

The Chinworth Center Opens for Business

Alex Baker
Staff Writer

After a year of construction, the Lockie and Augustus Chinworth Center opened its doors to students, faculty and staff in August. The business faculty and students are enthusiastic about the new building as it has several features that are new and appealing. Many professors believe it is the classrooms, new offices, and the new lounge area.

“The question that was lingering with professors was ‘What’s best for the students?’” said Wendy Hoffman, associate professor of marketing and management. “Just the wide possibilities with the space was really exciting.”

And indeed the faculty have made the most out of Chinworth’s potential. “In addition to the traditional classrooms, we designed one nontraditional classroom intended to provide the faculty with a great deal of flexibility in how they use the space,” said Tim Ogden, dean of the College of Business.

Ogden is also looking forward to the possibilities of improving students’ learning. “All of the furniture is moveable, and there are numerous moveable whiteboards and charging stations,” he said.

“The Chinworth Center will also include technology that will enhance student learning,” Ogden

continued. “This space will facilitate role plays, small-group work and a variety of other types of teaching/learning approaches.”

Faculty aren’t the only ones excited to use these classrooms. For Nick Melero, the College of Business Club president, his favorite part about the new building is the new classrooms since they are “refreshing, attractive and modern.”

Ogden is also impressed with the outcome of the case studies classroom. “This is a type of space that we have needed for as long as I have been teaching here, and it is going to be wonderful for the students,” he explains. “It is designed to accommodate any discussion-based course; the U-shaped classroom makes it easy for students to see one another and to converse with each other while the faculty member facilitates the discussion from the well in the center of the room.” This room is Ogden’s favorite part of Chinworth.

A new building means new offices for professors and members of the College of Business Club. “I love the windows; they are really big and awesome,” said Jenny Simmers, associate professor of accounting, with a smile. “I think it’s neat to have the natural sunlight coming in.”

President Melero is grateful for the perks of his office. “The office is a smaller room with a conference table for meetings and cabinets for storage,” he said. “There are pictures

of past cabinets hanging on the wall, with our picture being the latest installment on the wall.” Indeed, photographs are a feature throughout Chinworth, with images in the hallways that display alumni success and showcase members of the College of Business Club.

In addition, the new lounge area offers something that the Academic Center didn’t: space and room for interaction. Hoffman has always had her door open but believes that “the space makes it easier for students to pop into professor’s offices and ask quick questions.” Ultimately, Hoffman thinks the new lounge area is “owned by the students.”

“We wanted to create space where students could gather to study, socialize and relax in a comfortable lounge area, but we also wanted it to be close to the offices to facilitate informal interaction among faculty, staff and students,” Ogden said.

Simmers also highlights that the new lounge area is one of her favorite parts of the building. “It’s really awesome, walking out there and seeing students working,” she said with excitement. “The lounge is really being utilized.”

To further inaugurate the Lockie and Augustus Chinworth Center, the College of Business Club is hosting a fall picnic on Sept. 17 and having a guest speaker on Oct. 10.



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

The outside view of the new Chinworth Center looks out onto a parking lot and East Ave..



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

The Student Activity Center provides a new space for on-campus clubs to meet.



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

A new business lounge is located on the second floor.



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

Ellexis Cook uses the business lounge to finish homework between classes.

Cordier Hosts Art Installation Inspired by Nature

Carly Greaves
Staff Writer

The awe-inspiring beauty and diversity of nature has been unleashed upon the Cordier Auditorium lobby and halls.

Paintings depicting creatures and landscapes both gentle and wild hang on the cool grey walls within the vast building to be viewed by all. These works, created by artist and conservationist Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen, are being displayed until Nov. 1. This unique collection gives students the chance to see art and nature intertwine to make something extraordinary.

The gallery itself was arranged by Ejenobo Oke, associate professor of art. She took paintings and ink sketches, on loan from van Frankenhuyzen, and organized them in a pattern throughout Cordier. This is a deliberate move

by Oke, who said that this kind of placement allows people to “subconsciously or consciously make a connection.”

And her placement pays off, as each section of the gallery has its own select theme. No matter one’s taste in wildlife or scenery, they will find something to marvel at.

