# Social Work Students Travel to Indy Statehouse

Tiffany Williams Staff Writer

Manchester social work students went to the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis on Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, accompanied by Assistant Professor of Social Work Alicia Dailey and Professor Barb Burdge.

According to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the primary mission of social work is to enhance human well-being and help meet basic and complex needs of all people, with a particular focus

on those who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

Social work students were taken to the statehouse in order to understand the different aspects of the social work profession, such as advocacy. "Social workers don't just 'help people' who are in need," Dailey said. "They also support changes in policies and laws in order to create fair and unbiased systems. Learning how to advocate on behalf of people with no voices is just as important as learning how to work one-on-one with a client."

One student on the trip was Delaney McKesson, a senior

double majoring in social work and peace studies. McKesson explained that the trip to the statehouse was important to her because she is mostly experienced in the micro level, or social work performed on an individual or small group basis.

A lot of policies held at the macro level, or social work that centers on the investigation of larger scale social problems, govern how McKesson will eventually work at a micro level. "It is very essential that I understand [the policies]," McKesson said. "Going to the statehouse gave me a glimpse into the inner workings

of the government, and it gave me some suggestions on issues I may choose to voice my concern on."

The trip to the statehouse was put together as the Indiana chapter of the NASW (NASW-IN) plans Legislative Education and Advocacy Development (LEAD) Day every year. This year there were about 400 social work students and faculty from across the state that gathered to learn about bills important to social workers and the clients they

The students and faculty of Manchester experienced a weather delay on the way to the statehouse. "I don't think the weather impacted us horribly," McKesson said. "Our drive down to Indianapolis was taken very slowly so we arrived safely. We were only a little bit late and were able to hear many of the presenters speak."

The NASW-IN put on a rally that was all about the current governmental policies social workers could reference in order for their voices to be heard. "It was encouraging all of us to join government, even on a small scale

**SEE INDY, PAGE 2** 



Photo by Manchester University Social Work Program Facebook Page.

Back row: Stormy Buck, Delaney McKesson, John Trenshaw, Ana Acevedo, Paula Rupe, Kierra Thomas, Tiffany Phinezy and Dr. Alicia Dailey. Middle row: Kayla Dull, Paige Dressler, Natalie Stewart, Kristen Krill and Shayla Rigsbee. Front row: Sierra Mitchell, Taylor Cordero, Emily Ryder and Mariah Paris.

# MU Challenges Students to take Active Roles in Suicide Prevention

Kaleigh Gabriel Staff Writer

The audience of Cordier Auditorium sat in lingering silence late Tuesday, Feb. 26, following the conclusion of the documentary film "Suicide: The Ripple Effect." Students had just listened to Kevin Hines, the subject of the film, recount and relive the story of how he survived his jump off the Golden Gate Bridge in 2000, when he was 19.

This VIA on the outreach for suicide awareness is part of a program designed by the education and athletic departments. Throughout the next few weeks, the two departments will host small events to help educate students on suicide awareness and prevention.

After the conclusion of the movie, a panel was held for students to get a better grasp on information, guided by Abby Van Vlerah, the vice president of Student Affairs at Manchester University. Panelist included Alice Jordan-Mills, the director of Indiana Suicide Coalition, Connie Kerrigan, the director for Community Outreach at Parkview Behavioral Center and Jason Cussen, the director of the Wabash Bowen Center.

"Suicide is most common in teens and young adults, specifically those of college age," said speaker Jordan-Mills, who is also professor of the Purdue University Fort Wayne Behavior Health & Family Studies Institute. "On average, there is a suicide every 11 minutes in the world, meaning that seven people could die during the course of this mov-

Audience members were shocked by the striking facts of death that accompanied this movie. "Obviously today we know how mental issues can be a cause

of death, but I don't think we are aware of the immense threat it poses by suicide," said first-year Estefania Mesta. "While it is scary, I think it is good that we have been made to notice the problem. This video really made me take notice of the signs and warnings."

The film notes that Hines had been diagnosed as bipolar and constantly struggled with his 'mental pain' as he called it. "I was constantly thinking everyone is out to get [me] and everything would hurt [me]," says Hines in the video as to why he jumped. "I didn't think anyone cared and I didn't ask."

