

FEATURES

SPARTAN SPORTS

Donor Provides Guardian Caps for Football Team



AROUND CAMPUS

Saunders to Teach 'Stories of the Past'



Page 2

Emotional Support Animals Benefit Students on Campus

Teresa Masteller  
Staff Writer

Manchester University's residence halls could be fast becoming a modern-day Animal House. Some students at Manchester benefit from live-in emotional support animals as they take on the everyday struggles of university life.

Mia Miller, academic coach and disability support coordinator at Manchester University, says that an emotional support animal, commonly referred to as an ESA, is "an animal that has been determined to offer an emotional support service to a person with a disability."

ESAs are very different from service animals. Service animals are trained to perform certain tasks: they might open doors, or pick up certain items for their owner. ESAs do not receive any kind of specialized training. "They're very different in their scope of skills," Miller said.

Service animals fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), while ESAs fall under the Fair Housing Act (FHA). Under the FHA, a person with a disability cannot be turned away from a place of residency with their ESA. In addition, a person with a service animal can have that animal accompany them anywhere they go, but ESAs are only permitted to be in the owner's dwelling.

Not just any student can get an emotional support animal. "Any person who has a diagnosed disability is eligible if they have a third party, a physician or psychiatrist, that recommends that an ESA would be beneficial for that person's emotional mental health," Miller said. "The third party writes a recommendation for an ESA and provides why it would be helpful."

The third party also needs to fill out the required paperwork and present the other supports that the student has used to help manage their diagnosis; an ESA is usually not the first method of assistance. After all the required paperwork is turned in, a committee then reviews the request.

Harley Ramsey, soph-

## Fawbush Leaves Behind Legacy of Leadership

Kylie Kroger  
Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 22, after most faculty and staff had left for the day, Shanon Fawbush was still working. The director of Student Activities and Orientation had the annual faculty/staff vs. students softball game to supervise and then it was on to another MAC event, her trademark blond curls bouncing as she cheerfully left the dugout with her student employees.

It looked like another night at the office, with little to indicate that this was, after over 11 years, Fawbush's last day at MU.

Fawbush has been a leader and mentor to students on campus for years as director of Student Orientation and her hands-on involvement with activities on campus such as Manchester Activities Council (MAC), Student Senate and countless other clubs. "I remember being so scared coming to Manchester my first year," said Tate Wooding, Student Senate president. "I was so comforted when I actually came to Manchester, because my SOLs [Student Orientation Leaders] were so welcoming. It was great to be on the other side this year. Shanon does such a great job in organizing the whole week."

Fawbush graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor's in psychology and a Master's in guidance and counseling. After getting a chance to work with young adults, she knew she had found her niche. "It was, and continues to be, very important to me to have the opportunity to men-



Photo courtesy of MU Marketing Department

Shanon Fawbush, director of Student Activities and Orientation and advisor for several on-campus clubs and organizations, leaves behind a legacy at Manchester.

tor, teach, lead, shape and care for our youth," Fawbush said.

Without a shred of doubt, Fawbush believes the students she has gotten a chance to work with over the years have been what made her time at Manchester so extraordinary. "I would like to think that I have taught them a lot, but the reality is that they have taught me and given me so much more than I could ever give to them," she said.

In addition to being a dedicated leader in the Manchester community, Fawbush has acted as a mentor to many of the students she has worked with throughout the

years. "Shanon has honestly been like a second mother to me at Manchester," said junior Storm Shortt. "I have a strong feeling that hundreds of other students can attest to feeling the same way I do. She was always there to not only give advice, but to listen to any problem that you had. She always found time to help, regardless of how busy she was."

And Fawbush is appreciative of her students and their ability to serve the Manchester community. "The members of MAC sacrifice so much of their time, and their weekends, so that their peers can

have a good time," she said. "That has always touched my heart deeply."

Indeed, current students recognize that someone like Fawbush is a rare find, and her absence on campus will be evident. "She left a legacy at Manchester," said senior Riley McCrea. "Shanon Fawbush is Manchester University and she always be."

