

Russ Continues Tradition of Service Dogs at Manchester

Noah Tong
Staff Writer

It turns out that teenagers and young adults aren't the only ones who attend Manchester University in preparation for their careers. Nine months old with jet-black fur, Russ is a half Golden Retriever, quarter Newfoundland, and quarter Labrador service dog-in-training. Lucky students, staff and faculty may catch a glimpse of Russ gliding past them down the halls.

"He lives with me," said senior Lauren Rodts, the dog's temporary caretaker. "He's not always with me, though. On certain days he's with Stacy Erickson-Pesetski, while other times he's with Mary Lahman and goes to their classes."

Rodts trains Russ for a non-profit organization based in Xenia, Ohio, called 4 Paws For Ability. Their mission is to place "high-quality service dogs with children with disabilities and veterans who have lost use of limbs or hearing," according to their official website.

"Instead of in-house training, this organization focuses on doing socialization training," Rodts explained. "The first couple weeks of Russ's life he was trained at a prison." In this instance, Russ was then transferred and placed under the supervision of Rodts.

Russ spends his days, like any typical student, by attending classes on campus from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. He then goes home to complete the puppy equivalent of homework. "We get a list of commands he's supposed to know," Rodts said. "We practice those and then after he gets the commands down we increase the distractions."

"Someone may be running around the room or screaming while I'm giving a command to help him learn," Rodts contin-

ued. "It's supposed to prepare him for the future."

Next month Russ will have an evaluation. If he passes, he goes into advanced training. It is likely he'll either be placed into seizure alert or assistance in search and rescue. To help prepare for this process, Rodts is responsible for taking Russ to monthly obedience classes.

Aside from training and caring for Russ, Rodts is heavily involved in the College of Business Club, Students Today Alumni Tomorrow, and the Academic Integrity Board. She noted that while it can be "stressful" training a dog while balancing her extracurricular activities and classwork, she has no doubt the effort is worth it.

"I love to work with dogs," Rodts said. "I have two cats and a dog back home, and I've always wanted my own dog. Anybody who loves dogs can do this program. You just need to stick to the training and make sure it gets done. It's very easy to fall off that routine."

Rodts is careful, however, not to let training the dog get in the way of enjoying Russ's company. "Anywhere we go he will do a somersault, flip on his back, and roll around," she said, recounting memories from recent months. "He's just really funny."

Despite the abundance of positive experiences, unexpected challenges still arise while raising Russ.

"He really loves greeting new people," Rodts said. "One time in the library he ran up to a girl afraid of dogs. She got scared so she ran away but he thought they were playing, so he chased her around the entire library!"

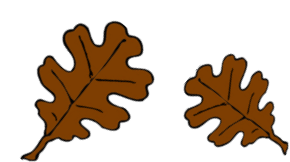


Photo provided
Russ and his caretaker Lauren Rodts pose together for a picture.



Photo provided
Russ poses by some books.



Photo provided
Russ and Professor Erickson-Pesetski spend time together in the Student Activity Center.

Alumni, Students Sing in Harmony at Homecoming Performance

Kaleigh Gabriel
Staff Writer

Friday, Sept. 28, at exactly 7:32 p.m. the quiet chatter of the auditorium faded as a rhythmic "thump, thump" was heard from a lone percussionist on stage, returning alumna Mackenzie Lowry.

Members of the Jazz Ensemble flooded onto the stage to join Lowry in the song "Hey Pachuco," an upbeat swing piece littered with the occasional gleeful shout of the title from performers in the ensemble.

At the conclusion of the song, director of bands, Scott Humphries, stepped to the mic to address the crowd. After thanking guests for attending, Humphries went on to inform the crowd that

the next piece, "Blueberry Jam," had been selected because he likes jam. The crowd erupted in laughter.

The Jazz Ensemble then concluded with the popular song "Leap Frog," which Humphries prefaced with a story of his childhood, recalling his father's '78 record and remarked that the ensemble "wouldn't be playing it quite that fast." The classic jazz era music erupted from the ensemble, along with a beautiful trumpet solo from sophomore Manuel Hernandez.

