

Students Receive Awards at Indiana Collegiate Press Association Conference

Oak Leaves Staff

Four students received awards at this year’s Indiana Collegiate Press Association Conference:

First Place, Best News or Feature Series: Kaity Collins: “January Session Travel Series”

The judge: “Excellent, clear writing. That missile alert alone... wow! Way to localize a big story.”

Second Place, Best Non-Deadline News Story: Erin Brock: “Día de los Muertos Exhibition to Help MU Community Become Culturally Aware”

The judge: “She brought a coffin to campus. There’s a sentence you don’t read every day. Nice job covering a creative approach to learning. Your story would have benefitted from student quotes.”

Third Place, Best Opinion Column: Marcus Zwiebel: “Parking NOT a Problem”

The judge: “The writer provides answers and reasoned opinions on an issue of campuswide concern. Excellent closing paragraph.”

Second Place, Best Feature Photo: Caraline Fearheller: “Fort Wayne Chinese Families and Friends Association performs a traditional Chinese dance in beautiful garments during the International Fashion Show”

The judge: “With a true photo-journalist’s eye, the photographer captures a memorable moment from an evening of fast-paced action. This image instantly telegraphs to the viewer the meaning and impact of the event.”



Photo by Chloe Arndt.

Left to right: Dr. Ings, Kaity Collins, Noah Tong, Caraline Fearheller, Carly Kwiecien, Erin Brock, Destinee Boutwell and Marcus Zwiebel.



Photo by Chloe Arndt.

Left to right: Noah Tong, Carly Kwiecien and Destinee Boutwell.



As Carly Kwiecien prepares to graduate, we thank her for all her terrific work with the Oak Leaves, beginning as staff writer and then serving as co-editor in chief for the past three years. Journalism minor Noah Tong (who is also a double major in sport management and marketing) will join the editorial staff in the fall, serving as co-editor in chief with English education major Destinee Boutwell. Come see us next fall in our new Student Publications Office, Academic Center 141, which we’ll share with Spectrum!

Mock Funeral Encourages Students to Fight for Liberal Arts

Marcus Zwiebel
Staff Writer

Students are mourning what they see as the death of the liberal arts at Manchester with a funeral scheduled for Friday, May 10. This event was precipitated by an April 29 email from university president Dave McFadden that informed of reductions in faculty and staff members, academic programs and a sports team, that will occur either at semester’s end or over the next few years,

To address student concerns, McFadden held two Discussions with Dave, public forums where students and others could ask him questions and share their reactions. These two discussions, as well as the change-introducing email, have contributed greatly to student dissent and a subsequent student-organized protest in response: a funeral for the liberal arts this afternoon.

Planned by an interdisciplinary coalition of students consisting of a range of backgrounds, attitudes, experiences and ages, the funeral will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. at Petersime Chapel and will have music, an event officiator, as well as several eulogies provided by students.

A funeral procession will begin at 4:30 and make its way from Petersime Chapel to the president’s residence, Tall Oaks, where Manchester University’s Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. with the president. The procession will gather outside the residence until the board members enter and then will return to the chapel for food and community.

Every individual planning on attending the funeral is encouraged to wear black, as well

as review the multiple stories and experiences on the Manchester Advocate, which is an online forum collection of student, faculty and staff experiences across the university. For those unable to attend the funeral, the event will be livestreamed and accessible via Facebook after its completion.

The funeral is inspired by similar events at other universities, such as the University of Tulsa. This experience, however, is unique to Manchester, as an individualized response to administrative change.

Prior to the funeral for the liberal arts on Friday, there will be opportunities for students, staff and faculty to become involved and extend their perspectives on the recent university changes through a variety of social media platforms, such as the Manchester Advocate forum and the variety of social media groups for alumni and current students (such as those on Facebook). Students may also receive Buttons of Solidarity later this week to show support for the liberal arts identity at Manchester.

The coalition of students also has written a mock obituary for the liberal arts education, which includes elements such as the date and location of death of the 130-year educational model as well as survivors (academic programs). This mock obituary, inspired by Manchester’s recent situation, is laid out beneath the headline “Respecting the Infinite Worth of Most Individuals.”