Sophomore MiKayla Duzan agreed. "I'm going to miss everything about Shanon, but especially her smile and heart," she said. "She was always there to greet me

SEE FAWBUSH, PAGE 2

## Walk into My Future Event Educates Children about College

Evan Harris  
Staff Writer

A storm of elementary school students made landfall on Friday, Sept. 22, when about 2,500 children from 15 nearby schools descended on campus in a sea of vibrant-colored shirts for the annual Walk into My Future event.

Walk into My Future, which began in 2013, was designed to excite elementary school students about college in general and make them aware of the various opportunities that Manchester in particular has to offer.

Although the heat on Friday could be compared to an oven set on broil and forced people to run for shade and water, the children weren't discouraged from enjoying themselves. The atmosphere was filled with joyous screams, laughter, fun and sack lunches.

Alexis Young, director of conference services, shared her favorite moments of the event. "I loved seeing how excited the children were, as well as receiving positive messages (feedback) from the teachers," she said. "I also loved seeing the Manchester community come together for this event."

Yet all events have organizational challenges behind the scenes. "The main problem is that we always struggle to get enough volunteers for the event," Young said.

Young believes the event will inspire the young students. "I think the elementary students will begin thinking about the many different opportunities that they can have in college, and beyond college." Young also thinks the event inspired the visiting teachers. "The teachers can definitely learn from this experience, and can use it to create real-world applications for their students," she said.

Based on the turnout at this year's event, which was 500 students more than in 2016, Young has an optimistic outlook for next year's event. "We really want more Manchester students to be excited about volunteering for events like this," she said.

Chris Sloan, director of



Photo by Sarah Shoemaker

Children from Harrison Elementary School surround Manny the mascot during Walk into My Future on Friday, Sept. 22. Over 2,500 young students joined the North Manchester campus for the annual events while Manchester students ensured that the children enjoyed their experience.

community engagement for the Wabash County YMCA, had only one suggestion. "I wish for cooler weather next year," he said with a chuckle. "Even though it was hot, the event went really well and we received a lot of positive feedback from the visiting teachers."



Photo by Sarah Shoemaker

Sophomore Katelyn Boyle hands a young Wabash student a tennis ball as the children line up for a game during the event. The entire day was blistering hot, but that didn't seem to deter any children from having fun while repping Manchester in their matching shirts.



## Saunders to Teach 'Stories of the Past'



Photo courtesy of the Marketing Department

Dr. Tara Saunders, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, joined the community as a faculty member this semester and specializes in American history.

### Kaity Collins Staff Writer

Dr. Tara Saunders is the newest addition to Manchester University's Department of History. Chosen for the position at Manchester over two other candidates, Tara Saunders is an expert in American history. "She's coming in with lots of experience," said Mark Angelos, professor of history. "It's extraordinary."

Saunders' interest for history started in high school with her history class. She loved the "storytelling" her teacher used as the method for teaching her material. Saunders was inspired by "the stories of the past" and decided she would "teach about being curious about the world and the stories of the past," just as her teacher had done for her.

This new visiting assistant professor received her BA in history and comparative literature from Pennsylvania State University. She also earned both her MA and PhD in history from Indiana University.

Saunders says she loves teaching and hopes to get the chance to meet everyone on campus. "I appreciate the chance to get to know people," she said.

She also admires the university's commitment to peace studies. She looks forward to getting to know her students personally and hopes to get involved with some clubs around campus, especially those centered around crochet and crafts. "I really like the relationship between teacher and student," Saunders said. "I'm excited for the chance to get to know my students as people."

Saunders recently moved to Kokomo with her husband, but also has an apartment in North Manchester to be closer to campus when necessary. She expressed her joy to be a part of Manchester and getting the opportunity to meet all the students and faculty on and off campus. "She loves teaching and is enthusiastic," Angelos said.

Before coming to Manchester, Saunders worked as a visiting assistant professor at Valparaiso University in 2016-2017.

**FAWBUSH, FROM PAGE 1** with a smile anytime I saw her, and oftentimes had a kind compliment to go with it. I will miss having her here to brighten everyone's day."

