

MU Seniors Display Artwork in Link Gallery

Marcus Zwiebel
Staff Writer

Manchester University showcased its own guild of student artists Saturday, February 16, in Link Gallery during the Art & Design Senior Show reception. The five seniors have exhibited a wide variety of artwork in the Otho Winger Hall gallery since Feb. 8 and will continue the exhibition until March 8, with artwork viewable during the building's hours.

"It's not unusual to have one or two students for a senior show, but this year—by featuring five—we have a full house in Link Gallery," said Ejenobo Oke, an associate professor of art and department chair, at the artists' reception Saturday. "They're also a very diverse body of individuals, despite there only being five of them, with very different styles and methods of work, and that helped draw in a larger audience," she continued. "We're very impressed and thankful for that."

The five artists—Hannah Althouse, A. J. Gonsiorowski, Bailey Harmon, Nathan Koch and Nichol VonHolten—created and promoted their artwork throughout their respective careers at Manchester with a growing understanding of the importance and honor of the Art & Design Senior Show. They completed bodies of work, selected the pieces for the senior show and assisted in creating the show, with consideration to how their contributions would assist Oke and the other artists exhibiting their works.

Art major Hannah Alt-



Photo by Chloe Arndt.

Senior Nichol VonHolten stands by her oil-on-canvas series in Link Gallery. VonHolten and four other seniors will display their artwork through March 8. house began her journey at Manchester with interests in English and education; however, her interest in art was rekindled as she spent more time in Winger's studios, and her preferred types of arts grew to include ceramics and textiles. "My high school had no art classes to take, so the Manchester art department helped me in a multitude of ways,

from developing and refining technical skills to simply knowing how to analyze and critique artworks—of others as well as my own," Althouse said. "My professors have always made themselves available and have given me encouraging words along with constructive criticism to help me become a better artist."

A. J. Gonsiorowski, an art

and psychology double major and a peace studies minor, utilized the artistic knowledge she gained at Manchester to help her communicate and raise awareness about the body and dis-ease, which she believes are not always visible on the surface of individuals. Gonsiorowski's works—photography, textiles and primarily oil paintings—frequently feature themes of illness or disability and focus on individuals who have provided a profound impact throughout her work experience.

Art major Bailey Harmon struggled with communication and school during her childhood, and found it easier to convey her thoughts to others through art. She also found that art became an outlet for her feelings and a tool for learning and exploring the world. Harmon loves making connections with others through art and has channeled this love for artistic connection by traveling abroad both in high school and college, as well as expanding an interest in photography. Much of Harmon's work is graphic design and illustration since they cleanly and aesthetically communicate a concept to audiences.

Nathan Koch, an art and business management double major, is an artist drawn to studying complexity through the use of metal art. His initial interest in metal art developed when he was restoring a 1965 Mustang and noticed the vibrancy of bare metal after grinding away some rust on the vehicle. Although Koch does not generally try to promote any meaning in his artwork, he still maintains importance in his own style. "I would describe my style as abstract and highly influenced by

the custom automotive painting industry," Koch said. "I also was influenced to become an art major at Manchester because the professors were so interested and encouraging to see what kind of style I could develop."

Nichol VonHolten, a senior art major and psychology minor, enjoys the challenge that comes from art, which is a skill present since her childhood. VonHolten also explores, with great appreciation, the brainstorming, research and methodology that occurs with the early process of each new piece. VonHolten's body of work is primarily made up of ceramic pieces—a medium she was introduced to in high school—and textiles.

The student artists faced a variety of challenges throughout their art career as well as during the process of preparing for the show, including the burden of coursework, deadlines and general stress. And in return, the Art & Design Senior Show reception had a positive turnout from students, staff, faculty and members of the community. The future plans for the artists include traveling to other regions of the country, pursuing art careers outside of the country, becoming community art advocates, going into automotive design/marketing, continuing to polish their respective styles and expanding their collection of artworks.

"These five young artists make us, in the department and in the university very proud, and we look forward to the work that they'll do in the future and the impact they'll have on others," Oke said.



Photo by Chloe Arndt.

"Lucky Cat Scroll," created by Bailey Harmon. Mixed media, fabric decoration, 2016.



Photo by Chloe Arndt.

"Neuroblastoma" (left) and "Depression," (right) created by A. J. Gonsiorowski. Oil painting, fall 2018.



