

MU Senior Figueroa Joins Doctoral Program at Johns Hopkins

Teresa Masteller
Staff Writer

After applying to 14 programs, Manchester University senior Alexis Figueroa accepted the offer to join one of five spots for the Doctoral Diversity Program (DDP) at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

As a chemistry major with a minor in biology, Figueroa will be well prepared to join this post-baccalaureate program for individuals interested in pursuing advanced biomedical-related degrees, such as a PhD in biochemistry or an MD, after he graduates in May. “The professors here are great, and I learned so much from my classes,” Figueroa said. “Having a good undergraduate education in the sciences will surely prepare me for graduate school.”

During his two-year commitment with DDP, Figueroa will be matched with a research mentor, and he will receive stipend benefits, MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) prep and personalized career development assistance.

Figueroa decided that he wanted to be included in a gap-year research program in order to gain experience and enhance his candidacy for when he follows his education plan and applies to MD/PhD dual degree programs. “My career goal is to be in a position that allows me some time to pursue clinical care and some time to pursue

research,” he said.

Figueroa received interview offers from Ohio State University, the University of Illinois-Chicago, IUPUI and Johns Hopkins University. “For the application process, I had to submit a personal statement, three letters of recommendation and a full transcript,” he said. “The process for Johns Hopkins was actually fairly competitive; they received over 300 applications, conducted two rounds of 17 interviews, and in the end, picked me as one of five interviewees to enter their cohort.”

During his time at MU, Figueroa has had many accomplishments, including participating in two summer research internships, one at Miami University and the other at the University of Kentucky. In addition, Dr. Kristen Short, Figueroa, and the rest of the 2017 DNA science class published a gene sequence in the NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information) GenBank, a genetic sequence database.

Figueroa has been an active member of the MU community throughout his time here. He has held e-board positions in Hispanos Unidos, the American Chemical Society and the Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society. He has also worked on campus in various positions that range from writing consultant to student health assistant. Recently, he was awarded the Luminescence Award, the highest award a student can receive from the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Each year, this



Senior Alex Figueroa traveled to Nicaragua to give health care to natives in poverty during the annual Medical Practicum. Photo by William Southern

award is given to the student who demonstrates the highest moral and ethical character, coupled with academic achievement and community involvement.

In his hometown of East Chicago, Ind, Figueroa first heard about MU from his physical education teacher Coach Blank, who is an alumnus. “I came to MU for the personalized educational experience that comes with attending a smaller institution,” he said.

Things were not always easy at MU for Figueroa, who transferred out after his first se-

mester here, mostly due to financial reasons. “At my new institution, the education experience was simply not the same, and I almost immediately started the process to return to MU,” he said. “I am happy that I decided to return.”

Figueroa’s best MU memories include the medical practicum to Nicaragua, which he participated in twice as a translator. “My second trip was President Dave’s first time out, so that was pretty special,” he said. “I especially enjoyed the tight-knit community we formed amongst the students,

providers, and Nicaraguans. Our adventures in Nicaragua are memories that I will never forget.”

His favorite memories on campus include his study group in SCIC 310. “The people on the third floor of the science center have been a huge support system for me during my time here,” he said. “In 310, you can find us either focused and dedicated to our work or pursuing random antics.”

MU Receives on Giving Day 2018

Kaity Collins
Staff Writer

It’s been said that giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference. Manchester University took this to heart on April 19 with the campus-wide Giving Day event.

“It was a way to ask donors to give back to Manchester,” said Lauren Hughes, Social Media Coordinator. “It also allows current students to thank those who have given to Manchester.”

Over the course of Giving Day, there were 285 donors that contributed to Manchester and \$50, 073 was raised collectively as a result of the efforts of both students and alumni. “Giving Day is our single largest fundraiser day at Manchester,” said Assistant Director of the Manchester Fund, Elena

Bohlander. “Our biggest goal was to make it the biggest fun day for students.”

Kylee Rosenbaum, Director of Alumni Relations, said: “Excitement was everywhere on campus. Not just with students, but also with alum and staff and faculty.”

One of the big events was the mystery box on campus. A larger-than-life black box with a decorative gold ribbon was placed outside the front doors of the Jo Young Switzer Center, intended to help motivate students into getting involved. “We hoped it would be something fun that students would enjoy and remember,” Rosenbaum said.

Bohlander added: “Giving Day won’t be the same every year. But we plan to bring back the box.” The mystery box was opened twice throughout the day, the first time (10:45 a.m.) revealed volunteers offering free donuts and coffee

and the second time (6 p.m.) was more Manchester-oriented with prizes such as t-shirts, highlighters, and foam squirrels.

“This is the second year we did the box,” Rosenbaum said. “But I think having students being involved this year was awesome.”

Students and alumni were both encouraged to get involved in the Giving Day festivities, either by volunteering to assist in promoting the event or helping spread the message of Giving Day.