Senior Tyler Gipson also forged a close bond with Fawbush. "Goodbyes are always the hardest," he said. "Shanon Fawbush is one of my biggest role models. She would put students and the university before herself many times. She would stay late on campus for MAC and Student Senate meetings during the week. Give up her weekends to be at the MAC events. One of the most selfless people I know. The first time I met Shanon was during my SOL interview. I knew from then on I Shanon would have a huge impact on me and my experience at Manchester. Shanon helped me break out of my shell at Manchester. She gave me several opportunities to step up and express myself. I'm not sure what I would do if I never met Shanon. Shanon deserves the world and I'm so excited for what she does next!"

When alums heard of Fawbush's departure, they were quick to share their fond memories of her.

"I remember the first time I met her I was so nervous because I found out she had watched the web show Jeremiah Sanders and I put on YouTube," said Joseph Myers, '14. "Sam Alley said her boss watched the show and wanted to meet us and all we could think was 'Oh shoot; we made her mad.' Once we met Shanon though, we made it a point to go to the SAC and visit her on the daily. Her laugh is infectious, her spirit is pure gold, and her compassion for students, her son, and her work is not easily found in others."

Miro Arguijo '14 said: "I could not have imagined that my

decision to attend MU would be paired with finding someone who would push me, and believe in me more than I did myself. Not only has Shanon become my mentor, boss, and confidant—she has also become a life-long friend."

Hannah Schutter '15 recalls how Fawbush dispelled her nerves on her first day of SOL training. "The minute Shanon began to speak to us all, something clicked within me," she said. "She was personable but professional. She was charismatic and made everyone feel cared for and appreciated. She was passionate about her job, and her positive energy rubbed off on everyone. She created an atmosphere in which everyone could be themselves and everyone would become friends."

"As I sit here in my new office (I recently became the director of Student Life at a private school right outside of Chicago)," Schutter continued, "I realize I would not be where I am had I not met Shanon. Not only is she in tons of my cherished college memories but she is the reason I am in the career field I am in. I am beyond lucky to have gotten to work alongside her at Manchester. She made my college experience an exceptional one, and I feel sad for the students who won't get to witness her greatness."

Kyle Konarski '13 credits Fawbush for getting him to participate in the community. "She brought me into the SAC and made it my home away from home," he said. "If it hadn't been for her, I doubt I would've gotten as involved in campus life as I did. This would've completely changed my four years there, and who knows, I might not have stayed."

"I'm not sure she was aware of it but by me calling her

'Momma' she became a second mom to me," Konarski continued. "She took care of me when I needed it, she straightened me out when I made the wrong choice, and she listened when I just needed an ear."

Mandy Toney '15 agreed. "Not only did Shanon inspire a deep-shared vision for creating a Welcome Week that leaves no student scared, lonely or lost, but she taught us how to respect one another, communicate effectively and to respect the sacred connection that all SOLs develop as ambassadors for Manchester," she said.

"Shanon taught us that to be on time was to be late, and 15 minutes early is always the right call," Toney continued. "She taught us to have unconditional compassion and love for others, patience, and how to seek enjoyment in others and circumstances."

Toney added: "We all call her Momma, though I don't think she ever could fathom how for so many of us that she truly played that role in our lives. She doted. She cared. She hugged. She reassured."

Despite the loss of Fawbush's presence on campus, members of the activities council and other organizations she has overseen through the years are determined to keep the legacy she has left alive. "Whether she knows it or not, she helped me become a more caring and hardworking individual by being a great leader and role model," Shortt said.

Fawbush departs with saying the students are what have made her time on campus so worthwhile. "What I will miss most about Manchester is the students—the ones that I have developed strong relationships with and the ones I had yet to develop," she said. "It has been an amazing ride!"



Photo by Sarah Shoemaker

The annual Walk into My Future event encourages elementary students to think about college. Several university students served as volunteers throughout the day.

