

Local Acrylic Artist Displays Work in Link Gallery

Kylie Mitchell
Staff Writer

Artist Alexandra Hall presented her work at a reception held at Link Gallery on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018.

“It is my hope that I force my audience to exercise their imagination, that my works inspire conversation and that they evoke joy,” Hall said.

Born in Indianapolis, Hall moved to Fort Wayne when she was one year old, and believes the town greatly helped foster her art. “They’ve been a really great community and really accepting of my goofy style,” she said. “I very rarely run into someone who doesn’t like what I do in this area and it has been really encouraging.”

Hall received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and Slavic languages and literature from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. After graduate school, she took a year off when she began painting. While working at a riverside bar, her customers were the inspiration for what her website refers to as her first “anthropomorphic, slack-eyed frogs on a canvas.”

Her part-time hobby quickly grew into a profession. By late 2014, Hall was working as a full-time artist, and now travels across the country exhibiting her work in festivals and gallery shows.

She is very engaged in the arts community. She is the website and social media chair

for the Fort Wayne Artists Guild, chairperson on the Wunderkammer Company Education Committee, a member of Artlink, and a manager of Art This Way.

Hall is also committed to bringing more art into downtown Fort Wayne by working alongside the Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District. The Program, known as Art This Way, will be similar to mural programs in Nashville, Denver, Cincinnati and abroad. In 2018 alone, this program has brought four new murals to downtown.

Along the way, she had many people who inspired her. “My imaginative spirit is born from the people who encouraged me to dream, to see things differently, and to live fearlessly,” she said. “Every work is influenced by a culmination hundreds of little moments, stories, and extraordinary life experiences.”

One of her most frequently asked questions is how she is able to come up with different pieces of artwork. “I enjoy sharing my colorful and vivid imagination, but it is sometimes hard to explain how all the ideas that floated around in my head merged into something like a walrus having tea,” she said.

Over the years, she has won several awards and recognition that include 2018 Celebrate Downtown Award for Art This Way, 2017 Pearl Street Arts Festival, 2017 Bishop Dwenger High School Alumni Hall of Fame, 2017 3 Place Painting Water Based at Ridgway Rendezvous Art Festival, 2016 2 Place Painting Water Based at Ridgway Rendezvous Art Festi-



Photo by Chloe Arndt

Artist Alexandra Hall and her 48” x 60” acrylic on Canvas titled “A Day out with Grandma & Grandpa.”

val, 2015 2 Place in Show at Art on the Riverfront, and 2015 People’s Choice Award at Wunderkammer Company and Three Rivers Festival.

She is very thankful for

her followers and refers to her journey as “following me down the rabbit hole,” she said. “It is my hope that the viewer is able to follow my sometimes fractured and wild creative process, from the

first glimpse at a foggy inspiration, to a sketch done in a cafe, and, finally, to a completed large-scale work of art.” Her artwork remains displayed at the Link Gallery in Otho Winger Memorial Hall.



Photo provided

A Dia de los Muertos exhibition is displayed on the first floor of Funderburg Library.



Photo provided

This display was put together by Dr. Arturo Yanez, Associate Professor of Modern Languages.

Dia de los Muertos Exhibition to Help MU Community Become Culturally Aware

Erin Brock
Staff Writer

Manchester University began what may become a new tradition celebrating death. Professor Beate Gilliar, who teaches various English courses along with a first-year seminar about life and death, was inspired to bring her teachings to life by acknowledging death in all its various ways. To do this, she did what many others might think of as absurd—she brought a coffin to campus.

The coffin, tucked in the back corner of library for a week, was not only on display for students to look at but was left open, inviting students, faculty and staff to lie down in. The invitation to experience death in a conscious way did not stop at the coffin. Students from Gilliar’s FYS course put together pillars that represented various aspects of death such

as the suicide forest in Japan and different ways of celebrating death such as Dia de los Muertos or “Day of the Dead,” a holiday commonly celebrated in Hispanic cultures.

