

Annual Costume-Bingo Tradition Succeeds Again

Carly Greaves
Staff Writer

Halloween-style creativity and competitive spirit were shown at the Costume Bingo held in Haist Commons on Oct. 25.

This yearly event is hosted by the Manchester Activities Council, a student-run organization that brings exciting events and fun activities to the campus. The Costume Bingo served both as Halloween-themed entertainment and as part of the ongoing food drive #UCanCrushHunger. In exchange for a donation of canned goods, students were given bingo boards and the opportunity to win great prizes.

As the time for the event drew near, a sea of costumed students surged toward the Haist Commons. The wide space had been packed full with long wooden tables and pale yellow chairs. As the participants took their seats, the sheer variety of costumes became apparent. The outfits varied from simple to complex, homemade to store-bought. The cast of “Scooby Doo” sat alongside Pac-Man and the ghosts from the video game “Pac-Man.” Minnie Mouse

chatted with Rosie the Riveter and the Grinch. Five different people had come as the superhero Spider-Man. Excitement filled the air as students waved at their friends, congratulating each other on their costumes.

The chattering crowd went quiet as the microphone crackled and the event officially began. Eager contestants received instructions on how the game would play out: the announcer would call out coordinates for the players to cover. When someone declared “Bingo,” they would earn one of over 60 prizes. These awards included Manchester-branded clothing, movies, video game consoles and a 43-inch television. With such rewards on the line, the students were ready to play.

The contestants quickly settled into the game. The players focused on their bingo boards, their heads rising and falling whenever new coordinates were announced. Excited whispers and frustrated groans permeated the space, occasionally disrupted by a jubilant shout of “Bingo!” While competition was clearly in the air, the atmosphere remained friendly and encouraging. Bingos were often met with enthusiastic applause, contestants congratulating their successful friends. In between these victories,

contestants shared salty snacks and savory sweets, clearly appreciating each other’s company just as much as they were enjoying the game. “I like it more so for the socialization than the prizes,” said Ava McVey, a junior dressed as a ghost. “It’s a good time to get together and look at costumes.”

The participants were given an even better chance to look at costumes during the intermission, when it was announced that there would be a costume competition. The competition had two sections: the best individual costume and the best group costume. The winners were chosen by the participants, who voted by shouting and cheering when their favorite costume was pointed at by the announcer. After much screaming and clapping, the best costumes were decided. Emily Lynn, senior, won the best individual costume award with her interpretation of Darla from “Finding Nemo.” Fellow seniors Kalyn Flora and Gavin Eads earned the group award with their creative costume “Beer Pong.”

The evening went on, the pile of prizes slowly shrinking. After almost three hours of bingo-playing, costume-viewing and prize-winning, the last award was won and the con-

testants were dismissed. Walking out into the chilly night, the costumed players were tired but happy with how their night was spent. “I thought it was a lot of fun,” said Alexis Quick, a first-year dressed as Donna from “Mamma Mia!” “It had a lot of great prizes and gave everyone a chance to win.”

McVey cheerfully agreed. “Yeah, I’ll be back next year for sure,” she asserted.

With the promise of costume creativity and valuable prizes, the Costume Bingo is a Halloween tradition at Manchester that will not be spirited away any time soon.



Photo by Bonnie Wong.

MAC had a high attendance of Manchester students at the annual costume-bingo event.



Photo by Bonnie Wong.

MAC provided a variety of prizes that students could win including MU apparel, weighted blankets, an apple watch and a Nintendo Switch.



Photo Provided by Gen Malin.

A group of Manchester students dressed up as Pac-Man and the ghosts to compete for ‘Best Group Costume’ award.

Original Comedy ‘Down the Street’ Debuts at Manchester University

Ryan Daine
Staff Writer

The dizzyingly chaotic and obscene one-act play “Down the Street” made its two-night debut at Cordier Auditorium this past weekend, to the delight of a mature audience. The R-rated show was presented by the University’s Theatre Society, a completely student-run organization that draws in talented actors, technicians and directors who are passionate about the stage and all of its unique elements. With two nights of performances, audience members could choose which weekend evening felt appropriate to immerse themselves in the antics and humor of comedy theatre.

The show opens with an all-but-gentle narration from a curious Irishman, English major Jacob Hamilton, who saunters around the stage while he lets his silver tongue, loosened by the alcohol in the flask clipped to his waist, describe the chaotic nature of the mean streets of Manhattan, laying a wild scene for the future narrative. Suddenly, in a

flash, gunfire and wanton destruction grip the beautifully decorated 1950’s street corner scene, as actors and actresses dressed as common citizens rush around the stage in a flurry, and dart off the stage.