Caraline Fearheller, senior political science and peace studies double-major and president of the Kenapocomoco Peace Coalition, is one of the organizers. She explained that the largest roadblock was organizing the funeral quickly while maintaining its effectiveness, considering the

campus received McFadden’s email directly before the last week of classes.

Although this time crunch could affect attendance at the funeral for the liberal arts, student reaction to the announcements and support for the funeral has been strong. “The Discussions with Dave helped students begin to step in the right direction,” said senior psychology major and orientation assistant Connor Eichenauer. “The answers and non-answers that were provided at these events sparked and advanced student interest, as well as opportunities for student involvement on campus.”

The coalition of students that organized the funeral does anticipate pushback from administration as well as from students—primarily those that are not directly affected by the institutional changes. “We are hopeful students will become more attentive to smaller changes, not just monumental changes,” Eichenauer said. “Mainly because these small changes do either directly or in-

directly affect everyone—student, staff or faculty—on this campus.”

The students involved in the May 10 demonstration intend to continue advancing their cause for a defined liberal arts identity through thought-provoking and peaceful demonstrations. “When I visited Manchester’s campus, I was impressed by the evidence of students’ political and civic engagement and the ways in which I witnessed community members putting their values into practice,” says Dr. Tara Smithson, assistant professor of French. “It struck me as a place where there was the potential to both learn and contribute.”

The funeral seeks to uphold and contribute to the liberal arts identity, and faculty intend to provide students with an engaged learning opportunity, despite the trying time. “My priority is making sure that the students have the best possible experience while they’re here,” Smithson said. “We have a lot of exciting activities in the works for next year and, while

I am disappointed by this decision [to discontinue the French major], I remain enthusiastic about the possibilities for working with students and colleagues in the next two years.”

The response to the university changes has transcended North Manchester’s boundaries. University alumni have been strategic and active in their musings on social media platforms considering the reduction of Manchester’s liberal arts identity, and have been forced to contemplate their positions as alumni of an institution that boasts the liberal arts identity yet also succumbs to budget cuts which reduce programs that contribute to this identity.

The coalition hopes that the recent changes, and the subsequent student-organized demonstrations, give administration—primarily the Board of Trustees—the opportunity to reconsider and re-embrace Manchester’s commitment to the liberal arts.



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

Manchester students and staff gather in the Toyota Round for a “Discussion with Dave” in response to university reductions in employment and programs.

MU Amps Up May Day Weekend with Airband

Kaleigh Gabriel
Staff Writer

As the spring semester of 2019 at Manchester University is on its last leg, students celebrate the final weeks with annual May Day celebrations. Manchester Activities Council curates numerous events for the weekend including the annual trike race, mud volleyball tournament and the Airband contest.

The Airband contest—which took place Friday, May 3 in the PERC—was packed full of students, anxious for the thrilling event.

The crowd sat in silence, wondering what was about to happen, as junior Emily Ewen strutted across the gymnasium-turned-stage in a tutu, leather jacket and blonde wig. As the Hannah Montana medley opened with the iconic song “Nobody’s Perfect,” the crowd cheered in excitement and nostalgia.

Ewen’s performance continued to thrill the audience as she ditched the wig, an homage to Montana’s movie in which she reveals her real identity. However, the crowd favorite came towards the end of the splendid routine as Ewen bounced her way out on a large yellow exercise ball to the song “Wrecking Ball” before, in true Miley Cyrus fashion, licking

a sledgehammer. “To me, Emily’s performance was the best because she was so enthusiastic and her songs were put together to show the evolution of the Hannah Montana we all grew up loving,” said first-year Anthony Harris. “Her use of props was really creative as well, which helped to really entertain her audience.” Up next came a duo of junior Ben Cauffman and first-year Joel Arney featuring the song “Freaky Friday.” Students throughout the audience cheered and sang along to the track.

For junior Ally Jarvis, this was a notable time. “It was so fun to see all students engaged with the song,” she said. “Seeing things like this on campus reminds me how small and tight-knit the campus really is and that’s a great feeling.”

Next came a trio led by Chief Diversity Officer Michael Dixon, featuring costumes with wild prints and the iconic Will Smith song of the early 2000s, “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.” Students rapped along with the track and cheered on Dixon’s dance team. However, the best reaction during their performance occurred when the crowd went wild when Dixon began doing the classic “Teach Me How to Dougie.”