To add to the education and awareness of death, Professor Arturo Yanez, with the help of his wife and other volunteers, assembled and decorated altars that one would commonly see in Hispanic cultures during Dia de los Muertos. The altars can vary in looks, but they all share fundamental commonalities. “Each level represents something different,” Yanez explains. “The bottom level is purgatory, the middle level is earth, and the top level is heaven.”

While some interpretations of the levels vary, they tend to follow traditional Catholic beliefs. Altars also commonly include pictures of the loved ones they are dedicated to along with their favorite foods. Yanez says the food is placed there so that when the loved ones return after a long time

of traveling, they can have something to eat.

However, being from Venezuela, Yanez does not typically celebrate Dia de los Muertos in the way it is being represented at Manchester. “Most people believe it is a Mexican culture celebration and I agree,” Yanez says about the difference in celebrations among Hispanic cultures. “[In Venezuela], we clean tombs and bring flowers to our loved ones to pay our respect.”

Despite this tradition being a primarily Mexican one, it was important to bring it to Manchester in hopes of educating the community on death in other cultures. As diversity increases in Manchester, maintaining the cultural awareness becomes increasingly more important.

Manchester acknowledges these differences through various multicultural clubs and activities, along with events such as the International Fair; but there

are other differences that are not commonly acknowledged. “People have different views of life, but what if we share different views of death?” asks Yanez when discussing the importance of cultural awareness.

According to him, this exhibition is important in educating others on topics they may not be otherwise aware of. By looking at things through a unique perspective such as lying in a coffin or snacking on Mexican dishes next to an altar, one can better grasp the message that is trying to be conveyed.

Despite declining to get in the coffin, Yanez is very aware of the concept of dying. “We never think about death, but one day we’ll be there,” he explains. One goal of this week is for the concept of death to become more normalized through the array of exhibitions and presentations.

Gilliar worked diligently to open the community’s minds to

death and other endings (also the title of her FYS). By inviting speakers who have had experience with death one way or another, she went down a path very few choose to go down—a path that normalizes death and accepts it for what it is. Not only did she wander this path, but she brought many students, faculty and staff along with her, bringing all different cultures and backgrounds to guide the way.

With the help of library staff Jill Lichtsinn and other students, beautiful displays were set up all around the library to educate each passerby on the ideas of death. The event ended on Sunday, November 4, but Gilliar hopes that there will be something of similar appearance next year.

If students are interested in learning more about Dia de los Muertos and other Hispanic cultures, Yanez invites them to sign up for his 200-level Spanish course on pre-Hispanic society and culture in the spring.

Kenapocomoco Peace Coalition Discusses Plans of Action, Promotes Diplomatic Practices

Marcus Zwiebel
Staff Writer

The Kenapocomoco Peace Coalition (affectionately called “Kenapoc”) at Manchester is a dynamic organization that features numerous events and guests throughout the school year, with the intent to spread peace-related knowledge and promote diplomatic practices. The group is primarily located on the second floor of the Academic Center, in room 241, and meets every Monday evening at Professor Katy Gray Brown’s house to discuss social, environmental, political and other conscious issues. The group also meets in order to share announcements and to discuss plans of action with a variety of guests.

Gray Brown hosts Kenapoc’s meetings and is a professor of philosophy and peace studies, but the coalition also makes changes through the work of Manchester University’s peace studies coordinator, Zander Willoughby.

Willoughby, a recent alumnus of Manchester, accepted the one-year position after he graduated last spring. He explains that his main responsibilities include the logistics and planning in the department, as well as advising students and student groups, performing varied administrative work for the department and generally advocating for Kenapoc.

“The meetings usually host a great peace and justice-related guest,” Willoughby said. “The space allows for deeper-than-VIA-level discussions and it’s also an opportunity to connect students to each other and with great resources.”

