

Dr. David Pilgrim Presents Martin Luther King Jr. Day VIA

Zoe Vorndran
Staff Writer

Braving the cold, frigid weather, Manchester University students and community members filled Cordier auditorium to listen to Dr. David Pilgrim's presentation on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. After warming the audience up with jokes and good-natured conversation, Pilgrim, a sociologist and charismatic public speaker, talked about holding conversations on controversial issues.

Pilgrim spoke as part of the Values, Ideas and Arts presentations commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His visit was organized by Michael Dixon, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and chief campus diversity officer. "Dr. King wanted to have different groups of people understand and respect their traditions," Dixon said.

During his engaging, thought-provoking presentation, Pilgrim discussed controversial topics such as race, sexism, poverty, diversity and gender, while using examples from the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia that he founded in Big Rapids, MI. Pilgrim's dedication showed as he talked

about the hundreds of artifacts annually donated to the museum.

He explained the process of opening, collecting and maintaining the Jim Crow Museum. Starting as a young teenager, he purchased his first object, and by the 1990s he had acquired over 3,000 artifacts. Pilgrim then opened the museum in April 2012.

"The purpose of the museum is to try to talk openly and honestly about race," he said. "We believe in the triumph of dialogue." He uses artifacts in the museum to initiate conversations about race and to understand the perception of African Americans in American culture.

One of the stories Pilgrim told was about a time he passed a doll, not heavily caricatured, around a circle of students at the University of Western Michigan. Each person in the circle had the opportunity to describe and explain what the doll meant to them. "It struck me how different it is that you can take two people and they look at the same thing, they hear the same music, they look at whatever, and they not only bring different things to the objects, but they explain it and interpret it differently," he reflected. "We bring our experiences, fears and ex-

pectations to race."

Throughout the presentation, Pilgrim also emphasized his motto, "Don't crush people." He shared instances when he had to engage in dialogue about race in the workforce, flea markets and other universities. He advised people to be more open to talking about race without trying to prove or win a debate, while also sharing a story when he missed an opportunity to create a safe place to speak about race. Pilgrim emphasized the importance of speaking honestly and listening while discussing race and other controversial matters.

"What stuck out to me was his stories about crushing people," said Landon Bridges, a senior athletic training major. "I think his advice on not crushing people was important." He continued by stating that people have too much of a tendency to embarrass people instead of talking about issues.

Bridges admitted that Pilgrim's motto can be difficult to follow. "It's hard especially when people have far different beliefs or have ideas rooted in hate," he said. "It feels like we have to crush this person to change their mind, but if we're able to have open dialogue about what is happening, including all the stereo-



Photo provided by MU.

Dr. David Pilgrim, founder and curator of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, a 12,000 piece collection of historical artifacts located at Ferris State University, spoke at MU last Thursday.

types, ugly feelings and why we have these feelings, open dialogue could work."

Dixon also agreed with Pilgrim's advice on how to communicate effectively with others about race. "When I think about the ignorant things people do or say to widen the diversity gap, if I respond in a way that could be seen as completely justified but doesn't open the lines of communication, that's another lost opportunity to educate and plant a seed," he said. "Not talking about it doesn't solve the problem. We all need to acknowledge it and then figure out how not to repeat the ugliness of the past."

Dixon emphasized that he, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, implement Dr. Pilgrim's advice through the work that they do at the Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center and their outreach efforts to include all students.

Pilgrim finished his presentation by reading a reflection he had written after he lectured at a conference. In the reflection, Pilgrim talked about what it means to be a brother to everyone that transcends common ancestors, race, history and experiences. He concluded that everyone is his brother and sister despite the issues that may separate them.

Polar Vortex Hits Midwest, MU Closes Campuses

Noah Tong
Staff Writer

With subzero temperatures on the horizon for the first week of the spring semester, Manchester students and faculty received word that classes would be cancelled due to extreme, cold weather from 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, until Friday morning, Feb. 1.

"It was a welcome surprise to hear early Monday night that class was cancelled," said Nick Buttermore, a senior biochemistry major. "I live pretty close to campus, and I hadn't left home yet. The cancellation allowed me to stay home with my family a couple days longer while avoiding roads that were in bad condition."