## Skendaj Begins Role as First Gladdys Muir Professor of Peace Studies at Manchester

### Avis McGovern Staff Writer

Dr. Elton Skendaj joined Manchester faculty this fall as the Gladdys E. Muir associate professor of peace studies. Skendaj earned his bachelor's in political science and international relations from the American University in Bulgaria, and his master's in peace studies from the University of Notre Dame. He received his PhD in government from Cornell University.

He most recently taught at the University of Miami where he served as a lecturer. Here, he will teach a conflict resolution class with a textbook that can be used for advanced undergraduates or graduate students. He encourages his students to follow a collaborative approach, which he calls "write, pair, and share." Students write about a topic on their own, share their ideas with a classmate, and then with the entire class. Skendaj explains that this technique enables students to reflect on their ideas and helps them practice public speaking.

Skendaj also incorporates a Socratic method into his classes. He asks questions of his students, so that they can wrestle with the concepts and locate a satisfying answer together. He notes that this technique helps students apply the lessons and implement them into their lives. "I believe if they work together, they can actually achieve it," he said.

Coming to Indiana from Miami, Skendaj had to adapt to life on a small campus. He considers Manchester to be a more "intimate" setting, and enjoys how the campus is community centered and allows students to be involved in a variety of areas.

Skendaj resides in the

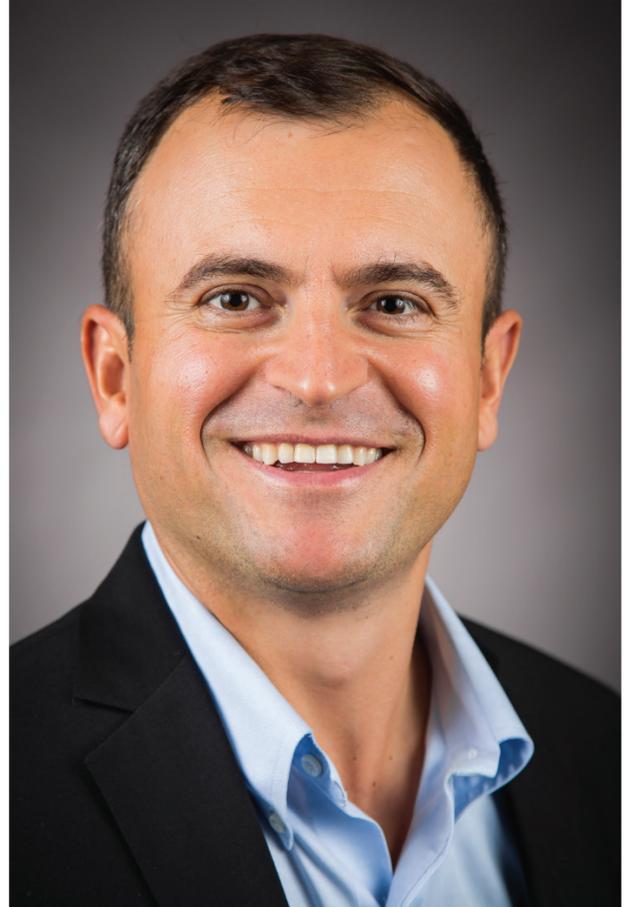


Photo courtesy of the Marketing Department

Dr. Elton Skendaj, the first Gladdys Muir Associate Professor of Peace Studies, will teach courses on conflict resolution and peace studies.

newly built office in the second-floor peace studies area of the Academic Center. His office was once part of the Peace Studies Lounge, which was divided into two individual offices this summer. Skendaj is married to Meg Gardinier, who teaches international and intercultural education at the master's level at Florida International

University. This year her courses are online. They have two sons: Dylan, 10; and Luca, 7. Skendaj enjoys taking them to the Aquatics Center to swim and get a good workout. He also loves to take his family to the beach and lake.

This winter and spring he will teach an introduction to peace studies class.