Next came a group performance from seniors Anjel



Photo Provided by Anjel Clemente’s Instagram.

The group Color Spectrum took home awards for “Best Group” and “Crowd Favorite.”

Clemente and Keiton Hall, junior Jalmen Sullivan and first-year Bridget Nash, which opened in a crowd uproar as Nash rose from her seat in the bleachers to the opening duet of High School Musical 3, lip syncing with Hall as the group assembled for a performance featuring pop hits such

as Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” and its iconic dance moves, and emerging hit “Old Town Road” by Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus. The contest came to a close with a group led by senior Daisy Byers featuring many contemporary dance hits. At the end of the night,

the panel of judges delivered its picks for “Best Group” and “Best Individual” along with its selection of “Crowd Favorite.” Clemente, Hall, Sullivan and Nash took home the awards for “Best Group” and “Crowd Favorite” and Michael Dixon’s dougie claimed the “Best Individual” award.

WE’RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW-CO-EDITOR, NOAH, WHO WILL BE WORKING WITH DESTINEE BOUTWELL NEXT YEAR. CONGRATULATIONS, CARLY!

“After getting the opportunity to write stories about a wide range of topics as a staff writer this year, I am thrilled to continue working with the Oak Leaves as a co-editor next year. Thank you to all the people who have put in the time and effort to making the paper what it is today!” -- Noah Tong

“I have enjoyed being a part of the Oak Leaves for the past four years, one as staff writer and three as Co-Editor-in-Chief. It has been an honor to write, read, edit and share the stories of students, faculty and staff with my MU family. I know my Co-Editor Destinee will continue to spread the important messages about Manchester, and I am excited to pass the baton to Noah as he begins his new role.” -- Carly Kwiecien



Photo Provided by Justice Smith.

Emily Ewen kicked off the event in her tutu, leather jacket and blonde wig. Her performance followed the evolution of Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus’s music career beginning with “Nobody’s Perfect and ending “Wrecking Ball.”



Photo Provided by Justice Smith.

Airband judges Rudy Rolle, Scotty Secrist and Kylee Moss.



Photo Provided by Justice Smith.

Anthea Ayebage, Michael Dixon and Mam Samba dance to hit songs like “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” and “Thriller.”

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Opera Workshop Players Perform One-Act Comedy

Tiffany Williams

Staff Writer

Manchester University is holding an opera workshop performance in Wine Recital Hall May 11 and 12, 2019.

Choir students, and some non-choir students, are helping put on the production of “Trial by Jury,” an opera written by Gilbert and Sullivan who have also written “Pirates of Penzance” and “HMS Pinafore.” “Trial by Jury” is a comedy about a bride who is abandoned at the alter and who decides to sue the groom in a court of law for breaking her heart. The judge appears, under the influence, and the jury, composed only of men, is swayed to the side of the plaintiff before the trial even begins.

The students who are playing the main roles are: Anthony Harris as the judge, Shannon Lee as the Plaintiff, Ben Tipton as the Defendant, Clayton Marcum as Counsel for the Plaintiff, Nolan McBride as the

Usher, as well as Kayla Carver, Hailey Schneider, and LaDavie’a Shears, as the three Bridesmaids of the Plaintiff. “I feel like my role adds to the humor that this opera wishes to present to the audience,” said Shears about her role as a bridesmaid. “I know the things I have to do in the opera make me laugh so much. I can’t wait to perform!”

The rest of the parts, including the Gallery members and most of the Jury men, are performed mostly by members of the A Cappella Choir.

Selections from two other operas will be performed as well. Preceding “Trial by Jury” are excerpts from “Cosi fan Tutte” by Mozart and “Lecrezia” by William Bolcom.