The main lobby of Cordier, accessible by the front doors, is dedicated to the African wilderness. These paintings are particularly colorful and eye-catching, with emphasis on sunlight and reflection. “Wood Storks” features two of the eponymous birds near a pond at sunrise, their white feathers contrasting stunningly with the vivid orange grasses and the soft violet background of distant trees. “Fishing Marabou Storks” has three of the incredibly detailed avians wading through water that reflects their image with remarkable accuracy. Van Frankenhuyzen’s talent is apparent

through these images of African wildlife. However, it is not in the savannas where most of his passion lies.

The right hall off the Cordier Auditorium lobby is dedicated to art van Frankenhuyzen created on Hazel Ridge Farm, where he lives with his family, and to his illustrations in children’s books. Van Frankenhuyzen teams up with his wife, Robbyn van Frankenhuyzen, to make books such as “The Legend of Sleeping Bear,” “Itsy Bitsy & Teeny Weenie,” and “I Love You Just Enough.” These tales are used by van Frankenhuyzen to spread his love of nature and wildlife rehabilitation to hundreds of children.

The paintings here are bright and focused on the cute and fluffy. “View from the Studio” and “Grazing Sheep” are images captured from when Hazel Ridge Farm was a simple sheep farm, showing the woolly creatures peacefully grazing on sunlit hills. “Follow the Lead-

er,” an illustration taken straight from “Itsy Bitsy & Teeny Weenie,” features a host of adorable animals (including a timid fawn) trailing after a woman along a grassy path. These serene scenes from Hazel Ridge Farm offer a look into country life that many do not have access to. But there is more to van Frankenhuyzen’s work than docile farm animals.

The left hall off the Cordier lobby is filled with images of the North American wilderness. It is here where van Frankenhuyzen truly shows his dedication to documenting nature. “Coyote” shows the canine standing in a winter forest, the snow coating the tree’s branches in a startlingly realistic matter. The chaotic scene of wolves hunting down a terrified moose while surrounded by swirling snowfall is presented in “Predator, Prey.” Alongside paintings such as these are several enlarged ink sketches offering van Frankenhuyzen’s

observations of various water fowl, owls, raccoons and other creatures he has seen on Hazel Ridge Farm. Said farm was converted into a 40-acre nature reserve by the van Frankenhuyzens in order to shelter the many wild animals that they have rehabilitated over the years.

The works of van Frankenhuyzen, both artistic and altruistic, are an inspiration. Combining his talent and passion, van Frankenhuyzen is able to uniquely educate others about the world they live in and the beings they share it with. “Art helps people experience nature,” Oke said. “Then they want to learn more.”

The van Frankenhuyzen gallery may only be at the Cordier Auditorium for a couple more months, but that is more than enough time to experience nature beyond one’s wildest dreams.



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

“Heather and Mr. Peet” by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen. This painting is the cover of children’s book “I Love You Just Enough.”



Photo by Destinee Boutwell.

“Fishing Marabou Storks” by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.

