



Carly Greaves
Staff Writer

Going to college may be a new and difficult experience, but Gianna and Giovanna Struewing both have the unique advantage of coming to Manchester with someone incredibly similar to themselves—in more ways than one.

The Struewing sisters are identical twins and first-year students at Manchester this fall. The pair came from Connerville, Ind., a town that is about two and a half hours away from North Manchester. The siblings chose to enroll at Manchester due to

the small campus, good financial aid and, most importantly, the friendly atmosphere. “When I came to visit, the community felt very welcoming and everyone cared,” Giovanna said. “During the application process, Manchester kept in contact where other places just sent out emails.”

While the welcoming community was certainly a draw for the Struewing sisters, they are not just here to have fun. Both of them are ready and determined to pursue their education at Manchester. Their specific academic interests, however, are quite different. Gianna, originally thinking of studying pre-pharmacy, is now planning to major in accounting,

Struewing Sisters Gianna, Giovanna Choose MU

hoping to find a career in that field. Giovanna is double majoring in exercise science and psychology, intending to become a sports psychologist. “Principles of Macroeconomics” has proven to be Gianna’s favorite course, while Giovanna is fascinated by her “Motor Development” class. Despite their differences in passions, the sisters share a drive to succeed. Both twins are in the Honors Program and pride themselves in putting an exceptional effort into their schoolwork.

That being said, the Struewing sisters also make time for more leisurely activities. They enjoy spending time with family, watching TV and tennis. But by far their favorite fun pastime is playing basketball. Both twins played on their high school basketball team, though they have chosen not to play at the college level in order to focus on their schoolwork. The passion for basketball is still present in both sisters, with Giovanna thinking of joining an



Photo by Bonnie Wong.

Gianna Struewing is pursuing an accounting degree, while her sister, Giovanna, aspires to become a sports psychologist one day.

intramural team this spring. The sisters find the sport to be a good way to have fun and relax for a while. “Basketball comes easy to me and I don’t have to think when I play,” Gianna said. “It lets me forget about everything else that I need to get done.” Giovanna wholeheartedly

agreed. “It is something I can go to during the good and the bad times,” she asserted. “It is easier to play with Gianna than with anyone else because we know what each other can do best and where each other is at on the court.”

SEE TWINS, PAGE 2

Bandemer Says Goodbye to MU



Photo Provided by Manchester Marketing.

Bandemer leaves her position as vice president for Human Resources and Strategic Initiatives..

Alex Baker
Staff Writer

Whitney Bandemer, former vice president for Human Resources and Strategic Initiatives, spent her last day working at Manchester University on Friday, Nov. 8, before moving on to Trine University at the Fort Wayne Campus to become vice president of Health Sciences.

Bandemer is looking forward to the next chapter in her life. “I am very excited,” she said. “This new role gives me the opportunity to utilize the skills I have developed in my previous job as executive vice president and chief operating officer at the Appalachia College of Pharmacy and all my different roles at Manchester.”

She has appreciated her years at Manchester, where she worked on both campuses. “Manchester really is a place where you can be yourself and I love that about it,” Bandemer said.

Because of the people in this small town, Manchester will always hold a special place in Bandemer’s heart. “In my nearly nine years at Manchester I have experienced some of the most important milestones in my life—promotions, loss of family members, meeting and marrying my husband Chris, and most recently having my daughter, Alice,” Bandemer said. “During all these events I was supported by a kind and caring work community, which I am so grateful for and will always cherish.”

Diving deeper into those relationships, Bandemer would like

to give a shout out to those that made her time here memorable. “First and foremost, the people I have worked most closely with—Lisa Schall, Brandee Estes, Jenny Steele, Melinda Lantz, Anne Gregory, and Shane Thomson,” Bandemer said. “On hard days they are the reason I got out of the car.”

Also, Bandemer feels gratitude toward two Manchester presidents. “I am grateful to Jo Young Switzer and Dave McFadden for the professional opportunities I have been given at Manchester,” she said.