After the Jazz Ensemble took their bows, they made their exit for the A Capella Choir to be fully seen at the back of the stage on their risers. In the sea of choral performers there was a mix of current students and returning alumni prepared to daz-

zle the crowd with tunes such as "Ave Verum Corpus," "Sing Me to Heaven" and "Mairi's Wedding."

First-year, and Bass I singer Anthony Harris was especially proud of the second piece "Sing Me to Heaven" because, as he said, "we had worked very hard on this particular piece, especially on dynamic contrast and the choir as a whole was able to come together and move the audience to feel something with the song."

Similarly, first-year Tiffany Williams said she enjoyed this piece as well. "I've sung this song before and it has sentimental value to me as it was one of my grandma's favorites in my high school choir career."

At the conclusion of the A Capella Choir—a crowd pleasing performance with music of many speeds and energy lev-

els—the entire Symphonic Band convened on stage to begin a riveting performance of orchestrated music, including selections such as "Flourish for Wind Band," "Yosemite Autumn" and "Sheltering Sky."

"I was extremely nervous about this concert," said first-year Kendall Wrage. "I am usually nervous until I get on stage and start playing; after that I'm totally fine. This was the first organized concert I've played for in over two years, so it was a little nerve-wracking, especially playing with the alumni."

"I am always intimidated by the sheer talent of professional players," she added, "not to mention how good the alumni sound, even though they might not have played for a long time."

For the final perfor-

mance, the Symphonic Band and A Capella Choir joined together to perform "Be Thou My Vision," a piece arranged by Dr. Debra Lynn. "This song is one of my favorites, the way [Dr. Lynn] combines symphonic and choral chords," Humphries remarked.

Together the musical ensembles also joined to sing the school song, "By the Kenapocomoco," per university tradition. In an awe-inspiring movement the crowd stood with the students on stage and sang along to the school's song, alumni and students alike, thus ending a musically flawless concert.



Manchester Features 'Frankenstein' During October, November

Marcus Zwiebel
Staff Writer

Manchester University's department of English will be providing a "monstrously" great time over the next two months by hosting several events which will feature Mary Shelley's classic horror novel, "Frankenstein"—in time for its bicentenary birthday.

Dr. Katharine Ings, professor of English and chair of Manchester's English department, explains in an email that the first of the two events (both of which are VIAs) will be an interdisciplinary discussion among university faculty specializing in philosophy, physics, and gender studies. The VIA panel, "Frankenstein in the Future," will discuss how the novel informs and relates to their respective academic disciplines. It will take place in Cordier Auditorium Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 3:30 p.m.

The second "Frankenstein" VIA will be a film screening of the 1994 "Frankenstein"

film which will be followed by a discussion led by Dr. Jonathan Watson. The film screening and subsequent discussion will take place Thursday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. in ACEN 101. The event, according to the VIA calendar, is anticipated to last for approximately two to three hours.

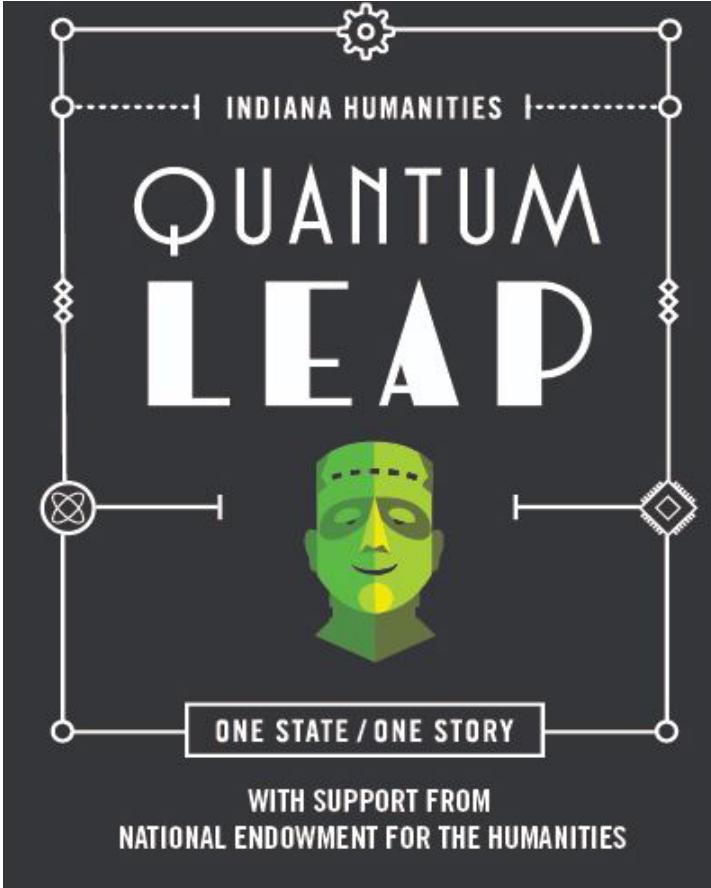
The "Frankenstein" involvement on Manchester's campus will also include an exhibit in Funderburg Library. Librarian Darla Haines has constructed a three-panel exhibit featuring what she calls the "publication, genesis, and legacy" of the novel, as well as a variety of artwork, information, and versions of "Frankenstein" covers. The triptych display will be displayed on the main floor of Funderburg library for several weeks, with the dual purpose of complementing the two VIAs and providing information to students, staff and faculty.