Throughout the film, Hines is pictured not only visiting family and friends who were affected by his jump, but also the first responders who met him on that fateful day. One focus was that of a Coast Guard officer who had been on the job ten years and had seen countless jumpers. However, Kevin Hines was the only survivor he ever pulled out. "Suicide touches everyone remotely close somehow and some way," said Hines in the video. "It is our duty to help prevent others from feeling this is their only option."

One of the main focuses of the panel was to show students that the stigma against suicide should not matter. "We need to take the public shame and isolation away from going public with your pain and helping ourselves," Cussen said. "Suicide is such a stigmatized topic that we avoid conversations about, but sometimes talking is what can help the

Another focus of the panel was to make students aware of the conversation and how to ask about fellow friends. "Asking the question is the simplest way to start the conversation," Kerrigan said. "There's a feeling conveyed by asking that lets people know that someone, anyone, cares about

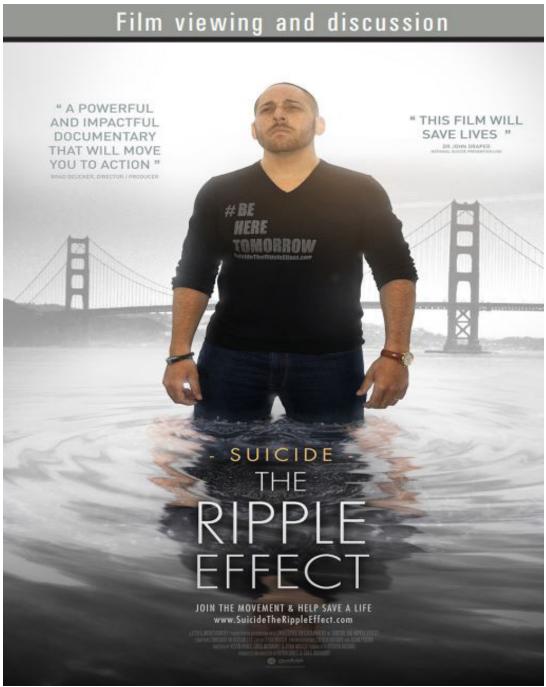


Photo by Manchester University Social Work Program Facebook Page.

The education and athletics departments used the film "Suicide: The Ripple Effect" to educate students on suicide awareness and prevention at a VIA event.

them. There are classes and practice discussions that can be taught to help students become more alert and better prepared to discuss the problems of suicide with

peers."

Any student can reach Manchester Counseling Services for an appointment by calling 260-982-5306. LookUpIndiana. org is another resource: anyone can text LOOKUP to 494949 or call 800-284-8439. The National Suicide Prevention Hotline phone number is 800-273-8255.



#### FROM INDY, PAGE 1

and be a part of the changes we wat to see," McKesson said.

The bills discussed in the rally were over bias crimes, supervision by behavioral health professionals, payday lending and more. "In all honesty, I didn't even know that these bills were in session," McKesson said. "It took this trip to really call them to my attention and get me thinking about them."

Dr. Brad Yoder, a former social work, sociology and criminal justice professor at Manchester University, spoke in support of a gun safety bill which would require universal background checks prior to purchasing a gun.

Another part of the trip to the statehouse was supposed to be a meet up with Congressman David Wolkins, who is a former teacher from Warsaw. Wolkins has represented District 18, which includes Manchester University, since 1988. While it is unknown to why he did not show, there are plans to meet with him next year on LEAP Day.

McKesson said she felt it was a very successful day. "My favorite thing about this trip was being in a large group of my fellow social workers, from all over the state, who are passionate about the same things as I am," she said. "It is very inspiring to have my voice be part of a collective."



Manchester University Social students spent time in the Indianapolis Statehouse to learn about bills that influenced

#### MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION "Every photo tells a story, and your story matters."

Whether you are a student (past or present), faculty, or staff, we want to see the world through your lens.

#### **GUIDELINES**

This competition is limited to photographs taken in the last five years. (Works dated earlier than 2013 are ineligible.

The theme for this competition is In the Moment. Any subject matter that depicts, expresses, or relates to this theme will be considered.