# Oak Leaves

Published by the students of Manchester University on Fridays during fall and spring semesters

**Editors-in-Chief**  
Carly Kwiecien and Ciara Knisely

**Photographer**  
Kali Quackenbush, Sarah Shoemaker

**Web Editor**  
Karen Kanyike

**Faculty Advisor**  
Dr. Katharine Ings

**Staff Writers**  
Mackenzie Powell, Lexy Underhill, Victoria Heishman, Teresa Masteller, Sha'Kera King, Cleopatra Castanias, Kaity Collins, Evan Harris, Kylie Kroger, Wayne Smith, Avis McGovern

**Delivery Manager**  
Claire Mumma

The *Oak Leaves* is distributed free on campus to Manchester University students, faculty and staff.

The *Oak Leaves* accepts paid advertising. To receive a rate card or to inquire about advertising, please email us at oakleaves@manchester.edu.

To contact the editors:  
oakleaves@manchester.edu

Printed by the *Columbia City Post and Mail*

**PETS, FROM PAGE 1**

omore English education major, is the owner of an emotional support cat named SnowBelle, often referred to as 'Snowie,' whom she rescued from a kill shelter. "I got her back in 2015 as an early Christmas present from my mom," Ramsey said, "and she's been the best present I've ever received! She's about two or three years old and my pride and joy. She always knows when I'm feeling down."

Emily Centofanti, senior biology-chemistry major, says she discovered ESAs by accident. "My friends and I were talking about how great it would be if we could bring our cats to campus," she said. "This led to me thinking about what I had read before about how having something to take care of was good for depression and anxiety. This spurred me to look into the ESA and service animal policies at Manchester. I saw the potential it had to help my mental health. My anxiety and depression can take dives at random times and animals in general had always been a point of happiness for me."

Centofanti met her ESA in October of last year. She has a cat off campus back home, but she says, "he is too old and wouldn't handle the transition well." Even before her ESA request was approved, she began visiting shelter after shelter to find the perfect kitten for her situation.

After her request was approved, Centofanti and two of her friends set out to visit Fulton County Animal Shelter, where Centofanti finally found her perfect ESA. The kitten, whom she quickly renamed Dexter, calmly crawled into the arms of her and her friends. He was a tolerant and calm kitten, which is exactly what Centofanti was yearning for.

After learning that Dexter had been abandoned in a box with his siblings in the industrial district by the shelter, Centofanti couldn't shake him from her mind. She rescued him that same day. "Dexter is goofy, weird, needy, and has a couple of screws missing, but I couldn't have asked for a better buddy," she said.

Dexter is now 14 months old. "He helps me by giving me something to focus on and take care of," Centofanti said. "Even when things seem to be spiraling out of control, I always have the constant that he needs food and water, and that's stabilizing."

Ramsey agrees. "It teaches you more responsibility on how to take care of something other than yourself," she said.

Both Ramsey and Centofanti have found challenges in living in the residence halls with their ESAs. "Snowie is a special case because she came from an environment where she had other cat friends to play and socialize with, whereas here she doesn't," Ramsey said. "It took about a full two weeks before she was finally adjusted."

Dexter also had problems adjusting. Although he and Centofanti are staying in the same room in East Hall that they did last school year, Dexter also went through a two-week adjustment period where he would meow loudly at random times of the night.

There are many things to think about before committing to having an animal in the residence halls. "Besides typical things like him knocking items over, I am always concerned with the animal odor in the small space," said Centofanti, who manages the odor with frequent litter-box changes and three air fresheners scattered around the room. "But on a larger scale, fire drills have become more complicated and I worry about what would happen if I weren't there."

"The campus-wide power outage last year," she continued, "was also further complicated with having an animal and having to find us a temporary room."



Photo courtesy of Harley Ramsey  
Harley Ramsey's ESA, SnowBelle, enjoys her home with Ramsey in the residence hall.

Dexter's many health issues were also something that Centofanti didn't expect. "There are the added stresses of making sure he is well taken care of despite my hectic schedule and being out of the room often as a science major," she said. "You don't really consider things like the pet's health being such an important factor until it leads to you cleaning your entire dorm room floor-to-ceiling with bleach."

Even with all his health issues, Centofanti says Dexter makes university life easier for her. "Mental health isn't something that is taken seriously even though it should be, and that's what Dexter helps with, even though a lot of people might not get it," she said.