"All the weather reports were right!" Buttermore continued. "Walking to and from class in that weather would have been absolutely miserable."

Clair Knapp, the administrator responsible for alerting students of the schedule change, ultimately decided holding classes during these days would be dangerous and irresponsible.

Knapp, chief business officer and vice president for Finance at Manchester, oversees physical planning, information technology, the office of financial services, and auxiliary services in addition to making these school cancellation determinations.

"The safe thing to do was minimize the amount of time students, faculty and staff would be outside," Knapp said. With temperatures expected to be approximately negative 40 degrees after wind chill is accounted for, it wasn't a decision to be made lightly.

"The unprecedented

cold weather and the projected wind chills were obviously one factor," Knapp continued. "The second factor was we like to see what other similar institutions are doing around us as well. Everyone was doing the same thing and taking precautions."

Indeed, colleges spanning states from South Dakota to Ohio called off classes for at least a day. Indiana University, however, did not cancel classes immediately. Soon an internet petition with over 28,000 signatures asking the Bloomington campus to be shut down subjected IU to national media attention. In the end, the petition succeeded.

Locally, the cancellation gave Manchester students a chance to get reacclimated with classes slowly.

"I really appreciated having those two days off," said Braydon Sewell, a junior accounting major. "During those two days off, I stayed at home since it was so cold my car wouldn't start!"

"I think they were right to cancel classes," Sewell continued. "It would've been difficult to make it to school, especially as a commuter. Instead, I had the chance to get ahead on schoolwork, watch some English Premier League soccer, and play Fortnite. Most importantly, I wasn't freezing."

For students' safety, Knapp acknowledged that some staff clocked into work despite the frigid conditions. "We needed to have security," he said. "There was a small presence of physical plant and custodial staff on-site to monitor that heat was on and everything was working. But we still wanted to minimize the amount of time those staff were outside." Food service personnel also reported to work.

This 'polar vortex' impacted those at the North Manchester and Fort Wayne campuses. Classes, extra-curricular activities, and pharmacy student rotations were cancelled immediately, as well as some athletic competitions and practices. Students were advised to spend a minimal time outside and to drive safely, if at all.

Residential students were instructed to keep windows, doors, curtains and blinds closed in the halls to help the heating systems function correctly in the extreme temperatures.

Past experiences at universities have helped set a precedent to dictate whether Manchester should close for a couple of days. "Five years ago, when I worked at Bethel College, located in Mishawaka, Indiana, we closed for a couple of days for extreme low temperatures," Knapp said.

The two-day class cancellation was not, however, Knapp's decision alone. He consulted with President McFadden, Dr. Raylene Rospond, Whitney Bandemer, and faculty in other departments when discussing potential courses of action.

Considering the circumstances, Knapp believes the university made the right call.

"Every other institution in northeast Indiana closed from Tuesday night, some through Thursday afternoon," he said. "Given the extreme nature of the weather, and the once-in-a-generation temperatures that we had, we think it was the right decision for everyone involved."

Classes resumed on Friday, Feb. 1.

Students Commence Spring Semester with Parents, Family Weekend

Carly Kwiecien
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Spartan parents and families were welcomed to campus for a week-end of activities Feb. 1 and 2.

Numerous fun-filled events, organized by the Office of Alumni Relations, with assistance from Manchester Activities Council (MAC), included programs ranging from free swim at the Strauss-Peabody Aquatic Center to iceless ice-skating in the Haist Commons.

Starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, 70 members of Manchester's extended community registered for an abundance of activities to participate in. Upon registering, each visitor received a Manchester University T-shirt to as a symbolic welcome to campus.

Junior MAC member, Nuhamin Henok Tesfay, believes that Family Weekend is a great time for students to see their parents and show them around campus.

"It helps students show their daily lives to their parents," Henok Tesfay said. "This is important because students have lived their whole lives with their parents and now, they are starting a new phase in their lives. [During move-in day,] parents only saw them move in, but this weekend helps students show their parents how they have settled in and go about their daily lives as a college student."