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

Leaf Cream Pitcher created by Bailey Harmon. Stoneware, ceramics, 2018.



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

Windshield Abstract created by Hannah Althouse. Oil on canvas, 2018.

Spartans Attend Concerts, Rock Out to Favorite Bands

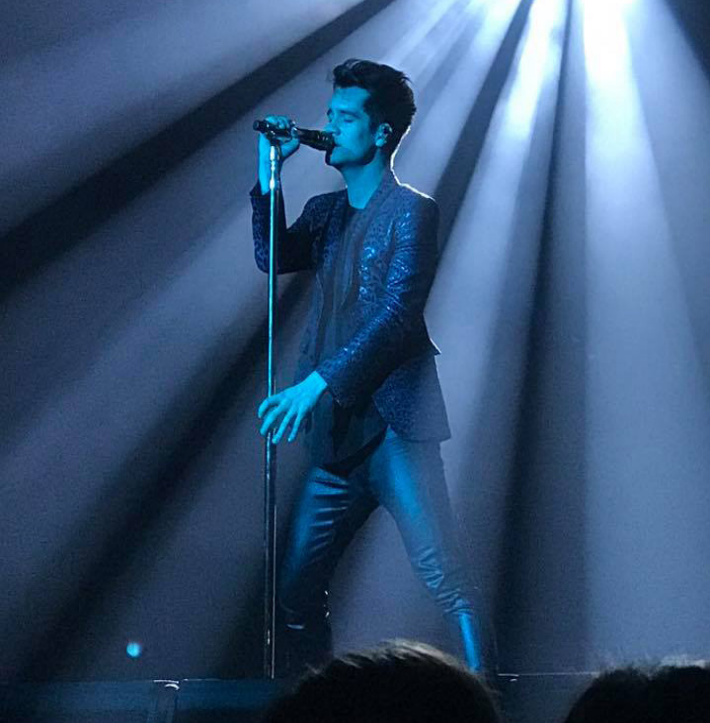


Photo by Delaney McKesson.
Brendon Urie, lead singer of Panic! at the Disco. Student Delaney McKesson once caught a Panic! set list tossed to her.



Photo by Delaney McKesson.
Phangs performed in Delaney McKesson’s living room in her off-campus house last December.

Zoe Vorndran
Staff Writer

The lights are low. The crowd dances rhythmically to the music. The artist pauses. A myriad of voices in the audience belt out the lyrics in unison. For two unique individuals, that is the best part of going to concerts.

Despite growing up with different backgrounds, music has the ability to unite people. This is true for concert lovers Delaney McKesson, a senior social work and peace studies double major, and Digby Strogon, a senior peace studies major.

McKesson’s passion for concerts began when she saw Hannah Montana and the Jonas Brothers, which sparked her interest to see live bands perform.

Since then, she has seen other bands such as Ed Sheeran, Troye Sivan, Hozier, Halsey, The 1975, Twenty One Pilots, Jon Bellion, Vesperteen, Panic! at the Disco, BORNs, Paramore and Fleetwood Mac.

“I think what I really like about live music is the environment,” McKesson said. “Concerts have the ability to bring music to life and adds so much depth. I love being there in person and just feeling the music with every ounce of myself.”

From Hozier’s calmer vibe to Panic! at the Disco’s high energy, McKesson finds it powerful to watch the artist perform their songs, and she enjoys watching the artist pour their soul into

the performance which offers a unique experience.

Additionally, McKesson appreciates the crowd. She enjoys being part of a diverse crowd united by music. “Listening to the song on the radio is good,” she said, “but being there in person while being surrounded by a bunch of people who are living the same experience as you makes it so different.”

Whether in the audience among family or three car loads of friends, McKesson likes that going to concerts make lasting memories. She recalled a time when she sat in the second row at a Panic! at the Disco concert and the bassist, Dallon, threw her the set list at the end. She also met the BORNs after they performed.

In addition to the memories from attending concerts, McKesson continues to make memories outside of concerts. She recounted last December when Phangs, the opening act at the Vesperteen show she attended, performed a show in her living room. “It was such a neat experience and a way to take a break from finals while eating cinnamon rolls and listening to some music,” she said. “I still feel pretty special to say I had a concert in my living room.”

McKesson summed up her experiences by stating, “I bottle up all the good feelings I get during a concert and save them for a rainy day.”