The coalition is active not only on campus, but also draws individuals from around the world and from different disciplines to inform Kenapoc and other members of the Manchester community about peace and justice-related issues. Social work

professor emeritus Brad Yoder is currently on a learning tour, which includes South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana and will be visiting Manchester imminently. Don Michaelson, a 1968 graduate of Manchester’s peace studies program and Iowa layer, will be visiting campus to discuss the midterm elections.

Willoughby also elaborates that Manchester will be reviving its chapter of Amnesty International, one of the largest human rights advocacies on the globe, and students will be able to participate in Amnesty International’s upcoming Write for Rights event. Write for Rights is a December event where students may write letters, emails, tweets, postcards and take photos for individuals across the globe whose basic human rights are being attacked.

Upcoming peace studies events on campus include “Unveiled: A One Woman Play” by Rohina Malik, which features five monologues that explore the perspectives of five different Muslim women. Willoughby also notes that mediation training, a favorite event of Manchester graduates, will occur during the first two weekends of February.

Students, faculty and staff interested in Kenapoc or peace studies may attend the Monday meetings at 9 p.m. at Gray Brown’s house, contact Willoughby or Caraline Fearheller, the coalition’s student president, and search on the organization’s homepage to learn more about the organization and its ongoing events or learn more information about peace studies as a discipline and advocacy force.

“I have two main goals for my time as Peace Studies Coordinator,” Willoughby said. “They are to push conflict resolution training and education on campus and to broaden the understanding of peace studies beyond protesting—to show how broad of a field it really is.”

‘U Can Crush Hunger’ Fights Food Insecurity

Allyson Fogerty
Staff Writer

From Oct. 22 through Nov. 5, Manchester University participated in a food-insecurity awareness event called “U Can Crush Hunger.”

“U Can Crush Hunger” is a friendly competition between six local universities and was sponsored by Community Harvest. The University of Saint Francis, Manchester University, Indiana Tech, Huntington University, Ivy Tech and IPFW all came together to help raise money and gather food donations to fight against food insecurity.

Food Insecurity, as defined by Oxford dictionary, is “the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.” Nearly one in eight Americans experience food insecurity. The goal of “U Can Crush Hunger” was to gather 55,000 pounds of food to be donated to food banks and communities throughout Northern Indiana.

Students were encouraged to participate in the many canned-good collection activities on campus. There was a trick-or-treat for non-perishables where Manchester University students went around



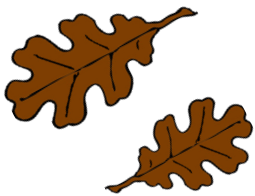
Photo provided

town in teams to collect foods from community members. At Costume BINGO, a campus-wide event sponsored by Manchester Activities Council, students had to bring a canned good in order to be given a BINGO card. The limit was two cards. There were several drop-off sites on campus, barrels and boxes, where students and staff could drop of non-perishables.

The community was encouraged to participate by donating money through the Community Harvest website or donate foods at the local police station. One dollar was the equivalent of four pounds of food towards the 55,000-pound goal. Allison Goetcheus, director of the

Center for Center for Service Opportunities, spoke of MU’s efforts: “It was a well-received event that partnered students, faculty, staff and our community! We are uniting for a good cause.”

This was Manchester University’s first year participating in the event, and the Community Harvest’s fourth year of putting it on.



Student Urges Peers to Improve MU’s ‘Racial Climate’

OPINION

Samantha Bontrager
Staff Writer

As a senior at Manchester, I have seen and heard many things that I don’t agree with. While a lot of it is just simply my personal preference, there are some things that I just haven’t been able to shake no matter how hard I try to.

The issue of racism has, quite obviously, always been present in American society and probably always will be present to some extent. Manchester is often referred to as a safe and welcoming community, but I’m not sure that every student feels that way.

So, many of us are working to improve Manchester’s racial climate. For instance, I am part of a grassroots movement that Professor Heather Schilling

started last spring called Common Ground. We meet weekly to discuss different race issues on campus and in town, and how to push back against them.

