when worn. Carissa Arnett, senior, called the hats “cute and accessible.”

Caraline Fearheller, president of Manchester's Feminist Student Union, however, calls attention to a counterpoint. “The hats are a good unifying tool,” she said, “but the idea behind it may not be inclusive to everyone who identifies as female, like people who identify with trans feminism.”

Although it was named “The Women's March on Washington,” the march became an outlet for people in support of innumerable causes. Students from Manchester each had their personal reasons for marching, whether it was for women's rights or the rights of minority groups and immigrants.

The march was stuffed to the brim with various signs indicating the participants' outrage. “My favorite sign read, ‘No Human Being Is Illegal,’” Langdon said.

Counter-protesters also made their presence known over loudspeakers. For at least one marcher, however, those individuals enhanced the experience. “Katy



Activists march in front of the Capitol Building on Jan. 21. Over 1 million men and women flooded the streets of Washington D.C., and many wore “Pussy Hats,” the knit caps shown in the photo. Photo Credit: Elizabeth McKenney.

(Professor Gray Brown) started chanting at religious counter-protesters, ‘People united will never be defeated,’ and we all followed,” Arnett said with a grin.

The march has pushed women's fight for equality into the spotlight, and also renewed the debate over who's included. “I found in the week just after the march that people were starting to fight against each other in the women community, which I was disappointed by,” said Manchester professor Stacy Erickson-Pesetski. “There were a lot

of people saying, ‘Well it was just for white women’ or someone said that I couldn't speak for women's rights because I'm an educated white lady. My response to that is, everybody speaks for themselves, but they also speak for women who aren't able to be there. I've done prison work so I'm there marching for all the women in prison, too.”

While the Women's March coordinators have moved on to Action 2 in their plan for 10 Actions in the first 100 Days, MU students look even further into the

future. “My biggest concern now is are all these people that were at the march going to continue to fight?” Weadick asks. “Will we see them in the voting booths in the next four years? Will I see them continuing to make themselves and their opinions known?”

Others look towards a positive change. “There's a time for anger, and I think we can all move beyond that,” says Erickson-Pesetski of the anti-Trump implications of the march. “For me the march was more about human rights.”



A protestor holds up a sign designed by Shepard Fairey, who also designed the iconic Obama “Hope” image. Photo Credit: Elizabeth McKenney


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“Amelia Goes to the Ball” cast members: Grant Ebert, Clayton Marcum, Emily Lynn

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Because of that, the cast had to perfect the ability to project their voices.

“A play is hard, but an opera is actually harder because you're singing everything,” says Lynn, who has directed the Opera Workshop for 19 years.

The cast must also focus on remembering the choreography involved in each scene. “Some of the struggles I have faced are the amount of physical movement combined with the singing and getting my notes correct,” said Courtney Douglas, first-year biology-chemistry major.

Contrary to the caricatured perception of opera as screaming medieval women in helmets, the Opera Workshop combines this classical art with a more mainstream interpretation, including hipsters, sassy maids and a gorilla costume.

Junior vocal performance major Clayton Marcum hopes the

performance will encourage others to change their assumptions about opera. “A stigma needs to be dropped, and this is a good way to realize that,” said Marcum, a pencil artfully stuck behind his ear (which is a common thing to observe at any of the cast's energetic rehearsals or meetings). For Marcum, the opera is more than just a show, but also an educational experience.

Mykayla Neilson, a senior music education major, agrees. According to Neilson, the opera involves stepping out of one's comfort zone, but also eliminating preconceived notions about the classical form of theatre.

Lynn hopes this show will break down any stereotypes toward what opera means and who can participate. Indeed, the journey to success for this show turned into much more than just a performance.

For Marcum, who has participated in the Theatre and Music Department performances since his first year at Manchester, the immense feeling of triumph is

far worth the hard work after seeing the results.

Neilson agrees. “There's such an atmosphere of family during rehearsals,” she said, and that feeling of closeness is definitely reflected in their chemistry on stage.