While at Manchester, Bandemer has accomplished many things that have enabled the university to create more opportunities for students. “I am most proud of the work that the Human Resources team and I have done the last three years to make to Human Resources a customer-service oriented department and helping to start the pharmacy program,” Bandemer said. The pharmacy program is one of the largest at Manchester University and many students outside Manchester go to the pharmacy school located in Fort Wayne. Bandemer had a vital role in the construction of the Fort Wayne campus.

There was one more educational effort that she was glad to achieve during her time at Manchester. “Developing the corporate education programs Manchester offers to SDI, STAR Financial and Wabash County was very rewarding to me,” she said. Education is very important to Bandemer and she hopes that she has positively influenced students to continue pursuing lifelong passions.

President McFadden Discusses Manchester’s Future

Chloe Leckrone
Staff Writer

Since the recent reductions to faculty and staff were announced on Oct. 29, President Dave McFadden has been saddened by these frustrating and disheartening events but looks ahead with hope for the university.

A few years ago, Manchester University began a vitality process that lasted 20 months, which reviewed academic programs, co-curricular programs and departments, among other things, to find ways to reduce costs at Manchester and save \$1.5 million. Because enrollment had been decreasing, McFadden knew something needed to be done. Last spring, the list of cost-saving actions was announced, and it was assumed that the “heavy lifting,” as McFadden put it, was over. They came out with a projected budget surplus of \$1.2 million.

Over the summer, however, enrollment dropped, and the incoming undergraduate class was much smaller than budgeted, which meant there would be a decline in revenue and a projected deficit of \$400,000. McFadden could see from the trends that if nothing changed, there would continue to be deficits moving forward. Both interests of prospective and current students were taken into account when deciding which positions and programs to eliminate.

On Tuesday, Oct. 29, McFadden sent an email to all students on both the North Manchester and Fort Wayne campuses to alert them on the recent decisions. McFadden did not include the names of the faculty, staff or programs being eliminated until the following day in a separate email. He announced that 11 positions were being cut and eight positions would not be filled due to retirement or resignation. He also announced that final decisions have not yet been made about program cuts.

Much of the information gained from the vitality process was used to help make decisions for this round of cuts, and largely the same set of criteria was used, including program enrollment and student and future-employer interests.

Last spring’s cuts taught McFadden about better ways to com-

municate with students. “We were really intentional both times about making sure that what we sent out was as clear as possible,” McFadden said. He wanted to be sure that concerns and questions that students might have were addressed.

McFadden met with five students on the Friday before the announcement to ask for advice on how to communicate with students. His email on Friday about “holding each other close through these difficult decisions” came from that meeting. He also approached “Discussions with Dave” differently this year, so that they would feel, as he said, “more like a conversation than a press conference.”

Going into this round of reductions, McFadden felt frustrated about the need to make cuts at all. “We never want to make cuts like this that clearly impact people’s lives and livelihoods, and I found that exceptionally frustrating,” McFadden said. “We are a small enough community that I know them personally, some of them are people who have been friends of mine, so it’s really tough,” McFadden said.

Along with the positions that were eliminated, a number of faculty and staff members will be leaving, either due to retirement or resignation. Some of these were indirectly related to the cuts but allowed for easier decisions to be made. McFadden knows that there were also people who chose to retire or resign so that they could save someone else’s job. “I recognize that when those choices were made that they were excruciating for the people that made them,” McFadden said. “I admire them for having made those choices, I appreciate the reasons that they made those choices, and I’m sad that we came to a circumstance where they felt as though they had to make that kind of choice.”

After reviewing prospective and current student interest, McFadden said that a few new programs would be introduced, and a number of current programs would be boosted. One new program will be nursing. Among applicants to Manchester, reviewers found that the second most highly requested program is nursing. “A nursing program will meet both student interest and employer opportunities,” McFadden said. “We want to make sure it has a Manchester spin to it so that it is infused with the lib-

eral arts.” A new major in data science has been approved, as well as a three-plus-one accounting program that will allow students to get a Master’s, as well as a Bachelor’s, degree in four years.