When it comes down to it, all that we realize every meeting is that there is an ongoing presence of ignorance and a lack of understanding of what it means to be tolerant and accepting.

When I walk around campus, I see people of all shapes, sizes and colors. But I see a community. A family, even. We are all here for the same purpose—to get a Manchester education and to make this world a better place when we leave here after graduation. Sure, there are some less than desirable actions taken by people on campus, but what healthy apple tree doesn’t have a few rotten apples?

As a future Manchester University grad, I desire to see nothing but positive change and growth in the years to come, but that just simply won’t be possible without a team mentality. If we all—students, faculty and staff alike—band together against all of the hate and the prejudice and the racism that happens here, a contagious mentality of love and respect will start to emerge.

I, along with several other seniors this year, want to leave in May with nothing but pride in our hearts when we say that we are Manchester grads.

Whether people want to admit it or not, racism is a problem on our campus and it must be addressed.

Let’s be the change. Let’s stand up against racism on our campus and DO something about it.

A Statement from the Campus Interfaith Board:

Recognizing the infinite worth of every individual, Campus Interfaith Board stands in solidarity with the community of the Tree of Life Synagogue and especially the families and friends of the people whose lives were taken on Saturday, October 27.

Though we know that thoughts and prayers alone will not bring back those who have been lost, we offer this as an opportunity for us to grow peace and justice in our community and in the world.



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Photo provided

Career and Professional Development Teaches Etiquette at Dinner on Nov. 11

Camron Canniff
Staff Writer

Do you know which fork is which on a formal place setting? Do you know the most polite way to butter bread? On Sunday, November 11 from 5-7 p.m., the Office of Career and Professional Development and Alumni Relations will be offering an Etiquette Dinner to teach students this and more.

This dinner will be located in the Upper JYSC. There is no fee for the dinner but a \$10 deposit is required, which will be returned during the event. It is open to all majors and any student attending Manchester University, and note: Professional dress is required.

Abby McVay, Career and Professional Development Assistant, is very excited and looking forward to her fellow students attending the event. There is a lot of preparation for the event and many people have helped make everything happen for a success night.

“Most employers have working lunches or cocktail hours, and most students will not experience that until they are thrown into the situation,” McVay said. “This event helps students gain the knowledge and skills to be professional during situations like that,”

The etiquette dinner will also include pointers on networking, first impressions, professional dress and interviewing. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately, silence cell phones, and

arrive on time. These gestures will show respect and courtesy to everyone participating in the event.

In addition, McVay notes the following etiquette rules will help participants prepare for the event. On arrival it is polite to shake hands, say thank you and remember the people you meet. It is also polite to stand and wait for your host to sit. Once they sit it is proper to take a seat as well. When preparing to eat you should put your napkin on your lap and wait respectfully for the meal.

The dinner will help not only with gaining professional development skills but will include many activities that students can apply after graduation. Students will start with “Mocktails” and hors d’oeuvres, This will give an opportunity to meet other students in a professional environment.

After that, the students will make their way to the main area to sit at designated tables.

“At each table, we will have several table captains, like professors and alum, that will facilitate table discussions throughout the dinner,” McVay said. “Students will also listen to our guest speaker of the night, alumnus John Minnich. To finish up the event, dinner will be served and conversation will followed.”

McVay along with the Office of Career and Professional Development and Alumni

Relations hopes to see many students during the event.

Community Learn About Space, Music at ‘Universe at an Exhibition’

Matthew Barbosa
Staff Writer

Manchester University invited the public community and three local school townships to enjoy activities hosted by various faculty members in celebration of the “Universe at an Exhibition: A Science and Symphony Event” VIA that attracted people to campus from around the town.

Before the main VIA events were open to the public, students ranging from fourth graders to high school seniors visited campus to learn more about astronomy, light and optics. The students had the chance to alternate through various stations posted around Cordier Auditorium, the observatory and the JYSC.