The three categories are Altered Images, Color, and Black & White (including sepia tones).

A photographer may enter a total of TWO photographs.

A photographer can enter into any of categories; both entries can be in the same category, but the maximum of two entries total still applies.

An "altered image" is one that has been manipulated for artistic purposes by applying digital and/or traditional special effects. Minor adjustments, including cropping, spotting, dodging and burning, contrast and slight color adjustment are acceptable for all three categories. If the judges determine that a photographer has altered his or her photo, they reserve the right to move the photo to the Altered Images category.

The competition is open to all Manchester University students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Works that contradict Manchester University pledge to value the infinite worth of each individual will not be accepted (at the gallery director's discretion). All images entered into the competition may be used in the promotion of this and other University programming.

## **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Photographers may submit works by email to eroke@manchester.edu, beginning 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 25, and ending at 11:59 p.m., on Friday, April 5, 2019.

o The photograph, sent as a JPG attachment, must be high-resolution (no less than 300ppi, to be printed as 8 x 10"). No Instagram or FB pictures, please—the resolution is too low. (Last\_FirstName.JPG)

o One email per photograph, please. For each entry, body of the email must contain the photographer's full name, his/her association to Manchester University, title of the work and 1-3 sentences explaining how the photograph relates to the theme of the competition—In the Moment.

oThere is no entry fee.

## **JUDGING**

Images will be judged after the submission window closes. The judge(s) will decide which entries will be accepted for display. Manchester University has the right to refuse to display an entry based on questionable content. The names of the jurors are not released in advance to protect the integrity of the show.

Works accepted in to the show will be printed, matted, and put on display in Link Gallery, NM campus. Photographers will be notified by email on Friday, April 12.

## **CATEGORIES AND PRIZES**

Best of Show Award \$150

3 Honorable Mentions will also be given in each category for \$50 each.

## **COMMISSION**

Manchester University Galleries does not charge commission on the sale of works. Any parties interested in purchasing works may contact the artists directly.

## **DISPLAY**

The show will be on display in Link Gallery, Otho Winger Hall, North Manchester campus, from April 26 through September 13. Link Gallery is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, when classes are in session, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, in the summer.

## **NOTIFICATION**

All notifications will be made by email before 5 p.m. on Friday, April 12.

# **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Ejenobo (Jena) Oke, Director of Galleries, eroke@manchester.edu, 260.982.5334.



Photo by Paige Dressler

Social Work students Page Dressler and Emily Ryder.



Photo by Stormy Melton.

Social Work students from around the state gathered for a rally that discussed bills such as payday lending, bias crimes and gun safety.



**Delivery Manager** Chloe Arndt

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 KPC Media Group



Exercise science major Harrison Hollis and elementary education major Annie Jondle enjoy the salads during dinner...



Communication studies majors Carly Kwiecien, David Alvarez, Nate Tesmer and Tanner Edge. Bailey Harmon, art major, is also pictured. Edge appreciated the alumni speakers that gave reflections of their time at Manchester and the advice they gave when it came to what to expect when facing the real world. "The Last Days to Commencement event was enjoyable because I was happy to sit by others in my major and my professor for an excellent dinner," he said. "I am excited to graduate and use the skills and knowledge I have gained at MU."



Kaitlin Mindiola, Delaney Ray, Britanie Jernigan, Haley Duncan and Kayla Dull. Ray appreciated the celebration with her fellow classmates and professors serving her to "Be Our Guest." "I am nervous about senior year coming to a close because I will be heading out into the unknown, but also full of excitement to see where the world takes me" she said. "I know MU has prepared me well and I cannot wait to see where I go next!"



Emily Ryder and Morgan Oliver. Ryder describes graduating as a bittersweet experience. "As I sat and ate dinner with my senior class, read letters from our freshman-selves, and listened to alumni speak and provide advice, I felt a mixture of sadness, excitement and closure," she said. "I'm trying to cherish all of the little things, and especially what is left of being an MU Spartan."