After the settling of the gun-smoke, audience members are introduced to the protagonist of the show, a young and ambitious parcel delivery man, named Johnny, played by criminology major Christian Poole. This brief introduction of Johnny is one of the few moments where the play slows down the chaotic nature of it all. Within this short span, a young woman walking down the street catches our protagonist’s eye, and an innocent bag of cocaine is slipped into one of the packages on his dolly, up the rest of the show as a result. What follows is an enjoyably chaotic narrative involving an unwarranted arrest, undercover police work, mafia-style organized crime (with a flair of utterly tenacious goofiness, of course.), love, betrayal, and a massive plot twist; it really is everything anyone over the age of 18 could want in a comedy show, and more.

What is perhaps the most im-

pressive aspect of this production is the fact that the whole process, from casting to set building, advertising to rehearsal scheduling, was all a student-led process. Even the script itself is originally written by a student at Manchester, who wishes to remain anonymous for the time being. Theatre Society works diligently to put on spectacular shows, with little time to produce and rehearse, and earning no profit from performances; shows are usually free to audience members, both student and not.

All in all, “Down the Street” is both a wonderfully written and cast show that offers an over the top and lighthearted look at what was an otherwise extremely dark and dangerous decade for New York City. Transforming a terrifyingly gritty chapter in history into one that is bubbling with emotion and antics is an experiment that may seem confusing on paper, but when executed on stage, makes for an experience where the chemistry of characters and setting alike blends together into an extremely well-executed piece, and a wonderfully performed show through and through.



Photo by Chloe Arndt.

MU Theatre Society has talented members that volunteer to act, write the script, do hair and makeup, and paint the sets.



Photo Provided by MU Theatre Society.

Emily Tyler’s character pretends to be an innocent young girl, but is actually the daughter of Mafia Leader. Christian Poole’s character is romantically interested in the innocent girl in a yellow dress but finds himself trapped in the middle of a conflict between the police and the mafia.



Photo Provided by MU Theatre Society.

Omar Gadzhiev played an excentric chief of police who repeatedly berated his force. However, is loyal companions like Officer Rooks, played by Brandon Gurrola, continued to help him look for cocaine suppliers.

Kyle Watson Returns to MU

Carlos Argueta
Staff Writer

When Dr. Kyle Watson is not teaching chemistry to first-years, he can be found knitting in his office or mentoring the tennis team at their matches. Watson is a new faculty member at Manchester University this year. He is an alumnus of Manchester and is eager to teach and be a part of the community once more.

So far for Watson, it has been a happy return. “It has been wonderful!” he said. “Everyone has been so welcoming, and the students have been really wonderful.” But being a professor at Manchester was very odd for Watson in the beginning: he now has a new perspective, as he goes from student to faculty. “All my memories are from my past

student perspective, so it has been really cool to see the faculty side,” he said. “I was a little nervous that my faculty colleagues would remember me as student Kyle, but everybody has been great.”

Originally from Warsaw, Ind., Watson decided to come back home after teaching at Kentucky Wesleyan College for four years. He is a graduate of Manchester University, earning his bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a minor in English in 2010. Then he attended the University of Notre Dame, where he received his PhD in organic and medicinal chemistry in 2015.

Watson started to get involved with student life the moment he stepped foot on campus. He is the faculty athletic mentor of the men’s tennis team, a volunteer position where he goes to the matches to support, encourage and help the team during and before a competition. “It is amazing to be the faculty athletic

mentor because I played on the team when I was a student,” he said. He also helped out with the Walk into My Future event and has been to several football games to cheer the team on.

In his free time, other than being involved with the Manchester community, Watson has two other full-time jobs: being a father and a husband. He loves to spend time with his energetic son and his family. Watson also has a strong passion for knitting and will work on new projects any time he has a minute to do so. His best way to relax is by sitting down and binge-watching his favorite shows on Netflix with his family, anything from cooking shows to animated comedies.

Watson is excited about what is to come to Manchester in the future. He will be a part of the upcoming nursing program beginning in 2021, teaching chemistry to future nurses. He would also love to teach



Photo provided by Kyle Watson.

Kyle Watson is an MU alumnus and new assistant professor of chemistry.

an FYS class on prescription drugs—both how they work and how they are produced. He has a passion for teaching chemistry and shaping the minds of young people. “I am just excited to be on campus and reintegrate into the community that means so much to me,” he said.