"I just hope people come see it," says Haines, with an enthusiastic smile. "I'm excited about the opportunity for students to discover that the novel is so much

more than just a horror story."

The English department and their library cohorts intend to use the "Frankenstein" activities to inform and learn with the university community and the surrounding communities. Ings says that she sees the activities as building a literary community surrounding "Frankenstein"—one that is iconically known via movies, cartoons and Halloween costumes.

Manchester University's "Frankenstein" activities resulted from the effort of Manchester's English department and library staff, but also from the work of Leah Nahmias, director of Programs and Community Engagement for Indiana Humanities. Ings says in an email that the organization (Indiana Humanities) wrote to the National Endowment for the Humanities to receive financial support for each participating institution—including Manchester.



Global Economy, Relative Poverty: What's Their Connection?

Matthew Barbosa
Staff Writer

OPINION

When discussing the shrinking middle class in America in the context of wealth distribution, it's interesting to bring up the overall growth of the global economy at the cost of a minority of the American middle class, and additionally what it means to be poor in America relative to these places, such as South, Southeast Asia, China and India, where the middle class is expanding. Recently the middle class has become as prevalent as those in poverty. What does that being global middle class really mean in the context of American standards?

The statistics recently published by Brookings Institute states that there are as many people in poverty as there are in the middle-class. They define a bracket of \$11-\$110 a day per person as middle class, meaning anywhere from \$4k-\$40k puts a person into this category. Working a minimum wage job, \$7.25 per hour in America, 40 hours a week puts the person at \$41.43 a day. This is just under the median of the bracket, \$49.50 per day or \$17,820, and most of these countries with expanding middle class are on the lower end of this bracket.

This has also just been considering half the population that is out of poverty, but the other half are still in poverty so would be worse off than those out of it. Meaning even the Americans with the worst amount of earning potential have the ability to live much better lives than at least 75% of the planet, and that is an estimate with being generous in number of people below \$41 a day in the middle class bracket.

We have a lot more than most people around the world, but are grateful for a lot less than those with nearly nothing relative to our standards. Additionally Americans are more upset with the 1% of wealthiest Americans,

even though these people are willing to expand industry outside of America to raise up other states, because it appears on paper that they have way more than they should relative to the American middle class.

What about those who have nearly nothing compared to the American middle class, say those under the extreme poverty line, \$1.25 a day, about 23% of the world. Where does the line get drawn for that 23% to decide when the global 1%, people living with \$88 per day, have too much and need to share with the other 99%?

When does it become morally okay to distribute wealth justly? When most people would agree that people that are earning \$88 per day, or \$32.5k, are working honestly and hard for their money. Where exactly does the line get drawn over \$32.5k a year that shows this person no longer worked hard and honestly for their money and should have it taken and given to those who do not even have the opportunity to make honest and hard earned money?