Another concert enthusiast, Digby Strogon, is a self-pro-

claimed Deadhead, a dedicated Dead and Company fan. Strogon has followed Dead and Company to six different states including California, Nevada, Arizona, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. In California alone, he saw them eight times. Strogon describes the band’s vibe as one incredible wave of music and energy.

Due to his parents’ love for Grateful Dead, the precursor to Dead and Company, Strogon grew up listening to their music. His enthusiasm for Dead and Company increased when his parents took him to one of their concerts in 2015.

Captivated by the environment, he instantly fell in love. “My favorite thing about Dead and Company is the energy,” he said. “The band puts all of their energy into performing for us and

deadheads put all of their energy into enjoying it. It’s an awesome vibe.”

He appreciates the fact that the band is a jam band which involves improvisation and varied set lists. Like McKesson, Strogon appreciates dancing and singing along with the thousands of fans which makes the music come to life.

The band’s energy combined with the fans’ enthusiasm and dedication encouraged him to continue going to Dead and Company’s concerts. “Going to Dead shows is like a huge family reunion,” Strogon said. “A Dead concert is pretty much its own little society. All the fans are so friendly with each other because they share this next level bond of peace and love of music. It’s a special experience.”

Strogon described walking through the tents lined up across the parking lot with fans selling merchandise in hopes of earning enough money to attend the following concerts.

After experiencing the Deadheads’ commitment, the tie-dye, the smells, and the music, Strogon will continue going to Dead and Company concerts.

For Strogon and McKesson, this is only the beginning of their concert experiences. Both have extensive bucket lists of concerts they would like to see including: Widespread Panic, Phish, Hippo Campus and Hobo Johnson.

MU Offers New Community Health Worker Course



Photo by Emily Horsely.
Dr. Gabby Morales, assistant professor of health communication is also a certified community health worker. She designed, developed, and implemented the community health worker course that began this spring.

Tiffany Williams
Staff Writer

A new community health worker course has started this semester at Manchester University with a total of 17 students under direction of Dr. Gabriela Morales.

Morales is an assistant professor of health communication who designed, developed and implemented the health communication major and minor at Manchester. She is also a certified community health worker.

A community health worker is a front-line public health worker who is a trusted member of their community with an unusually close understanding of it. The trusting relationship the health worker creates enables the worker to serve as a link between health and or social services and the community to help give access and improve the quality of cultural competence of the services.

Community health workers also increase health knowledge and self-sufficiency through informal counseling, outreach, community education and social support and advocacy.

“I believe our students need to stand out when they go

into the workforce and or graduate school,” said Morales through email. “Having certification in [community health work] is a great addition to our students who are interested in the health field. Even students who are not and are taking the class for other reasons, this is significant for them as well. They get to experience health in a more profound way.”

She continues to emphasize how important hands-on experience is and how it is provided through the training course. “I am always looking for opportunities for our MU students,” Morales said. “That is the main reason why I decided to make sure MU became an official vendor.”

Morales had to do a lot to make the class happen at all. She said the process is usually worked on by three to four people, but she alone went through the process for Manchester. It started out with Morales having to fill out a short application that would help the Indiana Community Health Workers Association (INCHWA) verify that she was qualified to provide training for the course.

Once she was told she was qualified, she engaged in a series of conference calls with INCHWA and potential vendors, which are organizations that provide community health workers training. The calls

mapped out the steps Morales needed to take to get curriculum certification and enabled her to answer any questions the vendors had.

Next, Morales was sent a 12-page packet including a curriculum submission form with around 70 learning outcomes to be addressed, supporting documents on when chapters would be discussed, a small internship students have to complete, quizzes, costs, as well as other documents.

After a two-month review process, Morales was contacted for clarification purposes and finally given the green light for MU to become an official vendor. It was almost a year’s worth of work toward developing the training course.

The current certification Manchester holds as an approved vendor to teach the course continues until late fall of 2021, but this particular training course will be offered every spring at the university.

This training course is open to community members as well as to MU students, with the course offering a minimum of 30 seats to the public. However, MU students have to pay \$40 for their INCHWA membership whereas community members would have to pay \$1,500 for their training costs, including their membership fee.



Oak Leaves

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

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Printed by the *KPC Media Group*

MU Student's Virtual Reality Is a Successful Reality

Kaleigh Gabriel
Staff Writer

Brandon Egolf, first year communication studies major, goes between realities with ease.