In another twist on traditional theatre, Lynn chose the pieces to perform after seeing auditions. She did this in order to find pieces that fit well with each cast member's abilities, as the program accepts everyone from students and faculty to community members. Because of the diverse range of vocals in this year's cast, Lynn selected the first act from “Tales of Hoffman,” composed in the nineteenth century, and the one-act opera “Amelia Goes to the Ball” from the mid-1900s, as a means of showcasing the cast's talent.

The Opera Workshop is a January Session class that continues into the middle of February, and the 0.5 credit-hour course is open to the public. Each performance will be around 90 minutes.

Trump's Ban on Travel: How does it affect 'US'?

Maddie Jo Shultz
Staff Writer

On January 27, 2017, President Trump released an executive order temporarily banning travel to the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries: three in Africa and four in the Middle East. Section 1 of the executive order explains that the ban's purpose is to prevent another attack like 9/11 and to stop would-be terrorists from entering the country. The order bans travel from countries whose Muslim population is not necessarily radicalized—a fact that has not only sparked controversy in the

world of politics, but has struck up many heated conversations among college students.

For most of the student population on campus, the ban is more of a topic for discussion than a personal dilemma. Opinions vary among students, though Trump's initial insistence on a "Muslim ban," which evolved into a travel ban specifically targeting Muslim-majority countries, has been deemed discriminatory by some who have discussed the issue.

A sophomore business major commented that this travel ban will not necessarily prevent terrorists from entering the United States, especially considering the

fact that travelers from 38 countries in the European Union do not require visas to come into this country. Alternatively, a first-year Political Science student says that the travel ban should help to prevent those with terrorist ties from entering the country; however, he notes that Mr. Trump should hold true to his word when he says that the issuance of new visas for travelers should take no more than 90 days.

The Dept. of Homeland Security reports that nearly 24,000 men and women from the seven banned countries hold student visas in the United States. At Manchester, the ban has an indirect ef-

fect on some students' decisions to further their education in America. Directly, the university is not impacted by the ban in any immediate way; however, MU President Dave McFadden explains that international students no longer want to enter a hostile climate. The university does have a prospective student coming from Iraq, and the ban will not affect this individual's journey. He notes that Manchester will continue to welcome diversity and will recruit students and hire faculty from all over the world.

As an institution and from an administrative standpoint, Manchester University has not issued an official statement in

response to the ban. McFadden encourages differences of opinion on the matter, and he attributes much of the cultural conflict to a stereotype driven by the current set of political issues. "My biggest concern is that this has a chilling effect on the campus climate," he says. "It drives us to focus negatively on differences between people instead of finding the things that connect us. How does this conversation lead our students to knowing what they are passionate about?"

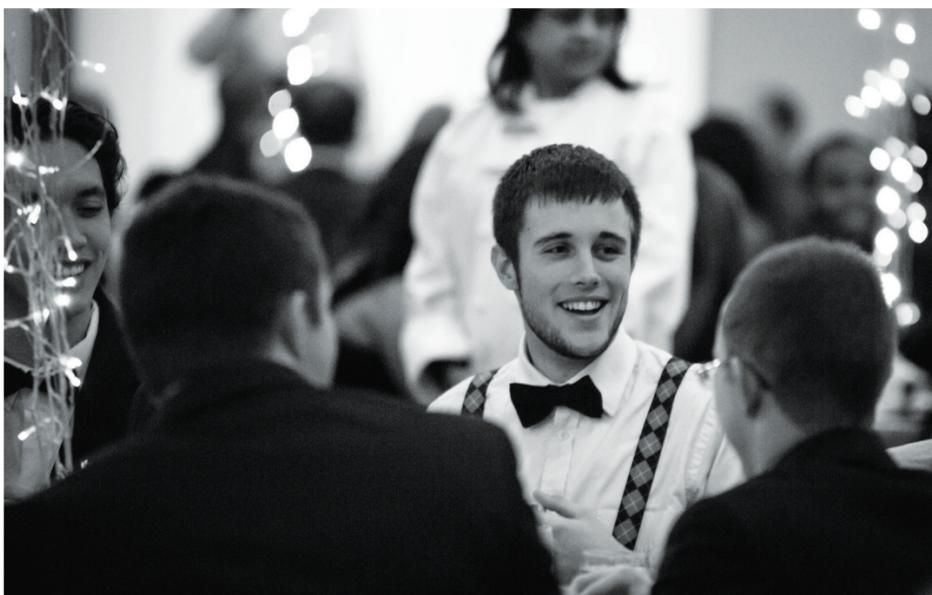
President McFadden wants to remind everyone that Manchester University is an inclusive institution that welcomes and invites people from a wide variety of backgrounds, regardless of homeland and faith.