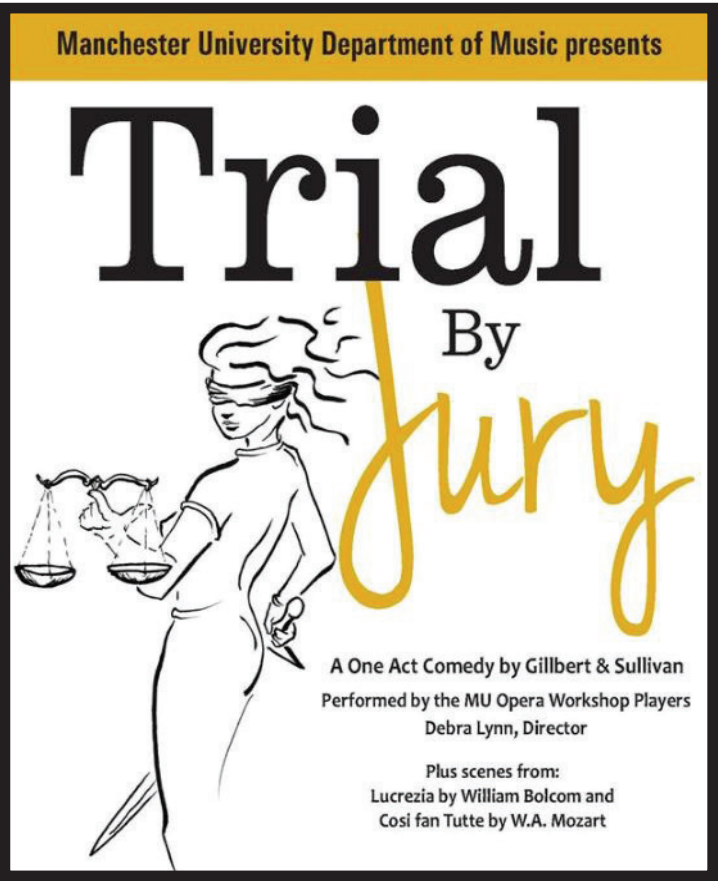
“Cosi fan Tutte” has a very classical opera sound but is also a comedy. It’s the story of two sisters whose fiancées have gone off to war. The servants of the sisters have a little wager going as to whether or not the woman will be faithful in the absence of the soldiers. There are four people involved in the opera.

“I am playing Dorabella,

who is one of the two sisters in the show mourning her fiancée going off to a foreign country,” said first-year Jenn Wagner. “My favorite part so far is really being able to relate to my character and portray her emotions on stage. I feel pretty prepared and am really excited.”

“Lecrezia” is a 20th century opera that takes place in Spain where a mother wants very much to have a grandchild. Her daughter is indifferent about the idea, so the mother finds a magic potion that will help her daughter become pregnant and immediately strike dead the man who fathers the child. The man who concocts the potion is secretly in love with the daughter, Lecrezia, and hopes to take place of her husband.

This opera workshop production will be performed on May 11 at 7 p.m. and May 12 at 3 p.m. in Wine Recital Hall. “I’m very proud of each student involved in this production,” Director Debra Lynn said. “Everyone has worked very hard. Comedy is much tougher than it looks.”



Seniors Reflect, Look Toward Future After Graduation

Noah Tong

Staff Writer

As the weather gets warmer and the semester winds down, students enjoy the May Day festivities, wrap up their spring season sports and begin to buckle down for final exams. Soon, summer will arrive and most MU students will leave campus to return to families, work a summer job or complete internships.

Graduating seniors, however, must also cope with the stress of planning for life after college. Even for upperclassmen fortunate enough to have already secured opportunities after commencement, there is a level of uncertainty and stress that naturally creeps into the mind.

“It’s tough to leave a campus you’ve called home for three years,” said Nick Buttermore, a biology-chemistry major from Auburn, Ind. “Although I’m excited for the next phase of my life, it’s easy to have moments where a change of scenery feels daunting.”

Buttermore is on his way

to Manchester’s pharmacy school in Fort Wayne, Ind. He will be completing an education there in the hopes of one day becoming a successful clinical pharmacist. He cannot help but thank the professors who have helped along the way.

“Jeff Osborne pushed me to take the Guatemala service trip last January and he served as a mentor to me,” he said. “He really helped me find out what I was passionate about.”

The quality of professors and their capacity to care for each student they encounter is a major influence on the 2019 graduating class.

“I have so many favorite professors because they’ve all been such an integral part of my education,” said Zoe Vorndran, an English and history double major from Fort Wayne, Ind. “However, I really appreciate Dr. Angelos and Dr. Ganesan.”