While much good is trying to be done to improve retention and make current programs more sustainable, there have also been many concerns and criticisms about the reduction of professors and majors that are considered to be valuable to the liberal arts. The greatest criticism McFadden has heard is that Manchester “is moving away from who we have always been.” For many people, including students, faculty and alumni, the majors that are offered are what make a school a liberal arts institution. The Funeral for the Liberal Arts that was held at the end of last spring was representative of this fear that as humanities programs are phased out, Manchester University will lose part of what it has always been.

McFadden believes the greatest danger of these cuts is that people will feel as if there is no place for them here. “I have even heard from some recent faculty hires: ‘this is not the Manchester that I thought I was coming to,’” he said. McFadden also fears students may feel abandoned, perhaps because they came to Manchester to study in an area the school no longer offers or will not continue to offer.

To alleviate these fears and dangers, McFadden wants to share a sense of perspective. As a third-generation graduate of Manchester, he has seen how much the university has changed. “I know from my experience here as a student and now as president that Manchester is a place that changes all the time,” McFadden said. “I also recognize that the pace of change and the sense of the enormity of change at Manchester in the last two or three years has felt faster and more significant.”

As many students, faculty and staff members grapple with their concerns that these reductions are altering not just the direction of Manchester, but the nature of it as well, McFadden firmly believes that Manchester is a place that evolves over time. In McFadden’s eyes, the “what, where, who and how” of Manchester may change, but the “why”—wanting to graduate persons of ability and conviction—is a constant that will never leave.

College Deans React to Faculty Reductions

Erica Mohr
Staff Writer

On Oct. 25, President David McFadden sent out a campus-wide email that shocked students. “Hold one another close during the days ahead,” the email said. “Each of us will be touched by the decisions being made.” This email sparked a curiosity throughout the campus, with students wondering what the email could possibly be hinting at. Then, on Oct. 30, McFadden sent out another email; this one including a list of people and positions that were being eliminated.

The College of Natural and Health Sciences had to reduce one

position from the physics department, leaving just one physics faculty member. There are many spiraling effects to the loss of even one faculty member; next year there may not be a physics major offered. “If students are here now and they declare that major by the end of the semester, then yes: we will make sure they will finish their major,” said Mark Huntington, dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences and interim vice president for Academic Affairs. “I don’t want to speak for the physics faculty, but it’s difficult to have a major with one faculty member.”

Huntington stressed the impact of the reductions not only academically, but also emotionally. “Last Tuesday was a very hard day,” he said. “These are my colleagues and

we all work very closely together; we are a very close-knit group.” Something he repeated again and again, stressing just how important this was to him, was how decisions were not made “lightly.” “They were difficult to make,” Huntington said. “It’s not just about a major or an academic program—it’s about people.”

The College of Education and Social Science will not be filling a position that is being vacated due to retirement. “The immediate impact is we have to do some reconfiguration of the history major and the history education major,” said Leonard Williams, dean of the College of Education and Social Science. “We have to figure out how we can meet the state requirements and provide as good of an education for our students

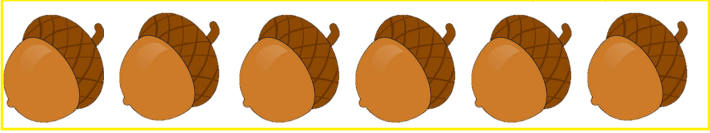
as we can.”

Williams’s office was a perfect portrayal of someone with a love for history—and politics. He had a picture of the First Amendment above his desk, and two cases of bookshelves, racked with titles such as “The Origins of the American Constitution” and “Strong Democracy.” He offered an analytical view of why reductions happened, looking at old warning signs of how programs in other schools in the Midwest have had declining enrollments. Looking at the demographics, he said: “There’s just not enough 18-25-year olds going to college in these areas.”