A new era entrepreneur and ranked world player of Beat Saber, a virtual reality rhythm game, Egolf has started two technology businesses in the past eight years. The first was a successful digital coding business, in which he used coding for data protection. Recently his love for technology led him to start a second business, Spectrum, that will be the first company to bring virtual reality gaming to Fort Wayne.

Digital coding, or computer coding, is the process of writing scripts to carry out commands for an online program. While this may sound rather basic, there are many steps and special skills that go into digital coding, such as knowing how to read the code before it can even be written. Binary code is the most basic example of digital coding, but basic it is not with its mix of ones and zeros.

"I started coding when I was nine, and at 10 I started my first business in [Structured Query Language] which deals with back end web encryption," Egolf said. "Basically, I was the guy who keeps a website's data safe. After that I spent many years coding online servers for websites, games, and one-shot programs".

From Egolf's experience with coding and online programs,

he became involved with work in virtual reality and the programming behind virtual games. Virtual reality is a form of gaming that is totally immersive for players as it indulges the senses, specifically auditory and visual feedback. Headsets such as the Samsung Oculus and the PlayStation VR are example of the ever-evolving technology used for virtual reality game.

"VR is a universal experience where you need no gaming or tech knowledge to experience it, you just need your basic senses and they do the job for you," Egolf said. "I think VR is a universally accessible, where you need no gaming or tech knowledge to experience it, you just need your basic senses and they do the job for you," he continued, while explaining the boom in virtual reality gaming.

Egolf says his amazement never ceases with VR technology. "I've seen grown men quiver as they stand 80 stories in the air on a tiny plank overlooking a city, and none of it is even real," he said.

Why did he switch businesses? "Personally, I have understood the software that allows VR to work much better than the coding required to make experiences or games," Egolf said. "The code allowing these machines is modern-day magic and I am shocked by the creativity of the companies and communities involved".

Egolf told the story of this December when Spectrum had the opportunity to work with PopCon staff, a popular culture convention held in Indianapolis,



Photo provided by Brandon Egolf..

Brandon Egolf shows his PopCon badge from the 2018 convention in Fort Wayne. There he networked with other coders and voice-work artists,

to bring VR experiences to their event. During the convention he met and talked with one of the panelists, Taylor Gray. Gray is known for his voice work on "Star Wars Rebels" and "Bucket and Skinner's Epic Adventures."

"We had him try 'Richie's Plank Experience,' which is a game where you go to the top of a skyscraper and walk out onto a tiny plank," Egolf said. "He was floored with how he couldn't stop

his body and mind from thinking he was really in the air. He stumbled and shook the half way down the plank but couldn't bring himself to make it the full way.

"Spectrum has been featured in the Fort Wayne newspaper multiple times, even on the front page once, as one of the most exciting and affordable places to visit in Fort Wayne" Egolf added. Last Halloween their company was even joined by the

ABC21 WPTA crew for a multi-day coverage event on their Hospital of Horror experience.

There are two Spectrum locations in Fort Wayne: 4714 Parnell Ave, and 6242 West Jefferson Blvd. Hours are 12 p.m. to 10 p.m., except for Mondays.

To learn more about Spectrum VR company you can visit spectrumvrcade.com or their Instagram page @spectrum_vr_arcade.



Photo by Spectrum Virtual Reality Arcade.

Customers wear VR masks and headphones so that they can trick their senses into believing that they are no longer in the physical world. Remotes in their hands allow the technology to recognize when they are moving so that the virtual world will respond to their movements.



Photo by Spectrum Virtual Reality Arcade.

MU student Anjel Clemente visits Spectrum VR Arcade located in Fort Wayne, Ind.



Photo provided by Manchester University Swimming and Diving.

Senior Guerby Ruuska set a new school record in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:12.68, beating the old record by almost 2 seconds at the HCAC Swimming and Diving Championship. After graduation he is headed to Lima, Peru, to join the Haitian National Swim Team.

Tight-Knit Team Breaks Records

Noah Tong
Staff Writer

For Manchester University head coach Mike Kocsis, the results of the 2019 HCAC Swimming and Diving Championships at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology were an overwhelming success.

“We were easily the smallest team at this meet by at least 10 people compared to the next smallest team, so I wasn’t even looking at how we scored as a team,” Kocsis said. “The only thing that mattered to me was how we performed on the individual level.