It seems to be that the trend of leaving these American 1% alone to expand global industry is positively impacted the global population at a more rapid rate than ever in history. Even if Americans try to implement policy to restrict the global economy engineers, they will likely just take their money elsewhere to bring up a different state's local class and economy.

Exercise extreme caution and scrutiny when suggesting that those rich beyond practical purpose deserve to be knocked down further to benefit a small amount of the global population, which for a long time was the dragon hoarding the wealth of the world. A change of scale and perspective serves to benefit everyone.

Global Health Major Added to MU Curriculum

Erin Brock
Staff Writer

A new global health major has been added to the curriculum at Manchester, allowing students to explore a profession in the medical field or that's otherwise health related from a more global perspective.

Manchester University is known for its health majors as well as its involvement in international affairs such as study abroad and multicultural focuses. This new major is allowing students to combine those two things and create a professional future from them.

Jeffrey Osborne, professor of chemistry at Manchester, talks about the new major and what it has to offer. "Its broad scope and emphasis on seeking health equity among nations provides a wealth of rewarding career opportunities," Osborne says. These career options include community health administrator, public health advocate, Peace Corps volunteer, nutritionist, community health worker, and many others. One major benefit

of this new major, according to Osborne, is that it can stand on its own or add to other majors.

Osborne and other professors such as Katy Gray Brown (peace studies), Gabby Morales (health communication), and Judd Case (chair of the Department of Communication Studies) realized that this new healthcare option was a viable opportunity for students that could easily incorporate the Manchester mission statement. "It values the infinite worth of every individual and doing so with a focus that includes not just one's own community but the world at large," Osborne says.

This new program allows the mission statement to play into it by offering courses such as Global Disease and Concerning Poverty, educating students on health issues not only locally, but worldwide. Students will also be encouraged to take part in opportunities such as the Shepherd Higher Education on Poverty Internship, BCA Study Abroad, and the Medical Practicum during January Session. Other internship opportunities will be added as the major develops. Students who

complete the global health major will also be given the opportunity to sit for the Indiana Community Health Workers Certification exam to become a certified community health worker.

With Manchester being one of only four schools in the Midwest offering a global health major, there are many hopes for this new curriculum. To start, it is expected that this new major will be useful in supplementing other majors or studies in the natural sciences, social sciences, language or business. According to Osborne, this should not be a difficult feat given that this major has 20 credit hours overlapping with the traditional courses in the biology-chemistry major for first-years. In addition to those 20 hours, 10 more credit hours can be counted for Core credit.

This new major is a big step in a positive direction for students and faculty at Manchester. By allowing students to major in global health, new doors are being opened and opportunities are being found. While there is not yet a global health minor, one may be considered for future years.

Students Enjoy Numerous Activities at the Success Fest

Kylie Mitchell
Staff Writer

To kick off Homecoming Weekend, the Student Success Center and MAC presented the Success Fest 2018 on the mall. Apart from spending the day with MAC and Student Success, the fest offered games, inflatables and popcorn.

The day was beautiful and crisp. Fall was making itself known as temperature dropped, leaves fell to the ground, and everything was colored in yellows, oranges, and reds. The sun lazily shone through the trees, making the day just right. Laughter and music filled the air as students lounged around in the peaceful afternoon.

The Success Fest is an opportunity to connect students, and allow them to have a fun and engaging experience.

Games included Canned Jammed, a game similar to Corn Hole, where two teams of two try to throw a frisbee into the can or knock it in with their hand.

Other activities included Hillbilly Golf, Corn Hole, and Bottle Bash, a game which involves knocking a bottle down with a frisbee. The event also hosted Sumo Wrestling and riding inflatables that look like whales.

Apart from games, many tables were set up to promote sign-ups for SOL. Other tables invited students to write down any advice that could help improve one's success at MU. More recreational activities were set up at other tables that challenged students to balance a feather on their own hand, to make bracelets and enter their names into different raffles.

Overall, the Success Fest was successful. The sunny weather suited the day well, and many students came out to enjoy the games, food, and beverages offered by Student Success and MAC.



Power Hours Offer Space for Powerful Talks

Samantha Bontrager
Staff Writer

Power Hours, hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), address controversial topics during an animated, one-hour-long discussion session.