Social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram were recommended for those participating in the extravaganza as an opportunity to show support to the importance of Giving Day and those it represented.

“There was creative content and videos geared towards students, staff and faculty and alumni,” Hughes said. “It shows alum that what they’re giving is important to



MU staff members surprise students on Giving Day with coffee and treats outside of the Jo Young Switzer Center on April 19, 2018. Photo provided

students.”

Rosenbaum said: “It was really special to see the students and alum come together. It created a sense of community among everybody.”

Giving Day presented the chance for alumni, students, staff and faculty to come together. “We are a community together and I

think that’s what makes Manchester University special,” Bohlander said. “We are excited for next year and would love to hear some student suggestions.”

Hughes added: “People want to hear from students rather than just another staff member. I’m very proud of the students who volunteered that day.”

Otho Winger Experience Sings out Hearts at 2018 Concert

Oak Leaves Staff

The Otho Winger Experience—the legendary rock band composed of faculty and staff—rocked the house and minds with its biennial concert May 8 in Cordier Auditorium. Called “Othopalooza: What the Planet Is Asking For,” the concert responded in the affirmative.

Dr. Judd Case (Communication Studies) performed for his fifth time as a lead singer and guitarist. He fronted numbers like “Maggie May” and took the guitar solo on Bon Jovi’s “You Give Love a Bad Name,” introducing the song with a genial shoutout to somebody’s mother.

Dr. Greg Clark (Physics) is a founding member of the Otho Winger Experience; this was his seventh show. Affectionately known as the band’s “mad scientist,” he plays every instrument known to humankind and some that are not yet invented. “I like to make noise on about anything I can get my hands on,” he said.

Clark showcased his artistic skills on guitar, drums and even the accordion. He also played what was perhaps the longest, most mesmerizing song of the set, Pink Floyd’s “Shine On You Crazy Diamond,” while the disco ball twirled above the audience.

Case hopes that students

felt optimistic about this year’s show. “A lot of the juniors and seniors have seen us perform,” he said. “But I think many students assumed that since we are professors and this is an on-campus concert, we were gonna be slow.”

Slow—or “nice and easy”—they were not, as Dr. Katharine Ings (English) forecasted in her introduction to the show opener, “Proud Mary.” Together with MU’s Ikettes, the awesome dancers also known as Professor Jena Oke (Art) and Dr. Kate Crell (Philosophy and Religious Studies), the trio performed an explosive version of the Tina and Ike Turner classic, swimming and shimmying their way across the stage in their breakout dance. Clad in pleather, leather, and twirly tiers, Ings and the Ikettes set the sartorial mood for the show.

Indeed, the Otho Winger Experience is known for its image. First and foremost is its namesake, Manchester University President Emeritus Otho Winger, whose visage emblazons posters and banners across campus. His slicked-back, early-hipster-length locks and collarless jacket stand out against the groovy stripes and font.

The poster was designed and created by director of Marketing Dan Chudzynski, also a member of the band, and known for his smooth stylings ranging from Ike Turner’s deep bass to John Mellencamp’s Heartland rasp. He also showcased — or shoecased — his

footwear by donning snazzy clown shoes while crooning “New Shoes.”

New solo performer Michael Dixon (Intercultural Services) added his own new shoes—’70s-style platforms in a visual homage to the Commodores, whose hit “Sail On” he sang—with Clark and Case providing harmonies.

The rest of the band dressed to trill as well: Case sourced his XXXL long pleather trousers some six weeks in advance; Dr. Jonathan Watson (English), found his Michael Collins-style bowler in Cork, Ireland; Dr. Mark Bryant (Chemistry) donned a smart fedora; and Dr. Dave Hicks (Biology), just happened to be wearing a jazzy beret in Pantone’s Color of the Year: ultra violet.

Other musicians were their regular cool-cat selves—Dr. Tim Reed on drums (Music), Dr. Debra Lynn on background vocals, (Music); the two brass players—Dr. Mark Angelos (History) and Scott Humphries (Music); Dr. Arturo Yanez on congas (Modern Languages); and guest fiddler Christy Thomson.

The music was equally eclectic. Ranging from late ’70s punk—Blondie’s “One Way or Another” to the pleasing harmonies of the Beatles’ “All You Need Is Love” and “My Guitar Gently Weeps” to Bob Dylan’s folkie “Tom Thumb,” it covered all genres. Hicks and Wat-



Dr. Katharine Ings belts out Blondie’s “One Way or Another” to the back of the house at the 2018 Otho Winger Experience. Photo by Maraki Tihina



The 2018 Otho Winger Experience wooed students with a variety of music. Dr. Judd Case rocks out on his guitar. Photo by Maraki Tihina



Photo by William Southern

President Emerita Jo Young Switzer awarded Emily Lynn both the Keynote Speaker Award and the Jo Young Switzer Writing Award at the 2018 Student Research Symposium.