Cordier Auditorium’s lobby was decorated with a large array of handmade planetary models of the solar system. Students could walk through the wide variety of artistically made models to learn about the planets orbiting the sun in order. The planetary models eventually became the ambient attraction once Cordier was opened to the public. Nearly everyone who had arrived at the auditorium had one goal in mind: to retrieve fresh ice cream made in front of them with liquid nitrogen.

Members of the chemistry department generated plenty of smiling faces walking around the lobby of Cordier to enjoy the models displayed while eating their special ice cream. This spectacle was a fun one for everyone involved; there’s something about being able to make ice cream from room-temperature ingredients in an instant that has a way of grabbing people’s attention.

“Chemistry is fun, especially when you get to freeze stuff,” said senior chemistry major Ryan Demars, who was assisting Dr. Terrie Salupo-Bryant in making the ice cream.

The physics department was also keeping busy for the entire day due to Dr. Christer Watson taking on the responsibility of facilitating groups of students, which arrived at 10 a.m., through discussions about telescopes, optics, light and viewing space in day and night. “You might not think it’s time to do astronomy in the afternoon, so in the middle of the day we had activities to show how crazy light can behave,” Watson said.

Emily Milburn, Christopher Jacobs and this reporter assisted Watson with facilitating stations about using a solar filtered telescope to view the sun directly, using lenses to build a telescope by hand, watching video of viewing the moon through a telescope at night and performing a couple of thought experiments on the properties of light.

MU also brought in some outside help to install a pop-up planetarium, or a digitarium, in the upper JYSC. The digitarium is a small dome that has an air pump, which would be akin to bouncy houses, to keep the dome inflated. An assistant unzips the small dome to allow people to step inside of this small isolation chamber and viewers are greeted by a powerful projector in the middle of the dome that casts the night sky across the entirety of the inside of the dome. An astronomer facilitated discussion and viewing of the night sky by simulating different periods in the night ahead.



Photo provided

From left to right: Chris Cecil, Traci Fuqua Perkins, Joseph Myers and Sarah Dillon Lochner.

Alumni Panel Discusses MU Experiences, Careers

Kaleigh Gabriel
Staff Writer

A panel of young accomplished alumni returned to Manchester on November 1, 2018, to give advice and recount experience for students with questions about careers.

Students in Cordier Auditorium listened with open ears as four Manchester alumni recalled their most helpful tips and important facts they learned in the workforce. The panel consisted of professionals from all different backgrounds and job titles. Joseph Myers, '14, works for Teach for America and brought insight into all the jobs provided to education majors. Traci Fuqua Perkins, '12, works for Calumet Specialty Products as an accountant for oil purchasing and sales. Sarah Dillon Lochner, '04, is a member of the Wabash County Probation Department and informed criminal justice majors of all the opportunities the field has to offer. Chris Cecil, '10, works passionately for Visit Indy and provided stark insight on what it means to truly enjoy work.

After the panel was introduced, they answered a list of

questions on which they elaborated using their experiences and knowledge gained. The questions covered a variety of topics including what activities at Manchester prepared them for the workforce along with who their strongest motivator was at Manchester.

First-year Anthony Harris recalls a statement from Myers where he was recounting how Manchester’s Activities Council prepared him immensely for his job because it taught him how to work well with a group of people to achieve goals, as well as the give-and-take that is required from the entire group.

However, Myers also cautioned students to find a healthy balance between school-work and extracurriculars. First-year Braxton Dewey said, “Despite the push for first-years to get involved, academics are most important because after all, that is what we’re here at Manchester for.”

Upperclassmen also in attendance resonated with the advice of Lochner. Sophomore Tara Conley remembers Lochner telling students to keep in mind the people who pushed them and helped them to achieve their goals because those

people will always be important in their lives, whether they be family or outside mentors.

First-year Lilli Cook also found Lochner’s advice to be the hardest hitting as she described the multitude of opportunities in the criminal justice field. “She advised us to always keep learning and never just assume we know it all because we don’t,” Cook said.