Ramsey encourages students to consider their own situations. "If you're reading this and thinking that you might fit the criteria to have an ESA, do not hesitate to contact Mia Miller about seeing if you are eligible!" she urges. Miller can be contacted at MLMiller02@manchester.edu.

Both Dexter and SnowBelle declined to comment.



Photo courtesy of Kali Quackenbush

Dr. Andrew Rich and sophomore students paddle down the Eel River on Sunday, Sept. 17. The Alumni Office hopes to continue this event for many generations of students to come.

## Alumni Office Hosts Second Annual Sophomore KenapocoFloat down Eel River

Wayne Smith  
Staff Writer

The Eel River recently contained more than fish... That's because the Manchester Alumni Office hosted its second-annual KenapocoFloat for sophomores on Sunday, Sept. 17, which invited students to float down the Eel River from Liberty Mills toward the North Manchester campus. Students shared their boats with faculty members, who shared facts about the university.

The weather was fantastic for the event, as there was not a cloud in the sky on that Sunday afternoon. The event drew a crowd of some 60 participants, which is slightly more than last year's attendance.

Melissa West, assistant director of Alumni Relations, hopes this sophomore event will become a tradition. "These events are very important to the alumni office as we try to create memories with Manchester students and create a positive impact with the school and alumni office," she said.

West characterized this and other events—such as the First-Year 101 Days on campus to the Senior 101 Days to Graduation—as "Stair Steps." The student events gradually grow in magnitude as they progress through the university, with the Senior 101 Days ceremony being the largest event of the year.

The events hosted by the alumni offices are unique, as they enable students to explore parts of Manchester University that most have never seen, and consequently understand how Manchester has affected different things outside of campus. The same goes for the students' junior year, during the "Mugging" event each spring, when they get to tour the Administration Building and the Chime.

During the Sunday "float," participants painted shirts and learned about some of the hidden gems Manchester has to offer outside of campus, such as the Environmental Studies cabin, located where the boats ended the day's journey. They were also able to observe parts of the river that

have been cleaned up by the environmental studies program, as well as see some of the different projects that have been completed along the river.

The students floated down a three-mile stretch of the Eel River, until they reached the beach area by Manchester's Good Field. The boats were rented from a group out of Warsaw, and each held 10 students and one faculty member. To get to the launch site in Liberty Mills, students were chartered via school bus, courtesy of Whitko Community Schools.

Barring any scheduling conflicts, expect to see this event around the same time next year. Sundays appear to be best, so students can still attend the athletic events on campus, as well as enjoy the start of the fall season.

The next event for the Alumni Office is Homecoming, Oct. 13 and 14, where they are hosting festivities such as a "Fifth Quarter Band" and different types of carnival games across from the football field and by the Jo Young Switzer Center.



Photo courtesy of the Marketing Department

Left to right: Riley Patterson, Kali Quackenbush, Isabella Case, Mallory Fletcher, Jordan Napier, Kattlyn Kennedy, and JD Cousin.



Photo courtesy of Kali Quackenbush

Sophomores carry their float down to the Eel River for a day on the water.

## HIRING:

The *Oak Leaves* is looking for student photographers!

PAID POSITION: \$5 per photo published

Please contact oakleaves@manchester.edu for more information.

Serious Inquiries Only!



## SPARTAN SPORTS

### Football Team Receives Protective 'Guardian Caps' from Donor; Leads to Fewer Head Injuries During Practice

**Sha'Kera King**  
Staff Writer

The football team may have found its own guardian angels in their new Guardian Caps, a soft-shell helmet cover that helps prevent concussions. The team received a supply from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The caps are meant for practices only, and seem to be working. "No one has had a concussion in practice since they have started using the caps," said head coach Nate Jensen.

Senior Jon Brann has played offensive line during his three years with the Spartans, and he appreciates wearing the caps. "I love them," he said. "I have had three concussions in the past three years and two were in practice, but since we have been using the Guardian Caps I haven't had one in practice yet."