Research Symposium Cites History of 'Excellence'

Oak Leaves Staff

Manchester University held its 20th annual Student Research Symposium on April 27, and its founder, President Emerita Jo Young Switzer, returned to be honored and to hand out awards.

In her remarks, Switzer noted that Manchester's strong academic tradition may not be as well-known as it should be. Citing significant graduates including Andrew Cordier (who helped found the United Nations), Roy Plunkett (who discovered Teflon), and Switzer's classmate Jane Henney (who was the first woman commissioner of the Food and Drug Association), she noted that Manchester has long had a tradition of excellence.

Switzer herself was noted to be part of that tradition, as

Symposium Chair Dr. Katharine Ings cited Switzer's own accomplishments, progressing from Oak Leaves editor in the late 1960s to being named Manchester's first woman president in the twenty-first century. To thank Switzer for establishing the Symposium and the writing award that bears her name, Ings presented Switzer with an engraved silver pen.

Before Switzer received her own award, she passed them out. Emily Lynn received both the Keynote Speaker Award and the Jo Young Switzer Writing Award; Carissa Fockler received the Poster Award.

The twenty-first annual Student Research Symposium will be held in April 2019 and both students and faculty mentors are invited to begin thinking about potential presentations.



Photo by William Southern

Mariam Aly Ibrahim and Zander Willoughby present their research at the annual symposium.



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MU Peace Studies Presents at Notre Dame Student Peace Conference

Avis McGovern
Staff Writer

Manchester University students traveled to the Notre Dame campus on April 13 with Dr. Elton Skendaj to present at the 2018 Student Peace Conference.

The conference was put on by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and MU students Jesse Langdon, Virginia Rendler, Caraline Fearheller and Katie Breidenbach presented their work. As a class assignment, the students researched and studied peace conflicts throughout their semester and submitted their final project—a series of “conflict maps”—to the Kroc Institute, with encouragement from their professor and mentor Dr. Skendaj.

Fearheller's presentation focused on the South Sudan Civil War that is currently taking place. “My research looked at the history of this conflict, tracing it back to pre-colonial Sudan, as well as looking at the major actors, structural issues and consequence of the civil war such as famine or use of child soldiers,” she said. “At the end of conflict map I suggested addressing the economic inequalities and fragmentation of ethnic identities in order to create a long lasting peace agreement.”

Langdon's focus was on the Israeli occupation in Palestine. “I presented a digital conflict,” he said. “I talked about historical events from the perspectives of both the Palestinians and the Israelis. I also talked about the United States' role in the occupation of Palestine. For instance the U.S. gives over \$30.1 million in taxpayer dollars to Israel every day in military aid, which serves to bolster Israel at the expense of Palestinian lives.”

The students spent many hours configuring the information they wanted to present at the event by looking back at notes they kept from their peace studies class with Skendaj; however, they also received a lot of mentoring outside the classroom. “Virginia, Katie Jo,



Photo by Zander Willoughby

Jesse Langdon, Katie Jo Breidenbach Wooding, Virginia Rendler, Caraline Fearheller and Dr. Elton Skendaj presented at Notre Dame on April 13, 2018, at the 2018 Student Peace Conference.

Caraline and I got together with Professor Skendaj to do a practice run of our presentations,” Langdon said. “Since I had prepared my presentation for his conflict resolution class last semester, all I had to do was refresh myself with the material again.”

At the conference the students were also able to meet and hear from some special guests. One significant moment was meeting Robert Johansen, a '62 Manchester peace studies and political science graduate and a founding faculty member of the Kroc Institute. “This moment was so memorable because it was a reminder of the fact that while Manchester may be small, connections can be found anywhere and it carries such a legacy in terms of its graduates going out in the world and doing peace work,” Fearheller said. “It's inspiring.”

Langdon said: “I really loved talking with Peace Studies students from around the country, and around the world! It was a joy to be a part of this conference,” he continued, “because I now am in contact with a diverse group of people within my field.”

The students received numerous tips from Skendaj as they were coming down to the final days before the presentation. While

they practiced how they would convey their research to the audience, Skendaj also helped to assure their confidence by having them place themselves in the audience's perspective. “I think the best advice he gave me was to admit if I did not know the answer to an audience member's question,” Langdon said. “I was worried about getting asked things I didn't know, but during the Q&A I was able to answer everything effectively.”

The students directed their appreciation for the opportunity to the MU Peace Studies program. “MU has taken me to the places where peace work has been done, taken me to the places and protests where peace work is being done and has given me to connections to pursue peace work in my future,” she said. “MU has also shown me how being an advocate for peace means somethings using your voice and other times shutting up and listening.

“It has taught me that peace work can be an uncomfortable, exhausting and frustrating process,” she continued, “but the community you find along the way is always there to remind you that hope exists and the world can be better. That is an important and an unforgettable lesson.”



Photo by Zander Willoughby

Senior Katie Jo Breidenbach Wooding presents information at the Student Peace Conference.