This is not unfamiliar territory. “The odd thing for me,” Williams said, “is we had similar troubles in the early to mid-1980s with enroll-

ment—faculty and staff cuts had to happen. Then, somehow we survived and prospered and now it’s kind of come back to that and that’s just the demographic changes for a school that depends on students coming here.” Williams explained how the programs that get hit hardest are the ones that have the fewest numbers of majors. “Even though they’re making contributions in other ways, that’s where the numbers lead you,” he said

Emotionally, this was no easier on Williams than it was on Huntington. “It’s rough first, in having to do it and second, in knowing that the institution that I knew 30 some years ago is changing” Williams said. “It’s rough when we know friends and colleagues are suffering, yet decisions have to be made.”



‘Check Out’ the New Librarian: Angela Fisher Ready to Lend a Hand

Ryan Daine
Staff Writer

Within the main floor of the Funderburg Library, students may wander in to find the usually open door to the office of Angela Fisher, MU’s new librarian. Though one may be wary to approach an official-looking office space such as hers, students can rest assured that Fisher is a kind individual who spends her working hours doing typical library duties, as well as acting as a resource to those in need of advice concerning a variety of academic topics.

Fisher joined Manchester’s library staff at the beginning of August 2019, working as an instruction and access services librarian. However, being a librarian was not her first career path in life; it was actually her third. Fisher graduated with a major in both English and psychology, and continued onto law school, following

her undergrad. Fisher practiced law for some time, as well as worked for a branch bank under J. P. Morgan. Fisher said she continued with this career path for “quite a while,” until she got burnt out with corporate work, and decided to head back to school to obtain her master’s degree in library science.

From that time forward, Fisher worked in a public library for several years, a job which she said that she “really enjoyed,” but the academic opportunities offered at Manchester led her to pursue the job listing here. Fisher said that working at a university has been a long-time dream for her. “Working in an academic library has always been my goal,” she said. “I had been looking for a good opportunity, so I was very excited when this one came up.”

Fisher seems quite happy and content with her current path here at MU, voicing how much of a pleasure it is to be able to work with and assist a wide spectrum of both students and faculty on campus. “I

like that I get to work with young people and that it’s very intellectually stimulating here,” Fisher said.

In addition, Fisher also teaches research skills to students in first-year seminars, a service that she is more than happy to offer to anyone, no matter what year, who may need an extra hand. Fisher also serves as the liaison librarian for the schools of pharmacy, business, and natural health and sciences, all topics in which she has a wide breadth of knowledge, and can offer assistance to any students from those disciplines who may need help selecting texts. Anyone who may need the services of the library or Fisher can drop by Funderburg Library during office hours, and feel free to ask any questions they may have.

Fisher offers assistance to any students who may need her help, or to anyone who just wants to drop by and have a chat about the library and how it works, or something more specific concerning finding exact texts needed for academic reports.

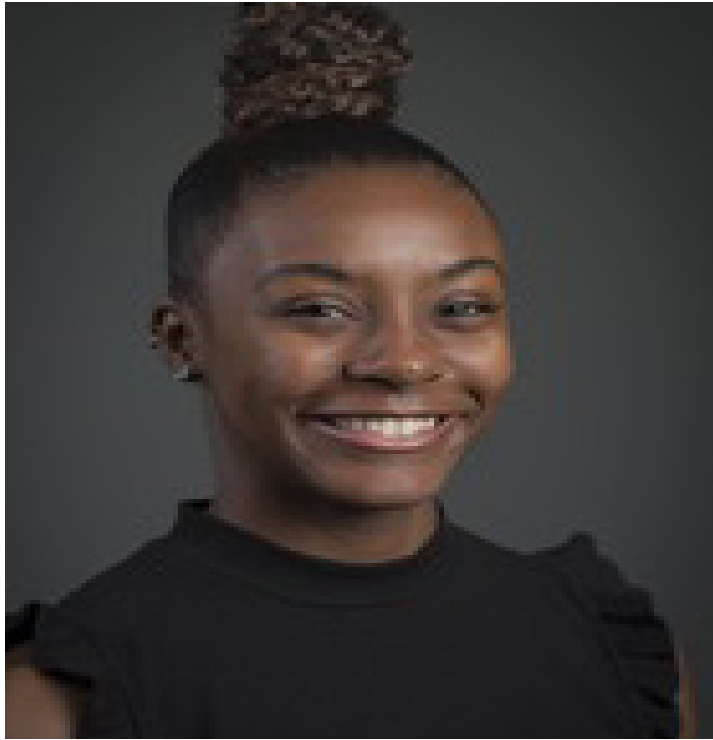


Photo Provided by Manchester Marketing.