Many students in attendance also heard first-hand that loving one’s job really is important, as Chris Cecil explained his move from a well-paying job to one that was not. However, the money was nothing compared to the joy he felt to get out of bed and go to work every day of the week.

First-year Ashley Steel appreciated that lesson. “Cecil encouraged us to be passionate about our careers despite money or the fear of it not working because sometimes the reward is worth the risk,” she said.

Many students left with eyes open to all the possibilities for the future ahead of them. Armed with the advice of those in the trenches, students begin to plan and adjust their time here at Manchester to join

Costume Dodgeball a ‘Hit’ Among Students

Alexandria Collins
Staff Writer

The classic 5 D’s of dodgeball are dip, dodge, duck, dive and dodge. And that’s just what Manchester University students did, all the while in Halloween costumes. On Nov. 1, Spartan Choices committee hosted MU’s annual Costume Dodgeball tournament.

Four teams of four joined in on this Halloween fun. Nate Tesmer’s team, which ultimately won the championship, consisted of Tesmer, Anjel Clemente, Guerby Ruuska and Christian Pool.

The team decided to dress up as soccer players, except for Clemente, who dressed up as Nacho Libre. Why choose soccer costumes? “So it would be easy for me to move around,” Tesmer said. “A classic strategy.”

The team’s other strategy was to go for the weakest link and try to take them down one at a time. And after battling every competitor, while fighting hard, they advanced to the final round.

The players and their creative costumes matched the competition’s athletic intensity.



Photo provided

From left to right: Nate Tesmer, Anjel Clemente, Guerby Ruuska and Christian Pool.

There were zombies, wrestlers and a crowd favorite— Jim Halpert from “The Office.” Assistant coach Dakota Steele mimicked one of Jim’s iconic Halloween outfits: three-hole punch Jim. He attached three black circles to his white polo

and carried a white mug around with him.

Even though Jim from “The Office” did not win the tournament, he won the spectators’ attention.

A Collaboration of Art, Music and Science at VIA

Mariella Angeles
Staff Writer

A VIA presentation of a mixture of science and MU’s Symphony Orchestra was presented to students and the public on October 29. There were displays before the presentation that included liquid nitrogen ice cream, various student displays that showcased the planets and a star ten lab was also pitched.

The VIA, which brought many visitors of all ages to Cordier Auditorium, started at 7:30 p.m. The MSO director and conductor, Scott Humphries, opened up the VIA with addressing the audience

that it is the 80th season for the Manchester Symphony Orchestra. He spoke about his love and admiration for Star Trek, which was fitting because the concert was opened up with three Star Trek pieces: First Contact, Inner Light and Into the Darkness.

Then the stage lights when up and Humphries introduced the guest speaker, Astronomer and Visual Artist, Dr. Jose Francisco Salgado. He presents the upcoming film to be “science driven, not science fiction,” and closed with urging students to be multidisciplinary.

The actual film showed various images of space: various planets, stars and comets. Many images of earth from the perspec-

tive of space were also shown. Various peninsulas and glaciers from varying countries were presented. Some notable images included a supernova remnant, which was the crab nebula. The accompanying music fit the film well, when the film showed stars or solar systems forming, the orchestra performed suspenseful music. When a black hole was shown, the orchestra accompanied such events with peaceful and serene music.

The ending was dramatic with pieces of space rushing through the screen and the orchestra depicted it theatrically and abruptly. A standing ovation ensued for the tasteful collaboration of Art, Music and Space.



Oak Leaves

SPARTAN SPORTS



Golf Coach Tara Boone Balances Busy Schedule, Coaching

Noah Tong
Staff Writer

With the fall schedules wrapping up, head men's and women's golf coach Tara Boone reflected on the positive, yet chaotic, season.

"It's been really tough to balance my time, but I've gotten a little bit better with it," Boone explained. "I work full-time at Huntington North High School and also am getting my Masters in Athletic Administration at the same time.

"So, my time is either spent at work, practice or doing class work for my Masters," Boone continued. "I truly believe without playing a sport in college I wouldn't have good time management skills."