Growing up and playing football since the third grade, Brann has faced many challenges with balancing everything. Last year he injured his shoulder badly but was able to recover with the support of his dad and coaches. One saying that he lives by as man is "Don't talk about it; be about it," which was told to him by Coach Jensen. He uses that saying with his other hobbies: wrestling, fishing and camping.

For the year there are



Spartan football players run for the end zone in the game against Mt. St. Joseph University on Saturday, Sept. 23. The Spartans lost 31-14, but the Guardian Caps may be decreasing injuries during practice.

many things he wants the team to be able to accomplish. "I want the team to win the Bronze Ball and to win conference," Brann said. "Football has taught me how to fight through adversity, schedule things more on time, to be efficient and to be tough." After he graduates he hopes to become a football coach or work for the service in Alaska.

Senior Noah Edelman

also approves of the Guardian Caps. "They make us look goofy and make my head look big, but I like them and I haven't had any headaches or have to take pain killers after practice," he said.

Edelman plays outside line back and has been playing football since he was in the third grade. Why did he take up the sport? "My friends were playing

and I wanted to play as well," he said. He used to feel he was short so when he came into his height he played his heart out for the game even more. He didn't originally choose Manchester for football, though. "Football is a bonus," he said. "I choose the school because of the 97% placement rate and I will be able to make money and have a job after I graduate."

Football has had a big impact on this player, though. "It taught me discipline, kept me out of trouble, to work with others and to keep a leveled head when things get hard," he said. After graduation he either wants to play in the leagues overseas or start running his own construction business.

Senior John Trenshaw sees the benefits of the Guardian Caps. "They look funky," he said, "but I don't have to take medicine afterwards." He plays inside line-backer and has also been playing football since the third grade.

Growing up, Trenshaw was always told he was too slow but his mom and his wrestling coach told him, "If it's easy everybody would be doing it," which got him through that challenge in his life. Why does he play football? "Football has always been the two hours of the day where you don't have to think about life," he said. "I just have to think about the team and how to better us."

And he does exactly that. "I try not to lead by words but to lead by example, and not to be there to boss the team around but to be somebody that they know can help them when times get rough," he said. Being a criminal justice major, he wants to work with college kids and work with those in Bashor Children's Homes which is in Elkhart County.



Photo courtesy of Shanon Fawbush

Faculty and staff celebrate their fourth win in a row against the students in the annual Faculty/Staff vs. Students softball game, held on Friday, September 21. The teams were tied 20-all in the final inning, until team coach Heidi Wieland (Education) scored a hit for the win, with a walk-off, 21-20.

### Volleyball Players Enjoy 'Rewarding' Season While Dedicating Time toward Improvement, Creating Positive Environment for Success

**Kaity Collins**  
Staff Writer

The women's volleyball team fought like the Spartans they are to seize as many victories as possible during the fall sports season. With a total of 10 matches between the start of the season to Sept. 16, the ratio of wins to losses shows the amount of dedication and passion the volleyball team has for Manchester as well as for the sport they play.

They have had a rewarding season with six wins and four losses for the first ten matches. "There is always something to be worked on," said Assistant Coach Sarah Kimm, "but they are doing really well."

The team has recruited four first-years, as well as some other students, who are also engaging in their first season of Manchester volleyball. These new team members are in high spirits and aren't afraid to show how much the team

has grown in strength throughout the fall season. "I think we're going to show up and bring our A-game this weekend," said first-year Alexandria Collins. "Every match we'll be one step further to succeeding."

The team is confident in their abilities and are proud of the teamwork they've established. "So far, we're doing well," said senior and new recruit Brandy Whitaker.

Emma Voelker agreed. "It's healthy competition," she said. Both the players and

coaches want what's best for the team and good intention has been given on each side. "It's a very positive environment," Collins said.

Voelker agrees that the team is doing well this season: "Players respect the need for improvement."

With the 2017 Volleyball Conference in the beginning stages, the team is excited and hopeful that the conference season will be one to remember. With the volleyball team's strengthened teamwork

and "new system," as explained by Kimm, Manchester's volleyball team is looking for a competitive year.