Brady Forman Moves from Goalkeeper to Groundskeeper

Erica Mohr
Staff Writer

Brady Forman has a long history of “keeping” things in order at Manchester: while a student he was a goalkeeper and he is now groundskeeper. Forman’s official title is grounds supervisor, and he’s held this position since graduating from Manchester with a degree in business management in 2018. But while he was a student, he helped keep both the grounds tidy and the home net empty.

Forman spoke with a smile about the family mentality he remembers from the soccer team. “I don’t think there was ever a time where somebody was left out,” he said. “It gave me an instant 40 friends, an instant 40 faces to recognize.

“As the seasons go on and years build after years,” he continued, “you never lose that friendship bond and your closest friends become family. I don’t think there’s

anybody on the team who wouldn’t do anything for each other.”

Forman keeps in close contact with the soccer team by attending most of the home games, and by helping train the goalies. Last year’s goalie, Justin Meredith, recalls Forman’s sessions. “He was always really big on using every minute he could to train us,” he said. “One day it was pouring down rain and we were off doing our training separate from the rest of the team. The rest of the team got done because of the rain and Coach Corey Bruggeman forgot to tell Brady we were done, so we kept training in the rain for another 15 minutes before we realized everyone else was leaving.”

Forman initially got into working with the grounds crew his first year as a student; the then soccer coach Dave Good was also the head groundskeeper and asked Forman if he would be interested in working for him. “My desire and passion is to not sit at a desk,” Forman said. “I love to be able to see how Mother Nature works and watch things grow and be hands-on.”

Around the time Forman was looking to graduate, Good had

begun to look at retirement, which led Forman to look at the head groundskeeper job. “Things fell into line, so it worked out where he was phasing into retirement, I was able to slip into his role,” Forman said.

An average week for Forman is dictated by the events on campus and the weather. To begin the week he checks on everything that should be done, and then he looks at the forecast and the event schedule to see when certain jobs will have to be done. “It’s a lot of checking on things and going through a list,” Forman said. “Realistically we don’t have time to do it all and that’s the hardest thing to accept with this job. Mother Nature doesn’t take a break if we’re behind.”

Long term, Forman wants to run his own landscaping company, but is worried about high start-up costs and how rare landscaping companies can be. “I think gaining the experience now here is a very good builder upon the future,” he said. “How many people are going to look at a 24-year-old kid and say, ‘Yeah I want to come work for you.’ There’s just that stigma of being young, and in a sense ignorant to things. I have got to get experience and prove to people why I am a viable person to work with so we can build that company.”

Forman credits MU with helping him to clear that path. “Being here with Dave, this amazing



Photo provided by Chloe Arndt.

Brady Forman blows leaves off the sidewalk between Oakwood and Winger.

opportunity to do this work and put it all on my resume, that’s then helping me to become maybe a futuristic business owner.”

Family Fright Night Offers Less Fright, More Fun

Chloe Leckrone
Staff Writer

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra invited the younger members of the North Manchester community to campus on Monday, October 28, for the Family Fright Night concert to amp up excitement for Halloween.

Walking into Cordier Auditorium Monday night for games and other activities for the children that began at 5 p.m., the scent of sugary elephant ears blended with the sound of fallen leaves crunching under feet to capture perfectly the switch from summer to fall. Inside Cordier’s lobby, Halloween decorations hung on the walls and from the ceilings. Tables were set up with fall-themed artwork made by children from Manchester Elementary School, including drawings of scarecrows, leaves and friendly owls. Kids were also able to get their faces painted and take photos with spooky accessories. Much of the action took place right outside the auditorium, with cornhole, a ring toss and chalk drawing organized around the Oak Leaf; autumn activities surrounding the unofficial symbol of a classic Indiana fall.

The concert, which doubled as a VIA for students, began at 7:30 p.m., as conductor Scott Humphries walked out and introduced himself as a character from “Star Trek.” Orchestra members, as well as attendees of the concert, were encouraged to dress up in their Halloween costumes. Onstage, it was easy to see all the costumed players, including pirates, devils and students from “Harry Potter.”

The performance began with selections from “Phantom of the Opera” and played the audience through many timeless songs from the musical. The always-recognizable theme was a beau-

tiful, haunting start to the concert, and was thoroughly enjoyed by audience members. “My favorite part of the show was ‘Phantom of the Opera,’” said Shayla Riggsbee, senior social work major. “They just really captured the essence of the musical.”