Michael Dixon, director of Intercultural Services, International Student Advisor and Chief Diversity Officer, explains their function. "Each Multicultural Affairs Programmer (MAP) is required to do one Power Hour program each semester they are employed in the Office of Multicultural Affairs," he said.

On Sunday, October 14, at 5 p.m., Nuhamin Tesfay will host a Power Hour entitled "Stereotypes: truth by definition or

malarkey?" A stereotype can be defined as a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing. This Power Hour will look at the use of stereotyping and the impact that stereotyping has on subgroups.

Tesfay will ask and discuss two main questions during the session. The first of these two is "Do certain stereotypes contain truth?" The second, which ties into the first, is "Does that make them okay to be used?"

With the new access to the Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center, these types of conversations can now begin to happen more frequently and in a well-appointed space on campus. Dixon's hope is to bring rich

conversation and campus wide growth that starts on an individual level and seeps out into the whole campus.

On Sunday, October 21, at 5 p.m., Angie Gonsiorowski will host the second Power Hour for the month of October entitled "Does society discriminate against people with disabilities?" This Power Hour will look at the history of discrimination against those in our society with disabilities. To avoid only focusing on negative topics, this Power Hour's MAP will also look at the positive ways society has adapted everyday life to make things more inclusive for individuals with special needs. This Power Hour will also take place in the Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center.

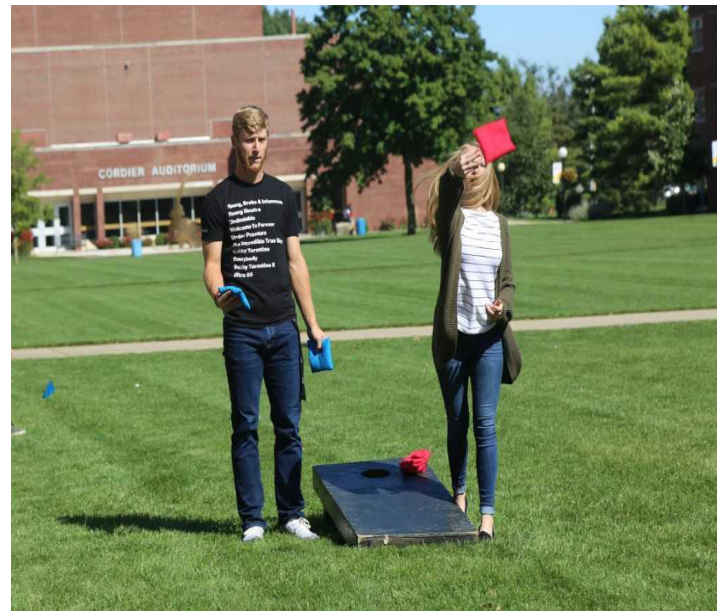


Photo provided
Students try their hand at Corn Hole, the classic Midwestern game.



Photo by Caraline Feairheller
Students dressed up in inflatable wrestling suits and tried to knock each other over.



Photo by Caraline Feairheller
Students eye up the Corn Hole target before tossing.

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Alumni Look Back at Homecoming Festivities

Emily Ryder
 Staff Writer

Manchester University’s 2018 Homecoming events that took place on Saturday, Sept. 28, ranged from an assortment of delicious food tents, a competitive corn hole tournament and live music playing, to an energetic, fun-filled kids’ zone, face painting and a variety of other tents engaged by recent alumni. These activities were neatly placed on the track, lasting until the victory of the home football team and captured the attention of nearly all ages, from young children to senior adults.

While these activities were going on, visiting alumni were eager to share their experiences they had during their time of being a college student. As was evident, positive changes that have occurred throughout the years, there were also similar experiences that are mutual and common to current Manchester Spartans, as well. Lori Ryder, an alum from the graduating class of 1985, was eager to share her opinion on the changes Manchester is currently undergoing.

“Manchester [College] has always been a beautiful campus but the changes to the campus

such as, the signs, buildings and the landscaping have made it aesthetically pleasing.” Ryder continues, “All of the updates have made it so much more appealing and attractive.”