101 DAYS FROM PAGE 1

"Throughout their lives and careers alumni are always eager to return," Shepherd said. "We are all connected."

After completing dinner, students looked toward their futures when they were introduced to the alumni speakers. Laine Mello, a graduate of the class of 2012, told the class that life is not always going to cater to their plans, but they should remain determined and not give up. Mello graduated with a major in marketing and a minor in art. In addition, she has just begun to pursue her master's in communications at Purdue University.

Mello's former classmate, Ben Tapper, then delivered his speech. Tapper reflected on his four-year journey at Manchester and offered the seniors insight on life after graduation. "It's all about finding your 'why' in life," Tapper said. "What is your purpose?" Tapper then left each member of the senior class with one final thought, encouraging them to find out what their passion is, and to spend their lives pursuing it.



Students Study Religion & Mathematics in 9 Countries

Destinee Boutwell
Staff Writer

Although math and religion may seem like unusual traveling companions, students and professors from those courses took a successful trip to Europe over January Session. They stopped in Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy, all of which adds up to a memorable educational journey.

During the trip, Professor Justin Lasser taught his Religious Classics class, and Professor Tim Brauch offered his Math in Culture. Lasser and his students toured different religious centers and other cultural highlights in each city to learn about the history. Senior Tianna Maclin was enthusiastic about her experience. "We toured castles, monuments, museums and took in the breathtaking scenery," she said. "My favorite part of the trip was seeing structures that were built when they thought the world was flat and not much else existed. Many of the buildings have seen fires, war and protest."

The course material was presented by tour guides and audiobooks, while class discussions were held in the evening. "Students didn't expect to have class, but they got it, even after a long day," Lasser said with amusement.

Brauch and his students toured Europe to learn about how math has influenced the culture of many of the countries. They learned about the difference between two eras in eastern European history: the Austria-Hungary era and the reign of the Soviet Union. "Before World War II the Austria-Hungarian empire was a world leader in mathematics, but after World War II, many of the countries fell under the influence of the Soviet Union," Brauch explained. "The Soviet Union considered mathematicians their enemies of the state and were executing them. This was a huge culture shock: Suddenly these countries went from 150 years of seeing math as an essential part of their culture to math being the enemy."

"Something new for me was seeing the difference between countries that had been under soviet control and countries that hadn't," Brauch continued. "Those

that hadn't, like Hungary, had beautiful architecture that was complex and reflected the skills of the mathematicians that thrived there. On the other side of that, the countries that were under Soviet control had very square and basic architecture because the presence of math wasn't there."

Sophomore Emily Savage enjoyed the link between math and travel. "I learned that every country places a different importance on different subjects, and it was interesting to see which countries placed a high value on mathematics," she said.

While the trip was for a college class, the time spent overseas wasn't all studying and learning. There were times when students were allowed to roam the cities to shop and visit sites and museums of their choice. "I stood in the spot in Sarajevo that started WWI with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand," Maclin said. "It is hard to choose my favorite place because the whole trip was absolutely amazing. I loved Croatia for the views, Bosnia for the history, Slovenia for the best time with friends and Italy because it has always been a childhood dream for me to go there."

Math student Nick Johnston appreciated the variety. "All of the different countries had unique identities and histories," he said. "I really enjoyed the ancient ruins in Rome."

Lasser was surprised and excited that Italy was not the only place that students loved. "Many people think that Italy is a must-see, but they don't realize that there are other countries that are just as beautiful and special," he said.