Students Plan Summer of Work, Play

Evan Harris
Staff Writer

Do not be a bummer this summer! Summer vacation is just around the corner (a long two weeks away), and students are trying to plan their escapes from homework and papers for the next three months.

While some students' plans are limited to sleeping in until 4 p.m., other students have jobs waiting for them.

“This summer I have a paid internship with Forte Residential, a company that works with children and young adults with special needs,” said junior Samantha Bontrager. “I will help them learn and improve life skills such as social interaction and seemingly simple things like ordering food at a restaurant. I will also work with my younger brothers, who both have special needs.”

“While helping my clients with life skills and real world situational skills,” she continued, “we are also able to take them on fun outings like going to the zoo or the movies or to different museums. I am looking forward to this internship, as I have a passion for helping the special needs community. I can't wait to spend my whole summer with some of my favorite

people.”

Some students are graduating and look forward to their post-college endeavors. “I am just going to basically cry at home because I will be graduating, and I have no clue what I am going to do afterwards,” said senior Mary Powell, sarcastically. “I am actually going to work at the SJCLP (St. Joseph County Public Library) until I can find a position as an Au Pair (Nanny) in a foreign country.”

Sophomore Kayla Maynard said: “For the summer, I will be working at Camp Mack in Milford, IND. as a camp counselor, where I will be working with children while gaining more leadership skills. I am also going on a tour of New York City with the rest of the choir, and I will be heading to Chicago for a concert afterwards.”

Though many students will be off campus soaking up the sun, the rest may be here on campus, battling the melting heat of the summer in Schwalm. “I will be doing an on-campus internship this summer as a Watershed Technician,” said sophomore Arpan Paul. “In this job, I will basically collect water samples and analyze the samples in the lab. Other than the internship, I just want to relax and also try new foods at different

restaurants nearby.”

To those who are not very active but want to get out and feel the sun against their skin, here are three ideas that one may want to ponder for the next three weeks. When in doubt, go on a road trip. As plain and basic as that may sound, road trips are a fantastic way to see nature in its many forms, as well as drive past places unknown. It is also a great start for those who dislike leaving the house over break. Take a friend time, which will help the time go by much faster. Do not forget to play favorite highways tunes loudly, too.

Second, go out of the country. If one has a passport and the money to go with it, go see the breathtaking view atop the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the bustling crowds and large technology presence in Tokyo, having a chat with the Sphinx in Egypt, or even soaking up the sun on the beaches close to Christ the Redeemer in Rio De Janeiro.

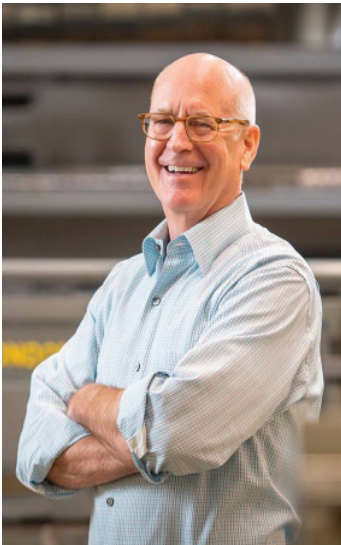
Lastly, if the first two options weren't possible, a simple “staycation” could work. Find local amenities that are interesting and have an exciting time. If that does not sound like fun, though, staying in bed curled up in covers will work, too.

College Democrats Welcomes Primary Candidates to Campus

Virginia Rendler
Freelance Writer

The Manchester University student organization College Democrats welcomed three congressional candidates to campus this past week. Wabash County is within the 2nd Congressional District in Indiana, and these three democratic candidates are vying for the representative position currently held by Republican Jackie Walorski. Walorski has been the representative for the 2nd district since 2013.

Yatish Joshi presented on the evening of April 18, in the Shepherd Room of the Jo Young Switzer Center. Students and faculty were invited to listen to the candidates present on their platform and background, and ask any questions they may have. Candidates also had the opportunity to mingle with students during meals in Haist Commons, accompanied by some campaign staff. Joshi, founder of GTA Containers in South Bend, focuses his platform on economy, health care, inclusivity and community building. Zander Willoughby, senior political science major, said that Joshi was a compelling candidate. “I think it’s great that Mr.



Democratic Congressional Candidates, Left to Right: Yatish Joshi, Mel Hall and Pat Hackett.

Joshi practices what he teaches,” Willoughby said. “He focuses on providing good jobs to people, especially giving second chances to people with criminal records.”

Mel Hall visited campus on April 25. Hall comes from a farming family, and has spent time as a minister and CEO of Press Ganey, focusing on patient satisfaction in health care. He spent seven years as a minister in Detroit’s Cass Corridor, a time which he recalls as

his greatest education. “That’s when I became a relentless pragmatist,” Hall said. Hall’s campaign centers on the economy, health care, public education, social security and net neutrality. Hall said that he intends to run a data driven campaign, and avoid any ad hominem attacks on the incumbent.