On Friday evening, students and their families gathered in the Toyota Round of the Intercultural Center for a movie night. At 9 a.m. on Saturday, parents were able to learn about ways to get involved as a parent on campus at an Open Family Meeting,

watch the men's alumni basketball game in the PERC or skate on MAC's iceless ice-skating rink set up in the Haist Commons.

The synthetic ice, which was constructed of 40 interlocking panels of durable, polymer panels to make a smooth surface, attracted senior Zoe Vorndran and her visiting younger brother, Danil.

"My favorite part about ice-skating was the fact that it was such a new experience," Vorndran said. "While it wasn't my first time ice-skating, it was my first time on synthetic ice, so the surface definitely felt way different than real ice. I was timid at first, but once we got going, it was a blast to try it out. It was a good bonding experience to have with Danil as well because we talked a lot."

That afternoon, students, parents and extended families congregated in the PERC to celebrate Senior Say for both men's and women's basketball. Although both teams fell to Transylvania, fans cheered and shouted for black and gold throughout the games.

In the evening, international magician and illusionist Kid Ace, who has performed at numerous colleges, wowed the audience by making money disappear into an uncut orange, making doves appear out of nowhere and inviting audience members on stage to assist in other tricks. Vorndran said: "The magic show was entertaining, engaging and funny. Danil and I really enjoyed Kid Ace and the tricks he showed us. My favorite part was watching him interact with the audience because there was so much energy between him and all of the

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MU Security Office Creates Student Safety Program

Kaleigh Gabriel
Staff Writer

The Manchester University Security Office has been making many efforts in the last months to increase the feeling of safety on campus for students. One of the most heavily requested efforts was a student walk program which would serve as a security escort system for students walking on campus late at night.

As the spring semester begins, Manchester University Safety Office has announced a new program. Beginning Feb. 1 the Manchester University Safety Office will be providing the Spartan Safety Walk Program.

Officer LaTasha Henry

has coordinated the Spartan Safety Walk Program for students who feel safer with an escort. "The purpose of our program is to give students access to a campus escort, much like a buddy system, for their comfort," Henry says. "Many students think that because they feel no threat that they cannot call Safety for an escort." While this is not the case, the Safety Office recognizes that students would feel safer walking in a group across campus.

First-year Lilli Cook says there are many times that she and her friends would "stay at the library until close." The subsequent walk back to the first-year dorms could be "dark and creepy," which is why student safety officers accompanying them seems like a good idea to Cook.

"I understand the worry of some students to walk alone in certain areas of the campus alone late at night, whether or not they feel a threat," Henry says. "There have been many times that I have been out making security rounds late at night in unlit areas where the dark was eerily creepy."

Safe Walk teams are small groups of trained student security officers. Student officers have undergone training for different security events to ensure safety during student walks. Student officers will carry flashlights and wear visible arm bands with a badge-like emblem to ensure students they are trained student officers.

First-year Andy Vance plans to use the program for late nights she spends practicing in

Winger or working in Cordier. "Knowing that Safe Walk teams are available is reassuring because it makes me feel safer about walking all the way across campus, especially due to the limited lighting in certain areas," she says.

Meanwhile other students, like first-year Erica Mohr, do not exactly know if they will have a direct use for the program, as they are usually asleep at those hours, but they know that it will be a step of improvement in campus safety. "I think safe walks give a reassurance to students that there are more methods of security," Mohr says. "It's like a security blanket for students."

Tina Edwards, Safety Director, likes that metaphor. "The number one goal of Manchester Campus Security is that every stu-

dent feels comfortable and protected on our campus," she says. "Through this program that Safety Officer Henry has worked hard to coordinate, our office can provide many levels of security to students."

Henry reminds students that while the new program is a safe escort service, Manchester University safety officers are on duty around the clock for any problems. As she notes, no safety concern is too small. "It is our job to provide security to all Manchester students," Henry says.

Spartan Safe Walk teams will be available between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. on Monday-Thursday and 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. Friday-Sunday. To request a team, students follow the procedure for calling the Safety Office, which can be reached at 260-982-5999.