In fact, many students had seemingly obscure favorite locations. "My favorite part of the trip was when we visited Ljubljana," Savage said. "It was amazing and Lake Bled was the most beautiful, scenic place that I have ever been. It was picturesque and magical."

Brauch encourages all students to consider studying abroad or taking a January class overseas. "January Sessions seem expensive, but actually, they are a lot cheaper than if you were trying to do this on your own. The reality is you aren't going to have many chances in your life to take three weeks and go somewhere, to be able to afford that or take time away from your job, or time away from your family. You just might

not have that opportunity after you get out of college."

Lasser also expressed the value of studying abroad. "I think I as a student learned more in one semester traveling than I did in my whole college career," he said. "It's not that I had bad teachers, but there is something about emersion and it also gives a sense of humility, and an acknowledgement that some people do things better than we do and that cultures express what it means to be human in our search to be human."

It was not just a popular opinion with the professors either. "I would definitely recommend a Jan-term trip for students because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity and is was amazing to experience so many new cultures from around the world," Savage said.

Tianna Maclin recommended that students do not wait until it is too late. "I wish I hadn't waited until my senior year to go," she said. "It was fantastic. You never know what adventures and stories you are missing until you experience it. You never truly understand the world unless you interact with it. Fortunately for me, I know that this is not the end of my travels."



SPARTAN SPORTS



Senior Tyler Alexander reaches for a lay-up.

Spartans Hold on to Post-Season Hope

Tanner Edge
Staff Writer

Manchester University's men's basketball team has ridden a rocky path their whole season. A power-loaded conference mixed in with other non-conference match-ups has left the Spartans with a 7-16

record. Of the ten teams in the HCAC, Manchester ranks tied for sixth with Bluffton.

While battling for sixth place doesn't seem like much, it is when a chance to play in the post-season is still up in the air. The top six teams in the conference are eligible to make it into the play-offs. Manchester is faced with Defiance this coming week, who is ranked

one spot ahead of both Manchester and Bluffton. "A loss to Defiance is out of the question," said shooting guard Evan Romie. "Good defensive possessions can lead to a nice string of offensive possessions as we get down to the last games of the regular season. We need to ball out and win the rest of our games to secure a spot in the post-season."

For good reason, the

Spartans must be ready to go against Defiance and Transylvania, the last couple of games. Romie, who is the Spartans' defensive leader, will be looking forward to shutting his opponent down to the best of his ability. In addition, Tyler Alexander, a key scorer with an average of 18.1 points per game, will also be looking to put the ball in the hoop during the final push.

Most importantly, it will take the whole team to work collectively to win these games. "It's more than a one- or two-man sport; it takes everyone on the court to win," Romie said. "Teamwork makes the dream work."

On Saturday they play against Transylvania as they attempt to earn a conference berth.

First-Year Wrestler Reflects on Season, Goals

Jensen Lassiter
Staff Writer

Executing pin after pin helped Manchester's wrestling team finish 8th at the 2017 MidStates Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 11. First-year Andrew Brock reflected on personal and team goals for the rest of the season.

"If I said the team goal was to win, I would be selling us short. The goal is for us to be among the best and put as many as possible in the national championship," Brock said in an email.

In order to prepare for a title, the wrestlers have to put in a lot of time and dedication. "The team has been good this year," Brock said. "I don't think all of us are where we want to be, but I think we have all improved and stepped up when needed."

Personal improvement is also a factor that contributes to the team's success. "Personally, I would have liked to win a few more matches, but that's the past, so it's time to focus on what's [ahead], not behind," Brock said. "I think my personal best experience was the Spartan Classic -- my only time to wrestle in front of my school."

Transitioning from high school wrestling into Division III in college is no easy task. "The difference between high school wrestling [and] college wrestling is huge," Brock said. "High school wrestling at least gives you a base though to work with in college."

Manchester University wrestling takes a break from competitive action until next weekend in order to prepare for the upcoming 2017 NCAA Division III Midwest Regionals. Regionals begin Friday, Feb. 24, and conclude Saturday, Feb. 25.



Pin It to Win It? First-year Jordan Napier goes to the mat.



Sophomore Raekwon Gathright sizes up his opponent.