# Seniors Celebrate Last Days at Manchester

**Zoe Vorndran** Staff Writer

Some students trekked across campus, while others drove far distances to reunite with their graduating class. The Last Days to Commencement event occurred on Feb 28, 2019, at 5 p.m., to celebrate the journeys and achievements of the class of 2019

Since 2011, Manchester University's Alumni Office has planned the event to celebrate the seniors, recognize their accomplishments and invite them to become engaged alumni after graduating. "Last Days to Commencement is a time for us to celebrate and reminisce," said Mike Leckrone, assistant director of Alumni Relations. "We like seniors to reflect on their experiences and appreciate their accomplishments."

Students energetically socialized in the Upper Jo Young Switzer Center for the first half-hour as they showed off their formal wear. The servers, which consisted of faculty and staff volunteers, weaved through the crowd to offer appetizers such as sushi, spanakopita and tomato basil bruschetta. Students could also quench their thirst with either water or Cosmopolitans.

During the cocktail hour, students took pictures in front of the 'Spartans for Life' photo backdrop and chatted with friends. "The best part of the event was friends taking pictures and reminiscing their four years at Manchester University, and how time has flown by so quickly," said Samuel Tetteh-Quarshie, a biology-chemistry major and a psychology minor.

Students congregated into the banquet room at 5:30 p.m., where the tables were topped with black cloths, yellow napkins folded neatly and candlelit centerpieces. Students sat in assigned seats according to their majors. Staff and faculty members accompanied each table based on their department or their interests.

Students had mixed reactions about the assigned seating. Mitchell Espinosa, a history major and a Spanish minor, liked it. "I thought seating by major was a good idea," he said. "It was nice

to spend time with Professor Ganesan because it was nice to have a farewell dinner with a professor who you have known your entire college career."

Tetteh-Quarshie also enjoyed the assigned seating because it helped the event run smoothly. He appreciated that they separated students by majors since they shared a common interest. Tetteh-Quarshie found it especially humbling to be served by his professors. "Personally, it edifies the personal connections that the professors here at Manchester University have with their students," he said. "The joy on their faces while they served is something that will forever remain in my heart.

On the other hand, Mikayla Rosinski, an education studies major with a concentration in business and history minor, would have preferred to have chosen her seat for the evening; however, she did not mind sitting with others who share her major. "I would rather have been sitting with my friends since the event was celebrating our last days here," she said.

This year marked the first time the faculty and staff caterers sat and intermingled with the students. For Dr. Uma Ganesan, associate history professor, the assigned seating allowed her to connect with the students from her department. "It was extra-special for me because I had a chance to serve and sit with the first cohort of history majors whom I have known and taught from the time they were freshmen here at MU," Ganesan said. "Each of these students have been in several of my classes and I have got to know them well over the last four years. I sure am going to be teary-eyed when this group of students graduates and leaves. While I wish the very best for them in their personal and professional lives, I will certainly miss them."

Dr. Heather Schilling, professor of education, also appreciated being able to interact with the students since they had less of a role in serving. While she would have enjoyed meeting and connecting with other graduating seniors, she appreciated being able to serve and sit with some of her elementary education majors. "I have loved watching the senior ed-

ucation majors step boldly into our profession," she said. "They have learned to challenge the status quo in order to improve the human condition."

For some students like Rosinski and Justice Smith, a finance major with a sales minor, their servers were professors outside of their department. However, they enjoyed sitting and interacting with them. Smith found Dr. Timothy Brauch to be entertaining and an enjoyable host for his table, while Rosinski commented that Dr. Stacy Erickson-Pesetski was "super funny and nice," even though she had never had her as a professor before.

As the students ate their salads, Kylee Moss, director of Alumni Relations and a 2011 Manchester College graduate, welcomed the seniors in her opening speech. During her speech, she stressed that Manchester University is always a family who cares deeply about their students and alumni. She encouraged the seniors to continue their connections and to proudly join the family of Spartan alumni. "We want to start engaging future alums," Moss said in an interview before the event. She explained that the Alumni Office hopes that the graduating class will share their experiences with other Manchester Spartans in the

Toward the end of her speech, she explained the contents of the black Manchester University folders that were placed on the seats of each student. The folders included the program for the evening, a pad of paper and pen and surveys to fill out. She also invited students to read the letters they wrote to themselves as first-years which elicited loud, excited chattering from the audience.