Pete Myers, an alum from the graduating class of 2017, shared thoughts on the campus construction of brand new buildings, as well as their past experiences as a Manchester Spartan.

“It was nice to see all of the new buildings that went up as well as the ones that are currently being built, just in the past few years since I’ve been here. I’m also excited about the new foot-



Photo by Chloe Arndt
 “Friends with the Weather” performs during the Homecoming festivities.



Manchester student signs up for Homecoming activities.

Photo by Caraline Feairheller

ball stadium they have planned. It’s kind of cool that I was able to follow in the footsteps of my father who came to Manchester, played football and graduated as a business major as I did. It’s always neat to be able to come back to the school we both went to and even meet with some of the people he was friends with and graduated with.”

While there were numerous graduates from earlier years participating in the festivities, recent graduates and current Pharmacy students shared multiple tents to the right of the track where tables were filled with lab experiments, study abroad brochures, stickers, and more. This area captured the idea of what recent Spartans graduates were enthusiastic to share as well as what they miss the most.

These Homecoming events, however, allowed for un-

countable interactions, sharing of the past and present, providing powerful dynamics to the appreciation of what it means to be a Spartan.

Myers, who played football at MU, shared that he misses being on campus, seeing his friends every day and the home-like feeling while walking around. “I enjoyed going back and seeing a lot of the people that I went here with, especially the people on the football team,” Myers said. “I’ve missed them but it was really nice being able to catch up with them.” Manchester University’s Homecoming events are perfect times where progress and success is showcased from new buildings to new organizational clubs, past students, families, and friends are able to visit these buildings, speak with recent graduates, and engage in the countless activities.

MU Welcomes Ambassador Andrew Young to Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at New Intercultural Center

Mariella Angeles
 Staff Writer

On Sept. 29 MU hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Intercultural Center. Ambassador Andrew Young, who was married to Jean Childs Young (whom the Intercultural Center is named for) cut the ribbon for the ceremony. Young is a former ambassador of the United Nations. His credentials not only include being the first black mayor of Atlanta, GA, but he also held a friendship with Martin Luther King, Jr., and was involved in the civil rights movement.

When Young started to speak at the podium, he praised his wife, Jean and her involvement with Manchester. He told a story that symbolizes Jean. “When we came here from Georgia, we ran into what looked like a thousand Klansmen but really maybe only a hundred Klansmen, with sheets and pointed caps, and I said to Jean that I will go talk to them but you go behind the window and get a rifle and point it at the guy I’m talking to so I can negotiate from a position of strength.” He continued

to say that Jean could not do that and that she could not point a gun at a human being. He mentions that Jean said: “Under the pointed cap and sheet is a person with a heart and is a child of God.”

The new Center encompasses and represents students from multiple countries and cultures. The building broke ground early 2018 and finally reached completion this fall. It features an exhibit honoring Jean Young and her exceptional career as an educator.

The building also holds a multipurpose room—the Toyota Round—for events. There is a “living room-esque” space that can be used for any and all sorts of gatherings, a library that houses resources, and a computer lab that is available for the use and utilization of students. A kitchen and dining area are also housed in the building.

Several clubs and student associations use this building as their meeting place. The Asian Awareness Association, African Students Association, Black Student Union, Hispanos Unidos, and the Manchester University International Association of United Sexualities and Genders club.



Photo by Zander Willoughby
 President David McFadden and his wife Renee attend the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the new Intercultural Center.

The building represents unity and mingling of the different cultures. It is considered a place where MU’s international students, or indeed any student, can find an

inviting place and learn from and with one another.

Overall, this Center is to help further enhance Manchester’s dedication to graduating individu-

als with ability and conviction and to be aware of the differences each person holds, The focus of the Center is to have students use it and not only be diverse but be inclusive.



Photo by Zander Willoughby
 Guest Speaker Ambassador Andrew Young shares his wife’s testimony at the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.



Photo by Zander Willoughby
 Dzhwar Hamad addresses the crowd.



Oak Leaves

SPARTAN SPORTS



Manchester Defeats Earlham on Homecoming Weekend

Allyson Fogerty
Staff Writer

Fans young and old gathered in the bleachers of the Carl W. Burt Memorial Field to cheer on the Manchester Spartans as they faced off against the Earlham Quakers at this year's Homecoming football game.