Graham is transitioning from player to assistant coach this year.

MU Alumna Returns as Coach

Jarred Hubbard
Staff Writer

Faith-Alexis Graham is a returning for her second stint at Manchester University after completing her undergraduate degree in 2019. This time around she will be the women’s basketball assistant coach under Coach Josh Dzurick.

Graham was a standout basketball player at Manchester for four years, and made the decision to come back to her alma mater. “I knew that I would always want to stay around the game,” she said. “Even when I was injured, you see things so different from the bench than you would as a player on the court.”

Last year the Spartans’ record was just 4-21, but Graham still has so much to give to the team as a whole and she can also be that second mouthpiece in addition to Dzurick. “I believe that I can come in and make us better with communication,” she said. “My relationship with the players and Coach Dzurick will help us all grow and gel as a team.”

She has solid expectations for the year. “I expect us to come in and work hard and be tougher,” she

said. “Toughness is something that we need to come in with. I don’t think that we can teach that. But I believe it’s something that you just do.”

To prepare for her new job, Graham attended a few coaching camps and she was soaking up as much information as she could to be able to coach and continue to stay around the game of basketball, knowing that her body was really sustaining all the physical punishment. “I’ve had eight knee surgeries and my body was failing me,” she said. “I knew I wanted to stay around basketball, and I was tired of my knees and I became the student coach for my high school freshman team.”

Graham has been tuned in with everything basketball related: she worked with the NCAA in Indianapolis and the inaugural basketball academy to get better and to gain more knowledge for the game and to be able to coach for as long as possible. Returning to Manchester to coach is special to her. “I have former relationships with everyone,” she said. “I believe with me being here and with them knowing that I’ve been where they are, it’ll be a great help to the program as a whole.”

said. “She’s a support system that I have right with me.”

Giovanna agreed. “There’s always someone I can turn to if I need something and we do almost everything together,” she said. “But it’s nice because we don’t have the same majors so we can still be our own person.”

Their college careers are only just beginning, but the Struewing sisters are ready to work hard and find their futures—together.



Photo Provided by Manchester Athletics.

Phillips hopes to become an All-American, and the all-time pin leader for Manchester Wrestling this season.

JaVon Phillips Aims for Memorable Senior Year

Erin Hickle
Staff Writer

Deciding to play a sport in college has many challenges but can bring on many rewarding moments for the athletes. Senior wrestler JaVon Phillips is no stranger to these. As a junior, Phillips was able to finish the season with an impressive record of 30-14, placing fifth at the NCAA Division III Central Region Championship. Not only has Phillips seen success on the mats, but he also has seen academic success as he was named to the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Scholar All-American team for the 2018-19 season.

JaVon Phillips is from Centerville, Ind., where he graduated from high school. Phillips started wrestling when he was in eighth grade, making this his ninth year of wrestling. Now a Manchester University Spartan, he has continued his wrestling career while majoring in physical education and minoring in health promotion. During his first year at MU, Phillips finished the season with a record of 17-15. He finished his sophomore season 16-12. After seeing much success during his

junior season, Phillips has decided one of his goals is to have fun during his final season at MU. He also hopes to become an All-American and the all-time pin leader for Manchester Wrestling this season.

Head wrestling coach for MU, Kevin Lake, has goals set for his senior wrestler, too. He hopes Phillips can bring home a national championship. Lake feels his athlete has all the tools and work ethic to be among the best in the nation, the ultimate goal.