Lasser, Lahman Travel through Egyptian Religious Sites in January

Tiffany Williams
Staff Writer

The 2019 January session included a study-abroad trip to Egypt prepared by Justin Lasser, associate professor of religion, and Mary Lahman, professor of communication studies.

Lasser taught a class called Ancient and Medieval Christianity, instructing his students about the foundations of Christianity in Egypt throughout the first five centuries of the Common Era. The course was designed to follow the two-thousand-year-old Byzantine Christian practice of pilgrimage in Egypt so students would learn how earlier religious traditions were integrated into Coptic Christianity.

When visiting some of the monasteries, the group encountered cultural differences, such as incense burning and having to bow before entering. “It’s like walking through a time machine with a dead language that even Egyptians don’t understand,” Lasser said. “You can’t teach that, you can only experience it.”

Lahman taught a class called Language and Thought that explored the relationship between the two and that prepared students for interacting with tour guides, monks and merchants across Egypt. She noted that students discovered more appropriate language and listening behaviors and strove to engage in civil discourse about contentious topics, such as gender equity and economic disparity in Cairo.

One of the things Lahman talks about with her students is to have minimum expectations for where they are going, so when they get there, they have nothing to compare it to. Therefore, she says, students will find more enjoyment out of the experience rather than disappointment if something they expected does not happen. The saying she originally used was “minimum expectations, maximum motivation,” but since talking to Joshua Friend, Student Success Advisor, she prefers “minimum expectations, maximum surprise.”

Students from both classes were instructed to hold minimum expectations. “Having no bar helped the overall experience as I never knew what to expect and it helped everything seem more incredible,” said Jensen Lassiter, senior double major

in English and history.

Morgan Oliver, senior business management major, agrees. “I had minimum expectations because I know they are still a developing country even though they were one of the first countries established,” she said. “Some places we went had a hole in the ground for you to use the restroom and you always had to pay to use the bathroom. However, I was expecting this because Professor Lasser told us kind of what to expect.”

Destinee Boutwell, junior English Education major, remembered how in the seventh grade she was taught a unit on Egypt and the size of the three pyramids of Giza and how she dreamed about seeing them someday. “I had to empty my expectations so that I was ready to take in my experience of the real thing,” Boutwell said. “Through that internal exercise, I was able to stand inside the middle pyramid and look at a small, dark, plain, muggy room and be filled with awe and wonder.”

While Lahman said the students should hold minimum expectations, she confided that having visited Egypt two years ago made it somewhat harder to keep the bar low. The only thing making it easier was that the schedule differed from the trip in 2016.

The itinerary for the January term trip dictated that students would get to scale the Great Pyramids, cruise the Nile River, visit ancient temples and smelled the spices in the open-air markets. The trip also included stops at several monasteries and a trip to the Egyptian museum.

The students did not have much free time to themselves since Egyptian traffic is hard to navigate for people who are not from the area. Students remained with a tour guide until class for the day was over and they were back at their hotel.

“I enjoyed the schedule because I was so excited to see everything,” Oliver said. “Not every day was busy, as some days we would only go see two different things, but we would be there for a couple of hours.”

Oliver also described how everything they went and saw was, as she says, “breathtaking,” but she experienced a bit of culture shock when they would walk down markets and people would follow the group, asking them to come into their shop to buy something.

Boutwell was eager to



Photo provided by Destinee Boutwell.

Class photo taken from the panoramic view of the three pyramids of Giza overlooking the city of Cairo.

share many stories of the trip. Most notably she talked about how all of the people were nice and hospitable, but she realized her worry that people would want money for everything, even for a smile, was due to how their economy revolved around the barter system and the idea of having fixed prices was foreign to them.

Boutwell also shared that one the most unforgettable experiences was her visit to the Nubian village. “It was unforgettable riding a camel along this steep

cliff overlooking the Nile River,” Boutwell said. “As we paraded into the Nubian village on our colorful camels, I was amazed at the brilliant color of the buildings.”