The crowd was awash with black and gold; students, parents, alumni and even a few stray bees were rooting for the Spartans as Manny walked through the crowd taking pictures with fans of all ages.

As the game started, cheers of anticipation could be heard throughout the field. The coin was tossed, and after landing on tails, Manchester won and chose to receive. Earlham kicked the ball, and from there, it would be a game never to be forgotten. Within the first seconds, Manchester Spartans number 15, Kevin Georges, caught the ball and took off across the field. He scored the first Spartan touchdown leading the game 6-0 and leaving the crowd in awe.

The second quarter saw four more Spartan touchdowns bringing in half-time with a score of 34-0. This quarter also witnessed a fight between opposing players, leaving one with his first penalty for unsportsman-like-conduct, and the other disqualified for the remainder of the game.

During half-time the crowd watched as the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees were honored. First to be honored was the 2018 coach of the year, Scott Stalbaum. A 2007 Manchester University graduate, Stalbaum has led the Rochester High School's boy's and girl's cross country and track program to lofty heights. He has been at Rochester for eight years. Next honored was the 1962 men's cross-country team. They registered five of the top 10 finishes at the conference championship, and were led by coach Daryl Hartzler. Also being honored were 1998 graduate Brandon Baker, known for his achievements in both baseball and football, 2000 graduate Jaime Wilson Meyer, known for her record-holding successes in basketball, 2006 graduate Brandon Tugmon, known for his impressive history in football, and 1956 graduate Jack Jarret, known for his coaching career that spanned more than 20 years at then-Manchester College.

After the Hall of Fame inductees were honored, the last seven minutes of halftime were graced with the sassy, and entertaining hip-hop dance stylings of the Manchester Spartanettes Dance Team. Their show was a mash-up of popular "rap" music, including the famous "Kiki Do You Love Me" chorus by Drake. They left the field in a beautifully choreographed "M" formation, getting the crowd ready for the second half of the Homecoming football game.

Third quarter warranted more cheers from Spartan fans as the team scored two more touchdowns, now leading the game 48-0. In the stands, alumni could be seen singing and clapping along to the school fight song after each touchdown. Smiles lit the faces of the alumni in attendance for this year's Homecoming game. One alumna, Cindy Border '78, said this this year's Homecoming game was especially important to her and her husband as their colleague, Coach Stalbaum, was receiving the Coach of the Year Award. He has coached their sons as well, so they wanted to be here supporting him.



Photo provided
Manchester senior Garrett Walker prepares for the tackle against Earlham's offense during the Homecoming game on Saturday.

Border says that when she went to the then-Manchester College, the football games were not well attended. "Our team wasn't really that good," she added with a chuckle. She was thoroughly enjoying this year's Homecoming, and thought the game was "great."

As fourth quarter rolled around the Earlham Quakers had no chance for a comeback or

win as the game was at 48-0. The crowd started thinning—people going to their cars, finding their loved ones, and making plans for after the game—the Manchester Spartans scored three more touchdowns. The crowd was on their feet, the cheerleaders were yelling for their team, and the game ended with a Manchester win: 69-0.

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Changes to Volleyball Gives Renewed Energy



Photo provided
New women's volleyball coach, Ivan Matos, gives directions to the Lady Spartans during their match against Rose-Hulman.

Alexandria Collins
Staff Writer

OPINION

As news spread around campus about the Women's volleyball team losing their Head Coach mid-July, so did the stress.

Manchester University's Volleyball Coach Bryndon Paulsen resigned as Head Coach to join the coaching staff of Clarke University, his departure left the team with no coach until three weeks before their first game.

Athletics Director Rick Espeset guided the Lady Spartans in the right direction by selecting many candidates that would fit best for the program. After a long process, the hiring committee and the team decided on Ivan Matos to take the role as the new coach of the University. Matos has served as head coach of Fort Wayne's Empowered Volleyball Academy, he is also a graduate volleyball player from Indiana

University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Matos later on played professionally in Puerto Rico. The newly picked coach brings all of his volleyball intelligence from years of experience, to help the Lady Spartans become as successful as possible.