Hall believes that as a candidate for public office, he has the responsibility to make the world a better place. “Everyone

that I’ve met at Manchester, from students to faculty to staff to those on campus tours, shared that same sense of responsibility and commitment to making our communities better,” Hall said. “I’m inspired by the leadership of students like those at Manchester, and I know that our future generations are in good hands.”

The third and final candidate to visit Manchester was Pat Hackett. Hackett met with students

on April 26, and is a Detroit native. She is a small business owner, current adjunct assistant professor in the Notre Dame Law School, former adjunct faculty at St. Mary’s College, and former teacher at Marian High School. Hackett is “dedicated to the development of the community through education.” Her campaign centers on gun legislation, health care, education, racial and gender justice, labor and LGBTQ rights.

The Democratic Party primary election takes place on May 8, 2018, in Indiana’s 2nd District. This election determines which Democrat will earn the right to run in the district’s November 6, 2018, general election. Douglas Carpenter, Roland Leech and John Petroff are also democratic candidates. Tate Wooding, student body president, stresses the importance of participation in the primaries. “[Primaries] are extremely important to the election process,” Wooding said. “Unfortunately, people usually ignore the primaries. There are not usually a lot of policy differences between the candidates so it is important to meet and get to know the candidates and learn the differences.”

Student Senate Learns about, Discusses Vitality Initiative at Open Meeting

Kelleen Cullison
Freelance Writer

The Student Senate held an open meeting April 25 at 8 p.m. on the first floor of the Academic Center and began their meeting with discussion about the Vitality Initiative, a three-committee project formed to lead the direction of future Manchester University spending.

The three groups—the Academic Committee, Co-curricular Committee, and Steering Committee—are charged with saving the University \$1.5 million in the coming three years. Representatives from each committee were present at the Senate meeting to answer any questions from the student representatives, although the project is only in its initial stages.

The Academic Committee, comprised of faculty from each undergraduate college and a student representative, will strive to save \$400,000 from the collective department budget. “Right now, we’re refining the criteria for evaluating programs,” said Professor of Business David McGrady, the Academic Committee representative at the Senate meeting. The criteria, once defined, will be the measure by which each academic unit is evaluated, and from there, the task force will make recommendations as to how they believe the university should move forward.

Alexis Young, new Senior Director of Auxiliary Services, was present as a staff representative of the Co-Curricular Committee, along with student Senator Tabitha Lanning. The Co-Curricular Committee includes all aspects of campus life outside of academics, from



Student Senate held an open meeting April 25 on the first floor of the Academic Center to discuss the Vitality Initiative.

athletics programs to printing services, and are looking to save 1.1 million dollars over the next three years.

Both the Academic and Co-Curricular Committees, referred to as Task Forces, will give recommendations to the Steering Committee, represented by student Senator Carson Fort, which will serve as a go between the committees and the Board of Trustees. President McFadden is a member of the Steering Committee.

The representatives spoke highly of McFadden’s outlook on the project. “We have a president who has made this a participative project,” McGrady said.

According to Senate President Tate Wooding, the Task

Forces were developed to “change ways of looking at institutional processes [on campus.]”

McGrady’s description suggested the Board of Trustees were looking for a “cash cushion” to prepare the university in case economic hardship were to befall the pharmacy sector, as the Manchester Pharmacy Program subsidizes the main campus.

A budget cushion would protect the university in such a case. “We don’t anticipate problems with the program,” wrote President Dave McFadden in an email, “but we are always on the lookout for potential vulnerabilities.”

The school is not currently in financial strains. McGrady stressed that the Task Forces were

an effort on the part of the Board of Trustees to be proactive and noted that the 1.5 million dollars that they are to save constitutes only 5% of what the school spent last year. “This is for the long-term viability of the institution,” McGrady said.

Young was focused on how to best contact students in the event the committees wish to seek feedback. The committees will continue to be in contact with the student senators and will maintain the reports sent to the student body through Dave’s updates, sent through email every Friday. The representatives encourage inquiries, contacting student senators or sending questions directly to vitality@manchester.edu .



Dr. Greg Clark channels his inner 1985 self as he provides the licks for Simple Minds’ classic “Don’t You Forget about Me,” from the movie “The Breakfast Club,” as performed here by two complex minds, Dr. Ings and Dr. Case.

No Time to Slow Down: Sweeten Retires with Praise for MU

Kaity Collins
Staff Writer



Photo provided

Dr. Jerry Sweeten has taught at MU for 14 years.

Dr. Jerry Sweeten, professor of biology and environmental studies, is

retiring next week after 14 years of teaching at Manchester University. Being a Manchester alum, Sweeten graduated from Manchester College in 1975 and returned in 2004 to teach biology and environmental studies.

He served as the director of the Environmental Studies Program from 2004 to 2016, too. To him, he can't believe where the time has gone. "It's hard to believe 14 years have gone by so quickly," Sweeten said. "It's been a blur."