As students opened their letters, there were many different reactions. While some students found it entertaining, others thought their letters were moving. Despite the fact that she wrote about missing home and being nervous, Rosinski found the letter to be funny. For Smith, the letter contained a dollar that he had placed in the envelope during his first year. Espinosa found the letter to be emotional. "It's nice to see and measure growth in myself," he said.

Following Moss's speech, Rebekah Houff, the campus pastor, led the guests in prayer. After the prayer, the song "Be Our Guest" blared out of the speakers. Without missing a beat, the faculty and staff who volunteered to serve the students filed into the dining area with plates in hand. Students clapped and cheered as two lines of faculty and staff danced their ways around the tables.

Not only was the catering services special to the students, it was also special to faculty and staff who volunteered. Schilling loves volunteering for the event. "I love celebrating these amazing people," she said. "As a faculty member, I know how hard they work to not only do well academically, but to juggle their other obligations as athletes, musicians, actors, workers, volunteers, leaders and club members. Celebrating them and all that awaits them is one of my favorite things to do."

Ganesan also echoed those sentiments about volunteering. She volunteers to show her appreciation and gratitude towards the students she has had the opportunity of teaching and mentoring. In addition, Ganesan stated that she loves the event because it "recognizes the hard work of students and celebrates an important milestone."

The dinner consisted of chicken or beef, au gratin potatoes, and fresh green beans with garlic. There was also a vegetarian option which consisted of a zucchini stuffed with herb garlic quinoa and tofu topped with marinara. Topics of conversation during the meals varied from each table ranging from post-graduation plans to traveling to financial statistics.

traveling to financial statistics. While people ate their cheesecake for dessert, alumnus Rone Davis '02 spoke to the class of 2019. He began his speech with advice and words of encouragement from Robin Williams and Taylor Swift. Then he explained his journey as an always-late-toclass business major at Manchester. Despite his tardiness, Davis made connections with his professors because, as he said, "they take interest in their students." Davis advised students to always make time to have fun, to be themselves, and to stay connected with Manchester's community. He ended his speech by encouraging students to make a change in the world.

Stephanie Alumna Green Rappatta '11 followed Davis's speech. Throughout her speech, she emphasized the words ability and conviction. She gave examples about how both words apply to her life. Rappatta shared her experience as a middle school teacher who watches her students' skills and abilities grow every day. She also explained how Manchester had shaped her convictions and passion about education, music and finding the good in everyone. Toward the end of her speech, she reminded the students to remember the faculty and staff who have helped them navigate college in order to graduate. She ended her speech by encouraging the students to "Let [their] abilities and convictions shine bright."

Following the speeches presented by the alums, seniors Tetteh-Quarshie and Gabby Anglin stirred up energy and laughter from the crowd as they asked for contributions to an organization that will improve the economic situation of prospective students. As part of the Chairs for the Senior Year Class Giving Committee, Tetteh-Quarshie became involved in order to introduce the project for the class of 2019.

In lieu of President Dave McFadden's absence due to sickness, Melanie Harmon, vice president for the Advancement Office, gave the toast. She advised the students to learn about passion from the faculty and staff since they love their jobs, soak up campus life by participating in events, savor time with friends and continue learning. Students raised their glasses of champagne to toast each other after her speech.

After the toast, Carson Fort, a senior political science and history double major and an economics minor, led the class of 2019's response by thanking everyone who had been a part of planning the event. On behalf of the graduating class, Fort also vowed that the seniors would take pride in becoming future alumni. The event concluded with students, faculty and staff clapping and singing Manchester's fight song in unison



# ( )ak Leaves

# SPARTAN SPORTS



# MU Baseball Gets Back into the Swing of the Season

Noah Tong Staff Writer

Manchester University baseball escaped frigid temperatures at home to begin their season in sunny Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Spartans started off their season with two tough defeats against Johnson & Wales University before taking the second game of the doubleheader against Manhattanville College. Manchester's bats caught fire as they scored 14 runs, thanks to 13 hits spread across eight of their batters.

The final outing of the trip saw a narrow defeat against Lehman College in extra innings. The five games, played from Thursday, February 28, to Saturday, March 2, served as an opportunity for Manchester to recognize their areas of strength and weakness, as well as bond as the team.