MU Student Aspires to Bring Peace Back to Nigeria

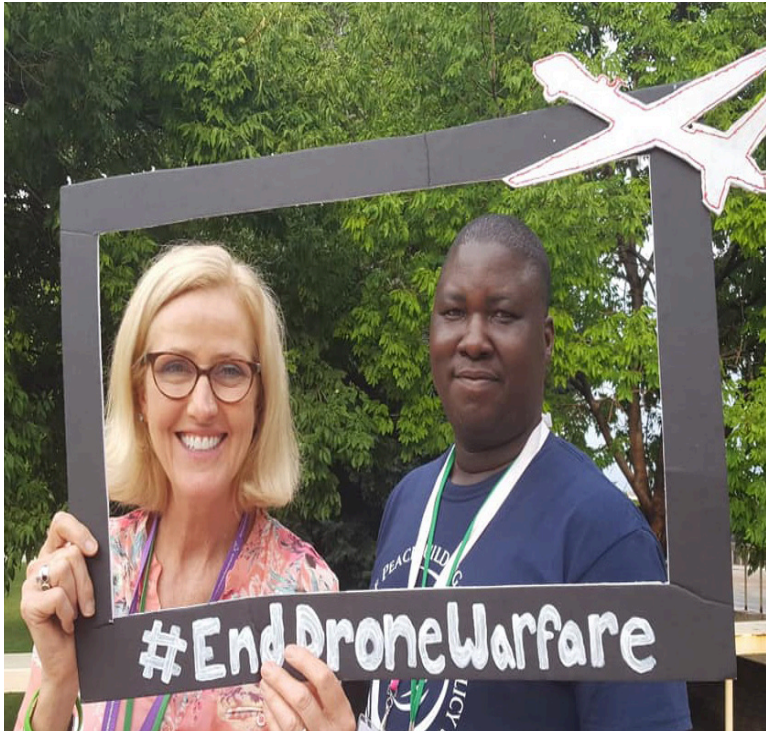


Photo provided by Zakaria Bulus.

#EndDroneWarfare was taken at the 2018 National Youth Conference for the Church of the Brethren in Colorado.



Photo provided by Zakaria Bulus.

Zakaria Bulus visited Rwanda during his January session.

Brandon Burgess Staff Writer

Peace isn't something that is simply given, it's something that must be strived for.

Senior peace studies major Zakaria Bulus understands this. He came to Manchester University from his hometown Adamawa in Nigeria, with a hope to return to his home country with the skills needed to restore a little peace.

Bulus chose to attend Manchester because of its extensive academic history in peace studies. As the nation's first program began at Manchester, he thought this would be the most fitting place for his education.

Peace has become an important part of Bulus's life as the terrorist group Boko Haram, located in Nigeria, continues its reign of terror. It has been 17 years since the group first emerged and the country continues to suffer at its grip. In addition, the country faces multiple economic and political issues.

Growing up among all of these issues, Bulus became interested in the study of peace and its workings. He said he got into this area because he wanted to help resolve conflicts, to help restore peace in Nigeria, and to work with international organizations promoting peace.

A large part of his passion for peace comes from his affiliation with the Church of the Brethren in

Nigeria. "I suppose you could say that religion shaped a part of me," he said.

Tying in with his religion, back home Bulus is a part of the Ek-klesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN), the largest national body of the Church of the Brethren in the world. This peace church was founded in 1923, and has focused on education, health, and agriculture. Today, however, the organization is ravaged by attacks from the Boko Haram. As Bulus was born into the church, this organization became a large part of his life and helped decide, as he said, not only his fate, but also helped pick his major.

All together Manchester offered a safe, quiet, and comfortable place for Bulus to study.

MU Faculty Sponsor Children in Uganda

Chloe Leckrone Staff Writer

For years, multiple Manchester University professors have been involved with the Sparrow Fund—a program that allows people in the North Manchester community to sponsor The Manchester University community has always been far-reaching, but through a sponsorship program for children in Uganda. A sponsorship helps the child—or children—pay for school fees. The Sparrow Fund currently has 68 children being sponsored, some by members of the Manchester University community.

Dr. Greg Clark is one local sponsor. Clark has been a professor of physics at Manchester for 28 years. He and his wife, Anne, sponsored a young girl named Gloria from 2012 until earlier this year when she left school. They chose to continue their sponsorship with a new child, Sarah. Clark said the reason he finds sponsoring a child so important is because he believes he lives what he calls a "good, secure life," so he should give back. Clark also said he finds it crucial for developing countries to educate young women, which the Sparrow Fund allows to happen.

Two other faculty members that have been involved with the Sparrow Fund are chemistry professors Dr. Mark Bryant and Dr. Terrie Salupo-Bryant. They have been sponsoring their child, Nancy, since 2012. They were drawn to Nancy because, like themselves, she is Catholic. Nancy hopes to be a Catholic sister and nurse when she grows up. Salupo-Bryant's favorite part of sponsoring Nancy is knowing that she is connected to someone with a very different culture. "That con-

nection reminds me that the world is bigger than myself," she said.

Dr. Jeff Osborne, professor of chemistry, and his wife Maria Osborne have been sponsors for years as well. Like Clark, Bryant and Salupo-Bryant, the Osbornes have been sponsoring their child, Stephen, since 2012. In 2017, Stephen's grandmother's home was set on fire and he lost everything. Through the Sparrow Fund, the house was able to be rebuilt and Stephen was provided with what he needed. Sponsoring Stephen has taught the Osbornes that "a little bit of help can make a large difference in another person's life," as Jeff Osborne put it.