Highlights throughout the concert included a Danny Elfman Suite, including the song “This is Halloween” from “The Nightmare Before Christmas” and the theme from “Beetlejuice,” as well as a costume parade during “Funeral March of a Marionette.” During the last song before a brief intermission, children who wore costumes to the concert were invited to march around the auditorium, led by a student dressed as Captain Hook. During the intermission, audience members conversed about what they enjoyed about the performance so far. “I think this is one of the best parts of the college experience,” said Virginia Rendler, senior peace studies and philosophy major. “It gives us the opportunity to experience music, culture, and arts at low to no cost, available to students on a regular weeknight.” This was also a particularly unique experience, because of the Halloween theme, which made an impression on Rendler. “It’s made so much more fun by the presence of costumes, and kids and students all getting together to celebrate a family holiday,” she said. The concert came to an end with the highly anticipated “Harry Potter” Suite.

Conductor Scott Humphries, a huge “Harry Potter” fan himself, jokingly asked anyone who had not seen any of the movies to kindly exit the auditorium before they began playing. Of course, no one left; all were excited to hear the closing number. The final piece transported many students back to their childhoods with the iconic theme.

After the performance, Joanne Case, president of the Manchester Symphony Society and orchestra member, reflected on how she thought the evening went. Case described the concert as a whole as “a real crowd-pleaser.” She was impressed by the range of ages that attended, from children, to parents, to students, to older community members. Much like Riggsbee, her favorite piece they performed was also “Phantom of the Opera.” “It’s a great opener with a variety of moods,” she said.

For the past few years, the first Symphony concert of the year has been themed. Last year the first concert was science themed, and the year before that, it looked to the Civil War. Case wanted to have this year’s first concert be Halloween-themed because she wanted to do, as she said, “something easy for all ages to enjoy.” Case has noticed a different kind of energy at these first concerts. “There are more young people coming in groups,” Case said. “It’s a social experience. I hope this means they’re more likely to come back.”





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Jarrold and Jarred Hubbard are first-year Manchester students.



Jarred and Jarrod Hubbard arm wrestle each other to show off their competitive side.



Jarred and Jarrod showing off their fun side.

Mackenzie Kopplin
Staff Writer

Jordan Napier will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies with a minor in business.

Favorite Food: Bacon



Jordan Napier tries to pin his opponent during a wrestling match.

MU Spartans Stun Franklin in Historic Upset

Erin Hickle
Staff Writer

After over two decades of coming up short to Franklin College, Manchester University's football team was able to pull off a victory on Saturday, October 19, when they defeated the Grizzlies 30-21. This was Manchester's first win against Franklin since 1997.

The Spartans struck first and contained the Grizzlies to lead 10-7 at halftime. During the first half, the Spartan's defense was able to put up a pair of critical goal line stands. A couple of interceptions by Manchester and tough defense allowed for the Spartans to maintain their halftime lead.

Franklin was able to score early in the third quarter, grabbing the lead for the rest of the quarter. Down 14-10 going into the fourth quarter, Manches-

ter was able to score yet again and maintain the lead for the rest of the game. Franklin answered to Manchester's scoring by bringing the game within 2 points during the fourth quarter, making the score 23-21. Both teams battled throughout the game, but it was Manchester that was able to come up victorious with a score of 30-21. Not only was this the first time Manchester had beat Franklin in over two decades, but the Spartans also picked up their first Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference win against the Grizzlies.

Manchester's defense was able to rack up four sacks and two interceptions on the day. Austin Roberts was able to connect with Chico Ward, Charlie Peterson and Darren Lathrop a combined 117 receiving yards out of Roberts's total 139 passing yards. Senior running back Donovan Henderson Jr. also played a vital role in Manchester's victory over Franklin. Henderson ran for a total of 188 yards, breaking Manchester University's

all-time rushing record. He needed only 115 yards going into the game. The record was previously held by Dan Taylor with 3,122 rushing yards, a record that was set over four decades ago.

"We're a run first offense, so we knew we had to run the football and take control of the clock," Coach Jensen said. "The team knew we had to run the ball in order to win, and it was one of those things where Henderson got the record and was able to put the team in a position to win."

Coach Jensen expressed his pride in the team and coaching staff. He felt this win over Franklin was a testament to how hard the coaching staff and team have been working. He called this victory a "program win," and also gave credit to the senior leadership on the team.

"I'm really proud of this group of seniors," Jensen said. "I am proud of the men they've become and their trust in the coaches, the team, the school, everything."