The women's team experienced several successes this season, including placing fourth at the Bluffton University Invitation. Meanwhile, the men's team, led by Connor Labeledz, defeated Anderson University in match play.

"Both teams were very consistent during the fall," Boone

said. "We faced many challenges, such as weather, but I thought the teams responded well.

"Most matches are on the weekend," Boone continued. "We are usually at the golf course six to eight hours depending on shotgun start or tee times. Typical tournaments are played on Saturday and Sundays."

Despite the grueling schedule that is demanded of her, Boone appreciates the opportunity to work with both teams, as she knew she wanted to make a career out of coaching.

"My interest in golf came from my dad," Boone explained. "When I was younger I played other sports, but once I got into the eighth grade he wanted me to switch to a non-contact sport."

Boone proceeded to play four years at Huntington North High School. She later attended Indiana University to play on the golf team for two years before concluding her collegiate golf days at IUPUI. Her coaching career began with the local Squires at Manchester High School. Once the coaching position at Manchester opened up,



Photo provided

Senior Connor Labeledz contemplates his next stroke.

she knew she wanted to try her luck at coaching at the next level.

"The previous golf coach at the university contacted me to let me know he was leaving, and that I should apply for the position," Boone said. "I enjoy being around the sport even when I am not playing." This is the seventh year Boone has led the Spartans.

"The most challenging

part of coaching at Manchester is I am only a part-time coach," Boone continued. "I work off-campus at Huntington North. It can be difficult sometimes being a coach off-campus and not being visible."

Both teams practice Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at Honeywell Golf Course located in Wabash, Ind.

"My hobbies and in-

terests are centered around golf," she said. "When I am not in season, I play golf with my family. I also enjoy going to different vacation spots and concerts each year."

Boone has a mother named Terri, a brother named Derek, a sister-in-law named Stacey, and a niece named Malia.

Women's Basketball Optimistic for Season

Emily Ryder
Staff Writer

The Manchester University's women's basketball team started on Oct. 15 and competed in their first scrimmage, winning 69-63 against Ancilla College.

Maddy Minehart, senior, shares what she is looking forward to as the season has officially begun. "I personally am excited to watch how our first-years will contribute," she said. "They are really talented and bring great energy. I've enjoyed being with them off the court and I'm excited to watch them play. It's going to be important for our program's future for them to really develop this season, so I'm eager to watch them."

Minehart continues: "I'm also excited for our chances at the conference tournament. We are not picked to success in the tournament and I know we can really surprise some people. Our core group is very experienced and ready to complete."

Another senior, Beth Schaefer, shares what she is looking forward to as well. "I am very excited to be back on the court after a season-ending injury last

year," she said. "We have a very close team and I'm super excited to play alongside these girls. I think we will surprise some people."

Additionally, junior, Haley Farris, shared: "I'm most excited to get back at it with my best friends and compete for a conference championship! We haven't made it to the tourney since I've been here and I'd really like to not only do it for the seniors but for the entire team."

Each player was optimistic for the season opener and provided insight into the talent among the team as well as the highlights of the season. "This year's season looks promising," Minehart said.

"We graduate no one from last season and return everyone from last season and return everyone from injury and gain seven freshmen."

Minehart continues: "Everyone is practicing hard and really battling for playing time. It's exciting to see such competitive practices, and I think that will translate to our games pretty seamlessly."

On top of that, Schaefer adds: "After all of our injuries last season we were not picked to finish super high in conference rankings, but we did not lose any

seniors and I think we have some great senior leadership this year so I think we will have a very good year.

"We are so excited to get the season officially started," Schaefer continues, "Another highlight of the year is our trip to Dallas over Christmas break. It is always a great opportunity for us to grow closer as a team and have lots of fun while getting to play some ball."

Farris shares excitement about the talent among the team. "I think we have a lot of talent and I'm just really excited to see how far we can go," she says. "We have everyone back and healthy and so it's all about working our butts off in practice so that when game time comes we can compete at the highest level!"