Sweeten had a whole other career before returning to Manchester to teach. He completed graduate work at Purdue University and was a member of the second class to graduate with an Environmental Studies major, but after a while, he came to the decision that MU was where he wanted to be. "I'm clearly happy I could come here," Sweeten said. "I love teaching and there are some great people here."

Additionally, Sweeten has also started his own business as an environmental consultant and offers internships to students who wish to gain experience and pursue their core education in environmental studies. "Maybe I could give back to MU," Sweeten said, "who also helped me get a professional start."

Even though Sweeten was a Manchester alum, he didn't imagine he'd end up teaching at the very university he graduated from. "This is the last place on the planet I thought I'd be working," Sweeten said. "It was not in my plans." However, Sweeten has fond memories of his time at Manchester: "I miss Manchester College, but I think the mission here is the same, and that's a good thing."

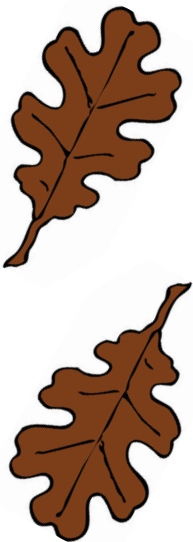
With all the connections and good times he's made with all the students, faculty and staff, Sweeten has both a wish and high praise for the future of Manchester University. "I hope as the university

grows, everyone remembers to stay true to the liberal arts," Sweeten said. "A Manchester education is one of the greatest luxuries in life and I hope that each student understands that and gives back to the greater good as well as remembering to always work hard as a result of their Manchester education."

Sweeten was on a two-year phased-out retirement and his last day as a MU professor is May 25. However, he isn't letting his retirement stop him from having fun: "I'm retiring because I'm old enough and there are other things I'd like to do; the biological clock keeps ticking."

Whether it was trips to Alaska or the Bahamas or the shared passion instilled in his students, Sweeten will always be grateful to everyone at Manchester University for giving him the opportunity of a lifetime. "Manchester is a special place," Sweeten said. "It touches lives in ways that cannot be

quantified; it did mine, as I know it did for others."



Traxler Retires after 39 Years of Teaching French, English at MU

Teresa Masteller
Staff Writer

Manchester alumna Dr. Janina Traxler will retire next week after 39 years of teaching French and English courses at the university.

Traxler's interest in language started in the high school of her central Indiana hometown when she had her first French class. "I fell in love with the intricacies and problems of learning language, and the satisfaction that comes with speaking in another language," Traxler said.

She found herself intrigued not only by the language, but also the culture, which is what she focused on in her teaching. "You're never teaching just French," she said. "You're teaching about seeing a culture in a different way or seeing yourself in a different way. This includes getting inside the way of thinking of people that speak that language. I find it all fascinating."

Traxler first heard about Manchester University, then called Manchester College, from a neighbor and public-school teacher who had graduated from the school. Overall, choosing where to go to college was quite simple for Traxler. "I'm a baby boomer, so there were lots of us going off to college and enrollments were pretty big," she said. "We didn't spend the kind of process on it that people today do.

So, I just kind of chose a couple, and ended up here," she added with a laugh.

While a student at Manchester, Traxler double-majored in French and math, and she received her teacher certification for secondary education. She spent her sophomore year studying in France. During her junior year, she started dating now-Professor Emeritus John Planer, and at the end of her senior year, she married him.

Traxler and Planer arrived at Manchester at the same time—she as a student, and he as a professor. As a member of the band, Traxler often saw Planer, as he was a professor of music, but she gives credit to her then-roommate, who was a music major, for setting them up during her junior year. They have been married 45 years and have two children together. As they were both eventually professors, they often spent their anniversary looking through exams or grading papers.

From a very young age, Traxler knew she wanted to be a teacher, but she had no idea the way it would unfold. "At age 18, you don't know what you're going to do," she said. "You might know what you want to do, but you don't really know what you're going to do," Traxler said. "When I was that age, I knew exactly what I going to be, I was going to be a junior high math teacher."

After graduating from Manchester College, Traxler taught

French and math at Manchester High School, Elementary French at Indiana University and French and English in the People's Republic of China. In addition, she has completed masters and doctoral degrees at Indiana University.

While at Manchester, Traxler experienced how much of an impact some professors can have on their students. "One thing I often say is that, as I look over my education there is a small number of teachers that really change your life," Traxler said. "I can think of four. Two of them were at Manchester. I saw precision of thought and that care of how to articulate ideas. I really started to appreciate the value of that intellectual rigor."

Traxler is no foreigner to traveling; she's been to many places including Kenya, the British Isles and Senegal, to name a few. But, of course, her favorite place to travel is France. Her first trip was the summer after her senior year of high school, and it was organized through her local 4-H program. She travelled to six countries during a timespan of two weeks.