In order to become a member of the NWCA Scholar All-American team, nominees have to have a GPA of at least 3.2 (on scale of 4.0) for the previous full academic year. The competitive requirements for the award include that the wrestler must be a national qualifier with a winning record or have a minimum win percentage of at least .500. With other possible factors and requirements to be considered, the NWCA named 261 individuals representing 83 institutions to their 2018-19 Academic Team and Individual honorees list. Manchester University had two athletes on the list, Joel Arney and JaVon Phillips. This honor not only has important meaning to the univer-

sity, but it also has an important impact on the athletes who have worked to achieve this award.

“JaVon has been a tremendous leader both on and off the mat for the past year,” Lake said. “He lives our values and strives to excel in the classroom as well as on the mat. His academic All-American honor is a testament to that. When you have someone in the room every day that you can point to that does everything right, it’s a huge benefit to the team.”

With Phillips going into his final year of wrestling as a Spartan, he has set his goals for the season and looks forward to the time he will get to spend with his teammates on and off the mats. Over the past four years, Phillips has become a part of what he calls his “wrestling family.” He has come to appreciate his coaches for pushing him to be better each and every day. He also looks forward to becoming even closer with his teammates who he calls his brothers.

The 2019-20 MU wrestling season began on Saturday, November 2, with a dual match in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena versus the Olivet College Comets. Manchester will then travel to a series of away meets before returning home on Dec. 14.

Men’s Basketball Tips Off their Season at PFW

Carlos Argueta
Staff Writer

Manchester men’s basketball team ramped up their season last Thursday night at Memorial Coliseum against Purdue Fort Wayne. The team was looking to start their season on a high note, looking to give an excellent performance against a tough Division 1 basketball program on the road.

Purdue Fort Wayne dominated the first half leading the game 50-32. Then Manchester was able to adjust and made the second half a more competitive game. Ultimately Purdue Fort Wayne was able to close out the game 91-80, earning their first win of the season. Although Manchester did not get the win, the team is proud of their performance and are excited about what is to come.

The game against Purdue Fort Wayne was a test for Manchester to see how well they can compete against top-quality opponents and whether or not they are a potential winning side. “Going into the game, we had three goals,” said Nate Conley, head coach. “See how we look during practice by playing our own style of

basketball, evaluate and get feedback and get better from it, and lastly, just enjoy it. It was a great opportunity for us; not a lot of small college programs get to play at the Division 1 level, and I think our guys just soaked it up and took advantage of it.”

There were many doubts during pre-season about how ready the team would be for this season. With no coach just weeks before the season, the team was scrambling for a new coaching staff, and with low morale within the group, this year seemed like a challenging year for the program. But with this recent performance against Purdue Fort Wayne, and only a 3-point loss against Oberlin on Nov. 12, there is a sensation within the squad that they are a formidable opponent. “HCAC should be scared of Manchester this season; we have so many great players, and we have a team that is hungry,” said Jared Andis, junior. “Our mission is to win every game, win the conference, and get into the national tournament.”

What has worked well for the team so far is the chemistry between the players and the new coaching staff. The players have full trust in new head coach Nate Conley, and his presence has been a significant influ-

ence for the squad this season. “We have a new coaching staff that has been amazing, and they have been guiding us in the right direction,” Conley said.

The team’s fantastic performance against Purdue Fort Wayne was due in part to their team-oriented style of play. “We had stretches where we played unselfish basketball, where we would turn down good shots to give our teammates great shots,” Conley explained. “Then we had stretches where we got really individualized, where we did too much on our own. So I would like for us moving forward to put our teammates in a position to be successful, and not try to do everything individually.”

The basketball team looks to continue their great rhythm against Kalamazoo College, trying to solidify a win after a very close match against Oberlin on Tuesday. The players and the coaching staff are ready to rally into action and to continue the strong camaraderie within the team. “I am excited to bond with the team, to grow as a person, and to break the ceiling open to show people what we can do,” said Abdul Ogunnalike, senior.



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