Minehart was pleased with their scrimmage against Ancilla. "We had a great crowd for the scrimmage and hope that we can have a good following this season," she said. "We are always grateful for the support from the faculty, staff, students and community."

Manchester University's women basketball begins the 2018-19 season on Friday, Nov. 16, against Bethany at 7 p.m.



Photo provided

The women's golf team competes against Defiance on Sept. 6, 2018+.

Kocsis Redesigns Swim Program

Allyson Fogerty
Staff Writer

all on the same page now and look forward to seeing how the program grows and adjusts this season.

One of Coach Kocsis's swim captains, Mikki Goetz, senior accounting and finance major, is excited to see what Kocsis can do. Her graduating class was the first class to be affiliated with a Conference, and while she has seen the program change and build under a different coach, she sees that Kocsis is excited to jump in and build the program even more.

Goetz notices of the team a more cohesive atmosphere under Kocsis. While they love and have respect still for their previous coach, they know that Kocsis's new vision for the teams is more aligned with their visions as well. She said that practices are going better and that even though they started the season without a head coach and all the bumps in the road at the beginning, she sees the team "set off to see high results in the end."

Both Kocsis and Goetz see that this year is one of adjustments and one of the hardest for Kocsis comes as this being his first head coaching position. He at times feels overwhelmed with all of the things there are to learn and manage. "Joining the program in October when the season was already underway and having to learn everything on the fly also made this challenge even more difficult," he said. But with all of the support from the other coaches, and the teams themselves, Kocsis feels supported and always has help with any questions that arise.

Kocsis is excited about this season at Manchester University, with the team atmosphere and positive feedback he has been receiving, he knows this year will one of positive growth for both himself, and his teams.

Asst. Coach Hopes to Improve Conference Standing

Matthew Barbosa
Staff Writer

Manchester University men's basketball has been ranked last in the Heartland Conference based on standings from the 2017-2018 season. New assistant coach Ricardo Johnson is joining MU from Xavier University's basketball program, thus giving him much more responsibility and influence here, at a much smaller program. He is using the men's basketball low standings as a measure to show improvement of the players as a team.

"Our daily goal is to get 1% better every single day, but there is no pressure on us," Johnson said.

The team for the coming season is nearly half filled with first-year students and this creates challenges for the seniors to grapple with improving the new recruits' performance as a student and as an athlete. Coming into college already holds the difficulty of trying to determine time management between classes, homework and a social life, but first-year student athletes also have to work

in practice, games and team bonding.

Senior athletes are assisting on the court as well with ensuring that their fellow teammates are consistently putting in full effort all the time. MU being a division three school allows players of all different capabilities into the program, which makes every player have to work on becoming a well-rounded athlete to develop their talent. Having this more open of a team forces the coaching and veteran players to work on harboring an intense work environment to create a formidable team.

"We are changing the culture," said Johnson. "We are doing things the right way and are holding the players accountable in terms of their academics and championship aspirations."

First-year center T. J. Collins has an optimistic look on his new experience as a college athlete. Collins has only been playing basketball for three years, but has a passion for the game and is willing to put forth the time and effort to improve his performance.

"I know that if I mess up Abdul always breaks down

what I need to do and gives me tips, along with all the other seniors," Collins said.

He also enjoys the friendly team environment fostered by the seniors with team bonding activities, such as a cookout hosted by senior guard Keiton Hall. Senior guard Adrian Johnson feels that passing on the experience and knowledge to the new first years is a key part to the future success of MU basketball.

"It feels like a fresh new year with new faces and familiar faces, but everybody is coming back to work hard," Adrian Johnson said.

He asserts that after seeing great leadership in the past, that it is now his senior class' turn to be that example. He also feels that Head Coach Gerad Good has brought a new attitude to the table this year. Coach Good and assistant coach Johnson have stoked the flames of a new MU basketball program and are confident that the only way for this program to go is up for the season.