“My favorite part was when we decided to go to St. Anthony’s monastery where some of us went up to the cave he lived in for 40 years,” Lassiter said. “At the top all you could hear was silence as you saw only the desert in front of you.”

While Lassiter didn’t experience much of a culture shock,

as she travels quite a bit, she said the students were welcomed warmly by all the people they met. However, they struggled a bit with water as they couldn’t trust it and had to use bottled water for things like brushing their teeth.

Boutwell said: “I know January session trips are expensive—the experience, the memories, the exposure to culture, the toilets that were taped together. Everything was worth every single penny.”

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participants. The trick I was most impressed by was when he made an ‘X’ on his wrist appear on the palm one of the participants.”

After the event, the night wound down and families

said their goodbyes.

The next MAC event, titled “Say it Aloud,” will take place on Feb. 23 at 8:08 p.m. in the Upper JYSC. Students are welcome to express their feelings artistically through singing, dancing, paint-

ing and reciting poetry. To find out more information about upcoming events, students can always check out MU’s social media accounts that can be found under @manchesteracto.



Photo provided

The women’s basketball team, along with Dr. Heather Schilling, Coach Kurt Kurtzhals, Coach Josh Dzurick and former assistant coach Jocelyn Hamilton play lifetime games in the lobby of their Marriott hotel in Dallas, TX. Dzurick won the Coaches Connect Four Challenge by beating two other basketball coaches from other colleges.

Women’s Basketball Team Travels to Texas for Winter Break

Marcus Zwiebel
Staff Writer

Manchester University’s women’s basketball team visited Dallas, TX, this Dec. 26–31 to participate in two games as well as provide a cultural experience for the team and develop overall season morale.

The women’s basketball team took an active break after Christmas Day from North Manchester’s bleak winter and caravaned to Chicago, where they then flew to Dallas. The trip was initially hindered by Dallas’s weather—severe thunderstorms which resulted in the team’s 4:30 a.m. arrival at their hotel—yet was still marked as a successful and enjoyable trip by the team. They experienced two losses while in Texas (against McMurray and Concordia) but still were able to contribute to positive team experience before resuming conference play in Indiana.

“We try to do a team trip at least every other year with the focus on building team morale, while still playing a few games and giving the team a cultural experience,” said women’s basketball head coach Josh Dzurick.

After participating in a trivia event and receiving a pep rally in the hosting hotel, the team played the two games and also explored numerous locations in and around Dallas, including the Reunion Tower, the famous Dallas shopping mall, an escape room (which a two-thirds majority of team members were able to escape) and a restaurant in the heart of Dallas’s arts district, which was selected by education faculty member Dr. Heather Schilling, who also went on the December trip. The team additionally toured the Grassy Knoll and final route of the motorcade carrying former President John F. Kennedy, prior to his assassination.

To plan their trips, the team and coaches brainstorm locations that would have an appropriate tournament venue for a couple of games and would simultaneously provide a beneficial and engaging experience for the team. These locations are also cities or regions where former student-athletes live and who may provide the coaches and the team with some information regarding the location. Dallas is home to alumna Kelley Meiklejohn, who knows the city well. Once a location is selected, team members are asked to fundraise in

numerous ways—most prominently including the North Manchester FunFest. Former trip locations include San Antonio (twice), California, Florida, and even the Bahamas.

Jocelyn Hamilton, who was then the women’s basketball assistant coach and alumna of Manchester University, explains the purpose of this travel. “The trips let the team experience a city where an alumni lives and a place that few of them have visited before,” she said. She further elaborated that the trips are rarely ever simply trips and are instead intense bonding experiences which are, as she characterized them, “often something that the members of the team remember as some of their favorite memories during their time at Manchester.”

The women’s basketball team resumed the regular season Jan. 2, after returning from Dallas. The team also recently gained two conference wins against Earlham and Anderson and will continue the season until mid-February, when conference play—and the season—ends.

The Lady Spartans fell to the Franklin Grizzlies on Monday, Feb. 11, with a score of 89–71. Their next game is Saturday, Feb. 16, at Rose-Hulman.

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