During this trip, Traxler spent her time visiting farms, doing touristy things and missing the moon landing of '69. Her 4-H group was in Moscow at the time, and instead of watching the event on television like a lot of Americans, their television screens were blacked out by the Soviets.

As she looks ahead to retirement, Traxler is anticipating the flexibili-



Photo by Maraki Tihitina

Dr. Janina Traxler retires this semester after 39 years of teaching at MU. She will give her final "Last Lecture" on May 11 at 5:15 p.m. in Link Auditorium.

ty of a not-so-busy-lifestyle. "I look forward to the flexibility of traveling in . . . September or . . . April," Traxler said. "And sewing. Just doing things for no other reason than I simply want to, and not worrying about if it fits into the academic vacation, or whether it supports some sort of professional development I'm doing."

What accomplishments is she most proud of? Traxler first mentions her children. "My greatest satisfaction in life is knowing that the two children that we have, and who have grown up with us, have gone off and become very impressive

people," she said. "No money can buy that. Anybody who's a parent knows how fragile our success can be. After that I'd say I have had a job that I loved for 40 years, and no one could buy that either. I enjoy the act of teaching.

"I hope that students who come to Manchester take the chance to explore and really use all of the potential of this place to their educational advantage," Traxler continued. "We have a core of teachers that are just incredible people and some students really take full benefit from that and not everybody does, and that's too bad."

OTHO WINGER, FROM PAGE 1
son pulled out their mandolins; the students in the brass section added punctuation to a variety of tunes. Chudyzinski turned Cordier into a

gleeful detention hall with his keyboard on "Don't You Forget about Me" from 1985's movie "The Breakfast Club"; Bryant gave it depth with his bass.

As the band knows how challenging it is to put on this concert—it takes one year to plan, then another one to recover—they pay tribute to the excellent facilities and

staff who helped them mount the show. "Our band is most grateful for the staff in the Cordier Auditorium," Case said. "They have been a huge help and have worked so

hard. The custodial staff and campus safety also have a lot to do with assisting in the production such as cleaning up. I am honored to be a small portion in this event."



Photo by Maraki Tihitina

English professor Dr. Jonathan Watson makes his electric guitar speak during the 2018 OWE. But is it saying "Hwæt! We Gar-Dena in gear-dagum, þeod-cyninga, þrym gefrunon, hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon!""?



Photo by Maraki Tihitina

Dr. David Hicks played a variety of instruments, including the mandolin. He channeled Bob Dylan, forgetter of more than 95 songs, in "Tom Thumb."



Spartans Claim Two Top-Five Team Finishes at Outdoor Track, Field HCAC Championship

Kody Smith
Sports Editor

Manchester University's track and field program concluded the 2018 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship outdoor meet with two top five finishes on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28. The women's team placed second in the conference, scoring 123 points. The second-place finish snapped a three-year first place finish at the conference championship for the Lady Spartans, but the black and gold battled valiantly to place in the top three in all of the HCAC. On the men's side, the Spartans finished in fourth place as a team following a 74-point performance.

Head Throws Coach Kaylea Jachno and company provided plenty of spark that lit the fire under the 123-point team performance, thanks-in-large part to a history-making performance by senior Jacey Cauhorn. The native of Kendallville, Indiana secured the title in the discus throw, launching a distance of 42.57 meters. The impressive toss by Cauhorn is the second furthest recorded discus distance in the program's history at Manchester. First year Bailey Sewell claimed fourth in the category, tossing the disc 37.43 meters.

In women's shotput, junior Laina Boggs claimed second



Senior Jacey Cauhorn secured the title in the discus throw event at the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship, launching it a distance of 42.57 meters.

place overall, throwing a distance of 11.96 meters. A pair of Spartans broke the top five mark in the category as well, with Cauhorn placing fourth with a distance of 11.54 meters, and sophomore Katlyn Kennedy throwing a distance of 11.50 meters, good enough for a fifth place finish. Senior Kara Breuckman led a pack of three Spartans

to a top five finish in the hammer throw, hurling the hammer 46.75 meters to finish in second place in the category. Sophomore Austin Jones slid into the fourth position with a toss of 45.49 meters, while Cauhorn claimed fifth after a 44.53 meter throw. Boggs and Breuckman finished third and fourth respectively in the javelin throw, throwing

distances of 34.96 meters and 34.45 meters.

On the track, sophomore Hannah Wappes continued her 2018 dominance. The Columbia City native secured victories in the 800 (2:16.23) and the 1500 (4:46.96) meter runs. The 800 meter performance is now the second fastest recorded time in school history, and

a personal best for the sophomore. Junior Dasia Beck missed a first place finish in the 100-meter run by just nine-hundredths of a second, as her time of 13.20 secured a second place finish.