With two home games left, Jensen hopes the Spartans can go undefeated at home the rest of the season. The Spartans will be

back in action at home on Saturday, November 2, at 1:30 p.m. They will take on the Bluffton Beavers.



Photo Provided by MU Sports Information

Senior quarterback Austin Roberts evades a Trine defender as he attempts to gain a first down.

Manchester



Football Seniors



Austin Roberts



De'Lon Barnes



Alex Downard



Donovan Henderson, Jr.



Brody Stoltz



Justin Thomas



Logan Poll



Nolan Sipe



Tanner Fernung



Tyler Mann



Reid Kammerdiener

Bender Looks to Expand, Improve, Build MU Sports Information Office

Jarred Hubbard
Staff Writer

Dillon Bender, who has been at Manchester University for almost a

year, has been improving and developing the sports information office, but he knows that there is still a long way to go.

"My job is to help our

athletes with getting their faces out there and getting more exposure since this is a smaller school," Bender said. "I know what it's like to succeed at the Division III level

and on a national level."

Bender's career started in 2016 while serving at Rose-Hulman as a graduate assistant. "I loved it at Rose-Hulman," he said I enjoyed the students and the experience of being hands-on and I developed a real passion for being hands-on." While at Rose-Hulman Bender got the chance to cover 18 conference champions while being there for two years.

Personally, he also has an extensive athletic background. Bender went to Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pa, there he became a standout basketball player. In fact, he was a finalist for Division III basketball's highest award of being the Most Outstanding Student-Athlete. He finished his career as a junior for the Mounties being their 8th all-time leading scorer with 1,185 points. He earned all-conference honors as a senior and he was named AMCC Male Scholar Athlete of the year. He happens to be one of the most decorated student-athletes in Mount Aloysius history. His father also serves as an assistant coach at Clemson University.

Bender knew he didn't want to coach, though. He was approached by his cousin about sports communications. "I told them I didn't know anything about it, but I thought about it and it was a way for me to stay involved in sports," he said. "This position changes your perspective about all sports. I'm glad that this job has helped me to develop relationships with a lot of people and I have kept those relationships as well."

Bender also said that he is looking to bring his background to Manchester. He wants to to help the institution to improve every single year and continue to be a school that student-athletes want to come to. "My job is to be a guy that helps this program grow and makes sure we bring more people in," he said. "We want to make this college a pathway for all student-athletes and coaches."

He knows that this process is a continual one. "We don't have all the technology and resources at the moment, but I know we are going to grow and get better all together," he said.



Photo by Bonnie Wong.

Dillion Bender hopes to improve the sports information office.

Dirt Hills Add Extra Seating, Conditioning Facilities to Manchester

Jacob Hamilton
Staff Writer

Manchester University broke ground recently on the construction of the new stadium and track behind the PERC. The construction crews have been digging for a few weeks now and the product of said digging has been some large dirt mounds by the football practice field. These dirt hills have been the subject of conversations among students, athletes and fans alike.

One of the major questions seems to be whether we will be keeping them around or not.

According to numerous coaching staff and student athletes, we will be holding onto them for the foreseeable future. But they won't just be there for decoration. As it turns out, there are actually many uses for these hills.

For one, they are to be used for training exercises by some of the sports teams on campus. Head coach of the football team Nate Jensen has stated that these hills will be used by his players for conditioning and training. Head

Coach Brian Cashdollar of the men and women's track and field teams has also expressed the intention to utilize the largest mound for conditioning and hill training for his running athletes.

Athletes under these coaches have taken to calling it "Agony Hill" in light of the difficulty of the workouts to come. Hannah Wappes of the women's cross country team claims that Cashdollar has given them a different name. "Coach Cash has taken to calling it "Victory Hill," she said.

Another use for these hills is by spectators and students

who just want to get a higher vantage point during a game. Many people have been spotted putting up lawn chairs and blankets and settling in atop the mound to watch athletic happenings. "It is a very nice place to set up and relax," said Emma Ayers. "You get a good view of things from above and the hills are more than big enough to share space with other people who have had the same idea as you."

The largest mound has also been described by some as just a good place to go and relax. According to numerous students, these hills are also used as lounging

spots either during the day or even at night. For the time being, then, the hill is not only for athletic, but also recreational use. "They are a really good place to just go and sit during the day, and at night there's not as much artificial light so you can see the stars really well from there," said Tyler Doud. "It's just a really nice place to be."

These hills are a hot topic as of late, finding themselves in everyday conversation on campus. They are already being utilized in a number of ways and creative students may invent even more uses.