One common apprehension about sponsorship programs that nearly every professor mentioned was uncertainty about where and to whom their money would go. There are an endless number of sponsorship programs available online, but what set The Sparrow Fund apart from the rest was that the sponsors knew and trusted the person who organized the program, so they had no doubts as to what their money would be used for.

The founder of the Sparrow Fund, Sally Rich, wife of math professor Dr. Andy Rich, was inspired to start the program when her son went to Uganda for an internship. There, he met a man who would pay for children's school fees when they could not afford them.

According to Rich, in this Ugandan community 45 percent of children are without at least one parent, as many died either during the Civil War or of AIDS. Many children are raised by their grandmothers who can barely afford to pay for food, let alone school fees. Rich reached out to the man her son had met and asked for the names of 10 children who could be sponsored and within one

week all 10 had sponsors. She generally visits Uganda once a year to see the sponsored children and has built lifelong relationships through her trips.

The Sparrow Fund was not the only thing to come of Sally Rich's son's internship in Uganda. The man he met was also connected to an income-generating project with a group of 10 women who made paper beads. He was looking someone who would be willing to sell their paper-bead products. Rich's son knew that his mother, whose three greatest passions are art, social work and other cultures, was the person for the job. Rich has been working with these diligent women ever since. She believes that the importance of her work with these women lies with the fact that it does not lead to dependency: it is sustainable and allows them to make money from their own products. They can support their own families and create jobs so that even more women can continue to support their families.

Their jewelry was sold locally at One World Handcrafts, but with the recent closing of the shop Rich is worried about the fate of the paper beads. At the moment, her main goal is to get the children currently being sponsored through the Sparrow Fund through school. She fears that the paper-beads project is dwindling and may not last as long as the sponsorships.

As Rich reminisced on her time spent working on these projects, she expressed that the greatest part of this experience has been building relationships with people from an entirely different community and culture. She always wanted to something like this and it has been the "biggest joy" of her life. She hopes it can continue for years to come.

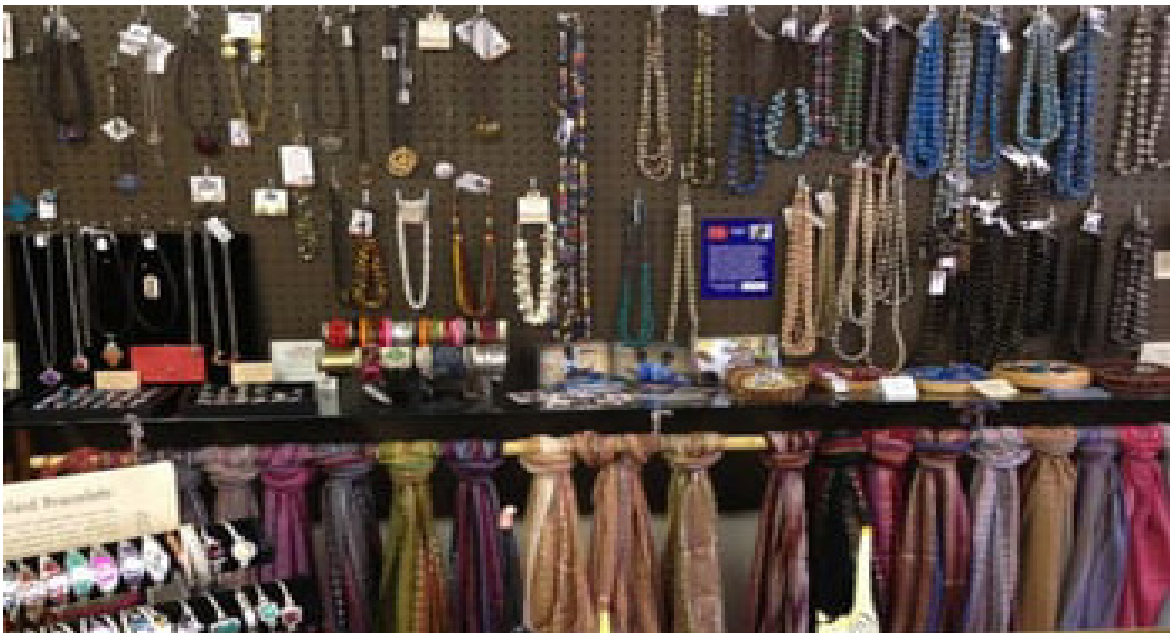


Photo provided by Zakaria Bulus.