“They have both been so helpful to me when talking about academics, post-graduating plans and life in general,” she continued. “I appreciate their willingness to always take time out of their day to talk to

me about issues.”

Following graduation, Vorndran is starting a year-long internship at the Brethren Historical Library and Archives (BHLA) in Elgin, Illinois. She is open to a career in public history or becoming a professor down the line.

Vorndran also believes she was “fortunate” to have a job with Jeanine Wine, Manchester’s archivist. “It was my experience working with her that led me to my internship at BHLA,” she said. “I don’t think this would have been possible without her as a mentor because she taught me so much about preserving the cultural heritage of artifacts and documents.”

Samuel Tetteh-Quarshie, a biology-chemistry major with a minor in cognitive neuroscience, credits the entire science department for helping him succeed.

“They all welcomed me into their office and showed great interest in helping me succeed here at Manchester,” he said. “This was very huge in my transition process to life in the United States.” Tetteh-Quarshie

is originally from Tema, Ghana.

Despite the distance, Tetteh-Quarshie knows his experience at Manchester is “one to write home about.” Last summer he completed an internship at Manchester’s College of Pharmacy which sparked his research interest that he will continue to study after leaving North Manchester.

Upon graduating, he hopes to continue his career in clinical research neuroscience and neurobiology at the graduate level. “I have an offer from one of the schools that I’m looking into, but still waiting for a few confirmations from other programs,” Tetteh-Quarshie explained.

Manchester is almost in the rearview mirror for the seniors, but they will leave with some priceless memories that will last a lifetime.

“I’ll probably say my fondest memory would be time spent with the soccer team,” Tetteh-Quarshie said. “The team bonding exercises and the spectacular seasons we’ve had will forever remain with me.”

Buttermore, also on the

soccer team in the team manager role, appreciates both the journey and the people he met along the way.

“I made some great friends January term of my first year,” he said. “We spent a lot of time together that semester during class, studying in the ‘chill corner’ in the library and just spending free time with each other. Now they’re some of my best friends.”

Echoing Buttermore’s lasting perception of Manchester, Vorndran’s favorite thing about MU is the people.

“I have found a family and a community of people who will embrace me as I go through this journey, whether it’s something big like making hard decisions, or something small like throwing a frisbee on the mall even after the sun sets.”

Unclear times may await the 2019 graduating class, but students are thankful for the opportunities and experiences Manchester has already provided them.



Photo Provided by Manchester Activities Council.

Dakota Brown slides through a cloud of orange powder to gain a lead against his opponent.



Photo Provided by Manchester Activities Council.

Isaac Miller steers his trike toward the colored arrow directing him toward the next station along the obstacle course.



Photo Provided by Manchester Activities Council.

Hannah Jo Smith crawls across the tarp as MAC members shower her with orange powder.

MAC Hosts Annual Mud Volleyball Tournament

Zoe Vorndran
Staff Writer

Hidden away behind bright green bushes and trees with budding flowers is an outdoor volleyball court with a muddy “floor.” May Day marks the time of year when the usually vacant, abandoned court bustles with activity as hundreds of students filter in and out to watch or participate in the annual mud volleyball tournament.

The epic, five-hour battle for the annual mud volleyball championship trophy occurred on Saturday, May 4, beginning at 10 a.m. Manchester University’s undergraduates and graduate students dove, jumped and slid through knee-deep, foot-numbing mud.

The week preceding the mud volleyball tournament had a record amount of rain, and it is hard to imagine that the North Manchester local firefighters had to make the volleyball pit muddy. However, the firefighters and Manchester Activities Council (MAC) members set up the court by clearing the pit of sticks and weeds, filling the pit with water and stomping down the mud.

“This was my first year ever experiencing mud volleyball and I loved every second of it, from set up to clean up,” said Dilyn Dewey, a first-year MAC member. “Our team put so much time and effort into the planning of this event and the execution went perfectly.” Even though MAC had an early morning, they got to play and dance in the mud to the “Cha Cha Slide” before the tournament began.