The men's team saw the junior duo of Harrison Hollis and Austin Coughlin place fourth and fifth in the 100-meter dash. Hollis recorded a time of 11.05 to claim fourth, while Coughlin rounded out the top five with an 11.14 second performance. First year Landon Balch put in the performance of a lifetime in the high jump, securing first place after a jump of 1.97 meters. This was MU's first individual high jump victory since 2012. First year Nathan Weaver took home a second place individual finish in the 110-meter hurdles, hustling for a time of 16.44 seconds.

Just 0.1 meters separated sophomore Austin Roberts and the first place spot in the men's long jump. Roberts launched himself to a distance of 6.72 meters, a distance that would place him in second place in the category.

Manchester University will conclude the 2018 Outdoor Track and Field season at Indiana University on Saturday, May 5. The home of the Hoosiers will host the Spartans for the Billy Hayes Invitational. Events are scheduled to kick off at 10 A.M.

Photo provided

Softball Seniors Honored at Senior Day, Play Alumni Game



Mallorie Jennings and family.



Andrea Hernandez and family.



All photos provided



The 2018 seniors of Manchester Softball: Jordan Elick, Mallorie Jennings, Madisyn Walter, Lauren Ladwig, Andrea Hernandez and Mikayla Deisler.



The dugout was decorated in celebration of Senior Day.



Left: Lauren Ladwig and family.

Right: Jordan Elick and family.





Pinarski Dominates as MU Clinches HCAC Tourney Berth

Kody Smith
Sports Editor

The Manchester University baseball team was in desperate need of a win on Sunday, May 6, as the Spartans traveled to Earlham College for a crucial matchup with the Quakers. What was on the line in the contest? A date with the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament, and the Spartans turned to two senior right-handers to take the mound. Senior Stephen Pinarski gave the performance of his life in the HCAC game, as the right-hander dealt 10 strikeouts over eight shutout innings of work. Although Earlham had won 23 games over the course of the 2018 campaign, Pinarski allowed just five hits to conclude the eight-inning dominance of the Quakers. Senior Brandon Eck was called upon to close out the contest, as the right-handed hurler did not allow a hit in the ninth



Senior Stephen Pinarski had a 10-strikeout performance during the game at Earlham College's Randal R. Sadler Field, ensuring the team a spot in the 2018 postseason tournament.

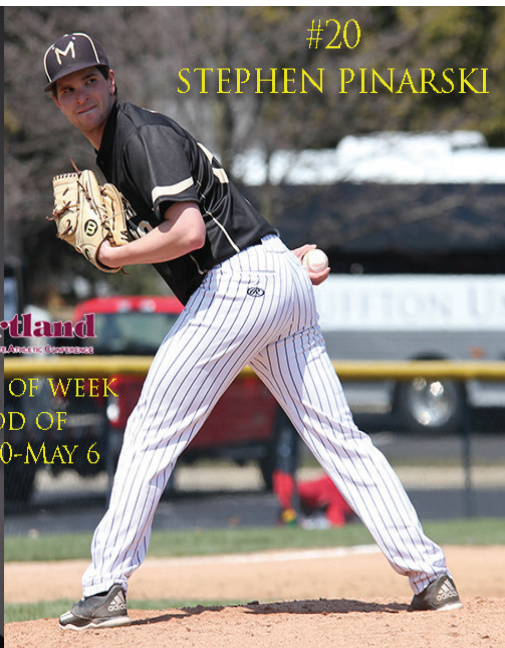


Photo provided

Sophomore Joe Gallatin tacked on his team leading 22nd RBI of the season in the fourth inning, as the designated hitter brought junior Christian Smith to the plate with a sacrifice fly in the fourth inning. The Spartans held the 1-0 lead early and did not look back from there. In the top of the seventh frame, senior Alec Trzeciak ripped a double down the right field line, scoring junior Tyler LaFollette. LaFollette contributed to the third run scored by the Spartans in the top of the eighth inning as well, as the right fielder hit a sacrifice fly, plating Smith for the second time in the contest. With the victory, Manchester secured the fourth seed in the HCAC tournament. Coach Espeset looked to continue Manchester's rich baseball history with another HCAC title, as the Spartans matched up with the Bluffton Beavers to open up the postseason conference tournament on Thursday, May 10.

inning. Eck recorded his third save of the season in a game that sent Manchester to the HCAC tournament. The pitching duo of Eck and Pinarski needed only one run to secure the victory, but the Spartan offense delivered three runs to take the 3-0 victory.

Spartan Athletes Honored at 2018 SAAC/M Association Awards Night



Photo provided

MU's softball team gathers for a night of awards.



Photo provided

Senior Lauren Ladwig is recognized as Female Athlete of the Year.



Photo provided

Student athletes recognized at the event each received their own T-shirt.



Photo provided

Senior Dakota Nelson is recognized as Male Athlete of the Year.



Photo provided

MU's baseball team gathers for a night of awards.



Photo provided

Senior Brody Kirby receives the Director's Award for being the most outstanding male scholar athlete of 2018.



Photo provided

Senior Katie Peden receives the Director's Award for being the most outstanding female scholar athlete of 2018.