“Everyone had season best swims and dives, many people had lifetime best swims and dives, and we broke a total of 10 individual school records with some being broken multiple times throughout the weekend,” Kocsis continued. “I couldn’t be

prouder of how the team performed.”

The men’s team concluded the weekend with a score of 141, while the women’s team finished with a score of 134. Divers Jordan Spearman and Anjel Clemente both qualified for NCAA Sectionals due to their impressive results in the men’s 3-meter and 1-meter dives, respectively. Shelby Kell broke four school records for the second straight year.

“Our program has a bright future and is heading the right direction,” Clemente said. Back in October; however, these achievements may have seemed more improbable.

“There was a lot I had to learn on the fly,” said Kocsis, reminiscently. “This is my first year as a head coach, and I joined the team in October after the season had already begun. We had a turbulent start, but it all culminated in a fantastic con-

ference championship.”

The abrupt coaching hire led to a rocky beginning to the season for the individuals on the team. “His coaching style is very different than the previous coach’s style, and I had trouble adjusting at first,” explained senior Jamie McBride. “After I got used to the new coaching style the season went a lot smoother.”

This year the HCAC championships took place at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology from Thursday, February 14, to Saturday, February 16. The athletes were expected to be ready at the pool by 8 a.m. Preliminaries would run until around noon. Evening finals sessions did not start until 6 p.m. and lasted until 10 p.m. The weekend was what Kocsis called “challenging” for the student-athletes both physically and mentally, but Spartan swimmers and divers are no strangers to heavily regimented schedules.



Photo provided by Manchester University Swimming and Diving.

Jordan Spearman stands in first place after breaking the school record for 3m 11 dives. He also earned the title of men’s 3m Conference Champion, qualifying for NCAA Sectionals with a score of 441.25.

“With this sport, everything matters,” said Guerby Ruuska, a senior swimmer. “The amount of sleep you get, what you consume, your mentality. In no other sport do all the little things make such a difference. It’s stressful at times but also very humbling to say you are that disciplined of a student-athlete.”

Kocsis, determined to honor the level of commitment his athletes displayed, recognized the significance of ending the season strong—especially for the seniors.

“Fifty percent of our team were seniors competing in their final swim meet,” he said. “It was important for me to send the athletes off on the highest note possible at the end of their collegiate athletic careers.

“I did my best to make this season as fantastic and memorable as possible for our graduating seniors,” Kocsis continued. “They deserved nothing less than my best for all the time, energy and training they have put into our program.”

The Spartan swimmers and divers shared a special bond that made all the extra hours worth the trouble.

“I came in late because I started senior year thinking I wasn’t going to swim anymore,” said Nathan Koch, a senior swimmer. “I thought I was burnt out. However, I ended up coming in to help the guys’ team so they would have relays for con-

ference. I think this season was a great way to end my swimming career.”

That helpful attitude prevails throughout. “We are not just a team,” Mikayla Goetz said. “We are like a family.”

Ruuska believes the supportive and accepting culture fostered in the swimming and diving program reveals untapped potential of every athlete. “It’s not all about how fast you go in the water or your degree of difficulty off the board,” he said. “It’s about friendships and supporting each other through everything. The good and the bad.

“Manchester swimming and diving does a great job at taking people in who don’t believe in themselves and making them monsters in the water,” he continued. “You don’t need to be division one talent. As long as you have a passion for swimming, working this hard, and hanging around goofballs all day, then you’ll fit in here.”

Kocsis plans to use the momentum gained from his first season to increase the support for the Spartans’ swimming and diving program from the entire university.

“Much like any other sport, we love our fans,” he said. “We will be having more home meets starting next year, and I would love for people to come out and support the student-athletes who work so hard at a sport they love.”



Photo provided by Guerby Ruuska

From left to right: Katie Blystone, Mikki Goetz, Shelby Kell and Jamie McBride.



Photo provided by Guerby Ruuska

Back row left to right: Kyle Erwin, Jordan Spearman, Nathan Koch, Christian Poole, Anjel Clemente, Guerby Ruuska and Michael Kocsis. Front row: Anna Wright, Jamie McBride, Katie Blystone, Mikki Guetz and Shelby Kell.



Photo provided by Guerby Ruuska

Mikki Goetz (below) and Shelby Kell (above).



Photo provided by Guerby Ruuska

From left to right: Nathan Koch, Mikki Goetz, Guerby Ruuska, Jamie McBride and Anjel Clemente.