The team left right after classes on Wednesday. "The 14hour bus ride was not very fun, but it was totally worth it once we were there," said junior Isaiah

Knight-Neraasen.

"The schedule was very strenuous and time management was tough too," Knight-Neraasen continued. "But that's just part of being a student-athlete. Time management is key."

The out-of-state visit to Myrtle Beach allowed the players the chance to improve both as players and teammates.

"My personal goal is to be able to help the team the best I can," said junior Craig Overpeck. "Whether it's pitching or just bringing up team morale in the dugout. Our team goal is to win the [Heartland Collegiate Athletic] Conference tournament and be able to advance to regionals."

Knight-Neraasen echoed his teammates' sentiments, saying that every year the team's goal is to "win that conference championship."

The words of the coaching staff, led by head coach and athletic director Rick Espeset, clearly has had an influence on the players

"Our coach stresses be-

ing the most liked on the team and that hits home for me," Knight-Neraasen explained. "On the field I try to stay as consistent as possible."

With every new season comes opportunities for underclassmen to stake their claim at playing time. Making the most of their opportunity, the Spartans featured eight first-years at various points throughout the road trip.

"Most of the first-years got opportunities to play and a lot of them played well," Overpeck said. "I was very impressed with the younger guys and their ability to step up in the bigger moments." Despite losses to tough opposition, the trip allowed the student-athletes to settle into a state of baseball bliss with their teammates and friends they will never forget.

"I'll always remember all of the fun games of 'Mafia' we played on the bus," Overpeck continued. "We did a speed round once and it was a ton of fun. Everyone was laughing and had a good time."

Knight-Neraasen said: "One lasting memory I will have

is walking into the hotel room and going straight to the balcony and looking at the sunrise. It was an eleventh story beach-front view of the sunrise. Knowing you get to start your season off with your best friends two hours after that is no better feeling."

Immediately following the final game, the team packed their bags to arrive back on campus in time for their Monday morning

The Spartans will be hoping they glean the positives from their away trip to be prepared for conference rivals. The HCAC Preseason Coaches' poll, released in early February, predicted Manchester to end the season fifth in the conference. The Black and Gold are coming off a fourth placed finish and a 2018 HCAC Tournament

For a successful season, the Spartans will no doubt rely on the talent of key returners such as first-team all-conference outfielder senior Tyler LaFollette and honorable mention all-league infielder senior Braxton Riley.

# **Spring Baseball Schedule**

#### March

09 DePauw (Away)

10 DePauw (Away)

12 @ Taylor

16 @ Heidelberg

17 Heidelberg

23 Ohio Wesleyan

24 @ Ohio Wesleyan

30 Hanover

31 Wooster

# **April**

02 Anderson

06 @ Rose-Hulman

09 Indiana Tech 13 @ Franklin

16 Defiance

20 @ Mt. St. Joe

23 @ Bluffton

24 @ Indiana Tech

27 Translyvania



03 Earlham

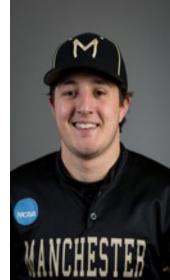


Photo by MU Sports Information.

Manchester takes the field in a doubleheader against Manhattanville College in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Manchester lost the first game 5-9 and won the second game 14-7.



Tyler LaFollette Position: OF



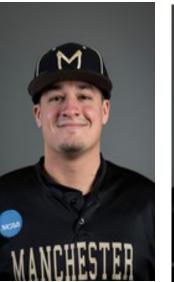
**Braxton Riley** Position: INF/OF



Christian Smith Position: 2B

John Magers

Position: P



Collin Bice



Jordan Hilvard

Position: P

Position: UTL



Matt Pritz



Photo by MU Sports Information. Manchester's late game against Lehman College Thunder in Myrtle Beach secured the Spartans a 7-6 win last Saturday morning.



Photo by MU Sports Information This year's schedule currently features 38 games, 15 of which will be at home at Gratz Field. Thirteen contests this season will be played on the road. Head coach Rick Espeset will be in his twenty-third year with the program. Espeset is the school's all-time winningest coach withover 570 victories.