To help with the transition, senior Haley Duncan stepped up to the net to make sure everything was in line and ready to go. She helped with all the dirty work including a new look for the team, the Fall Break California trip, open gyms, and everything in-between. The helpful senior wanted a new start to the season, trying her best to make it successful.

The girls have made such improvements on ball control, a better understanding of the game, and one to stand out most, aggressiveness. Since the Lady Spartans had Coach Matos, Day 1 seemed like a game changer for the program. Balls are dropping less, they hit harder, and the sets

are cleaner, making the program look superior.

There was all around improvement from every single player. Each day the focus is to improve in some way. With the help of Michael (Mike) Frank, the new assistant coach, the passers see a new opportunity to excel in passing. The program is looking better than ever.

I think this year has been a step up in all aspects of the game for the team. The girls are now beating teams they haven't defeated from way back, including Olivet and Saint Mary's. Running a faster offense has helped the team tremendously. Bringing Matos and Frank into the program make the girls look better all around.

I believe the Athletic Program did a great job picking successful candidates. This could be a very good opportunity for the girls to really step it up in the future. Conference teams should be on the lookout for the Lady Spartans in the near future!

"This season has been such a mental and physical test for all of us with our new coach and we have adjusted so well," says sophomore Kenzie Rooks. "We have such high expectations, and, despite our record, we have been playing much better volleyball."

The team will play again on Friday, October 5, at Occidental at 9 p.m.



Photo provided
Manchester Spartanettes dance on the field during half time of the Homecoming game.

Men's Soccer Looks for Conference Win

Tiffany Williams
Staff Writer

Manchester is the home to a variety of sports, but one sport in particular is having trouble kicking up some points.

The men's soccer team has had very few wins this year so far, with only two wins and a tie out of the ten games they've played this season. This includes their first conference game against Hanover that took place on Saturday, Sept. 29, with Hanover for the win 3-0.

Admittedly their non-conference season is supposed to be harder to prepare them for their conference season. "We're playing really difficult teams, but we're competing," said head coach Corey Brueggeman. "It's not like we're getting outplayed or blown out; we're just not competing the whole game, but we're really close."

Brueggeman went on to explain how the team has everything they need to be successful; all the team needs to do is believe they can do it. He thinks it would help the team if they took a look at their day to day goals such as getting in a good practice rather than worry about the end goal. "The team spirit, the moral, the resiliency that you can't teach or coach is there, Brueggeman said. "We just have to put it together and go for the win."

Drake DeWitt, a senior captain, has been instrumental in inducting more of the younger players on the team. DeWitt understands what it takes to better the team as he has seen the growth the team has made over the years.

The varsity team this year has three first years on its team: Ryan Worman, Drew Gavit and Trey Smith who have been starting and playing a lot with, around, the nine returning players. Worman and Smith are defenders whereas Gavit is a mid-fielder. Brueggeman said: "I always tell the guys to trust the process and they've done a really good job of it."

The main goal that the team is shooting for is to get to the NCAA tournament; however, there are several steps the team has to take to get there. First and foremost, they have to make it to the top four of ten in their conference teams to even have a chance of making it to the NCAA tournament. Getting there will push them through to possibly winning the conference and then go on to possibly winning the tournament.

Last year the team finished fourth but lost the conference tournament. "We're trying to have the guys take it minute by minute, game by game and not focus on the end result," Brueggeman said. Although the team lost their first conference game, they have eight more games to go.

New Season, New Leadership in Women's Volleyball

Erin Brock
Staff Writer

Women's volleyball has been adjusting to new leadership this year as Ivan Matos, former assistant coach of Purdue Fort Wayne, takes over.

Matos, IPFW grad, joined the Spartan community in August 2018 and the players on the team are noticing changes al-

ready. "This year has been quite an adjustment for us all," says junior Anna Marie Lawrie. "With the new coach, we are improving our game both on and off the court. We started slow, but [we] are pushing with strong efforts to finish the rest of the season on a high note."

So far, the team has had 10 losses and 4 wins, but the players are hopeful for the games to come.