The rain and chilly weather deterred some teams from participating. However, dedicated teams faced the rain and cold weather. “I wish Sunday’s weather was Saturday’s weather,” said sophomore Caylie Ganser, commenting on Sunday’s sunny, 70 degree weather. “Last year, we wanted to stay and watch, but this year, we wanted to leave. I didn’t even want to go in the first place.”

For the first teams to compete, the cold weather, coupled with the early start time, made it harder to get to the court on time. “We were almost



Photo provided by Anjel Clemente’s Instagram.

Jake Ramer, Josh Gonzalez, Kira Heckmueller, Christian Poole, Nick Surber and Anjel Clemente won the mud volleyball tournament.



Photo provided by Emily Horsley.

Crowd gathers to watch Manchester students compete in mud volleyball.

late to our game,” Ganser said. “I feel like the games should have started later.”

Despite the rainy, slow start, the mud volleyball tournament was ultimately a success. MAC’s energy and the upbeat songs kept the tournament lively and entertaining as spectators watched the games. The sun eventually made an appearance as well. “The weather got better towards the afternoon,” said senior biology-chemistry major, Zoey Tran. “The morning teams had unfortunate weather since it was so rainy. Better weather, better mood.”

Each game lasted five minutes and the team with the

highest score at the end of the five minutes won the match. The quick pace added pressure to competitors as they tried to earn as many points within the short amount of time. Throughout the games, teammates would encourage each other to rotate and serve faster in order to squeeze as many points in as possible. “I feel like the games should have been longer,” Ganser said. She believes that her team would have had more of a chance to earn more points had the games been longer.

Tran echoed her sentiment: “With only five minutes, you have to hit and pass the ball as fast as you can.”

Due to the time restrictions, MAC members who managed the volleyball game had to be quick in order to keep up with the fast pace, highly intensive games. Their jobs were to keep score, manage teams who were waiting to compete and keep the volleyballs in play by passing them to the servers. According to Tran, there were some technical issues. “One downside was the fact that some newer MAC members did not run the game smoothly,” Tran said. “They passed the ball slowly and I feel like we could have won, or it could have been a better game. We could have tied the game if they passed the

ball faster.”

For most people, the best part of the game was jumping around in the mud. “My favorite part was getting out there and getting dirty,” senior Sara Carder said. According to Carder, despite their loss, their team had a great time. They played against the Ace Inhibitors, a team composed of students from Manchester’s pharmacy program in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Sophomore Brittany Miller also loved playing volleyball in the mud. “My favorite part was standing in the mud,” she stated. “When else do you get to stand barefoot in a pile of mud?”

Ganser shared her experience about diving into the mud. “After the other team’s first serve, I dove for the ball and was instantly covered in mud,” Ganser said. “I also didn’t have time to put my hair up since we were late.”

Most participants did not walk away without having to use the hoses to clean off. Even the MAC members, who were managing the games, had splatters of mud all over their arms and faces by the end of the tournament from passing mud-caked volleyballs to each other and the servers.

Even though most though playing in the mud was fun, it was freezing. “My feet were going numb by the time I got out,” sophomore Thalia Vallejo stated. “The hose water afterwards didn’t feel so great either.”

The tournament came to an end after the teams Wombo Combo and Sets in the City competed each other for the championships. After an intense rock, paper, scissors match to determine who would serve first, the real game began. With many tips over the net, spikes and dives, Wombo Combo were victorious, winning the championship trophy after a hard-fought game with nearly a 10-point lead, and celebrated their win by jumping into the mud pit.

For Dewey, the championship game was the highlight of the event. “I loved seeing how competitive both teams got and their good sportsmanship afterward.”



Photo provided by Emily Horsley.

Teams try to rotate in thick mud quickly so that their 5-minute game does not expire while they are behind.



Photo provided by Emily Horsley.

Maddy Minehart, Carly Kwiecien, Jesse Langdon, MacKenzie Weadick and Cassie Hicks named their team “The Pacifists..”



Photo provided by Destinee Boutwell.

“Straight Outta Schwalmpton” created matching T-shirts to inspire team spirit and unity. Clayton Capes, Levi Doe, Adri Millican, Destinee Boutwell, Jack Kinsey, and Ben Sendo reunited their team one last time before three of the members graduate this spring.



Photo provided by Destinee Boutwell.

The thick mud makes it difficult to move.