Manchester student Zakaria Bulus is a peace studies major.

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MU Supports Mental Health Awareness

Emily Hickle
Staff Writer

Free ice cream and a bouncy house were visible as MU football fans flooded through the R. Wayne Smith gate last Thursday at 6:45 p.m. Students, volunteers, MU employees and people from the community gathered at the Carl W. Burt Memorial Stadium for the kickoff of Spartan football, but also to join in Community Night, where anyone was welcome to come and support an important cause.

This year, Community Night was held in order to raise awareness of mental health. T-shirts were sold beforehand that read ‘Manchester Spartans Support Mental Health Awareness’ in green lettering, the color of support for mental health. Both the Manchester and Trine football teams were also showing their support by wearing bright green shoelaces in their cleats.

While Community Night was centered on a serious topic in the hope of raising awareness and support, there were fun activities for all ages to participate—including face painting and a game of limbo. Many of the face-painting options were Manchester related, featured the color green, or the volunteers were happy to attempt to paint whatever was wanted.

Along with the events put on by Community Night, two local organizations were there to support the community and engage the crowd. ASPIN, a health navigator program, gave away an

assortment of products, including free toothbrushes. Bowen Center, an organization that helps with mental health in a variety of ways, offered free football stress balls and mints.

The event could not have been executed without the help of volunteers. The women’s basketball and softball teams scooped ice cream, painted faces, kept an eye on the bouncy house and limbo games, and offered a friendly greeting to those who walked by. “You know it is a great community when volunteers reach out to you to volunteer,” said Heather Schilling, director of Teacher Education and organizer of Community Night.

Schilling was happy with the turnout and the way the event was running: There were many people hanging around, going from one station or vendor to another. The volunteers remained busy, as people continued through the gates. “Community Night is great and a lot of fun,” said Alexis Mokos, a senior on the softball team who was volunteering. “It looks like a big turn out.”

With the event being held right before the football game, Community Night was able to engage those football fans from both teams who were heading toward the bleachers to find their seats. It also drew in people from the university and surrounding areas. Those in attendance were able to not only have fun, enjoy a cold treat, or become a work of art, but also they were made aware of mental health and ways they can support each other and the cause itself.



Photo provided by Bridget Nash.

Spartans plays defense on third down during the Manchester vs. Trine Community Night game.

MU Football Kicks off against Trine

Jarred Hubbard
Staff Writer

The Manchester Spartans football club look forward to having a promising season with their new young core.

Head Coach Nate Jensen went out this past off-season to recruit stand-out talent from across United States. He, along with his 110 combined players and coaching staff, have worked non-stop all summer to grow as a unit and make their dreams of winning a Division III championship a reality.

They’re ready for the challenge to rewrite the destiny of this team. The Spartans were projected to finish fifth in the HCAC preseason poll. They also had eight players selected as “Players to Watch” for the upcoming season. The Spartans have set the stage for the season, but will have to see if they can capitalize on the momentum set this past off-season.

The Spartans have brought in a group of talented first years. Rahmon Jones, a 6’4 327-pound left tackle from South Bend, IN, came to MU from a stellar high school career at Riley High School. He selected Manchester over Marian University and Indiana Wesleyan University. “I chose Manchester because it’s close to home,” he said. “I loved the homey environment and I just want my family to come and support me since it’s so close.”

Jones also has goals in mind. “My expectations for this season are to come together as a team and win and to also be the best team that Manchester has ever had and has ever seen,” he said. “My goals are to just get better and learn from all of our mistakes as a whole and to learn. We don’t lose; we win or we learn.”

Jones also said that the team is gelling pretty well as a unit. “We’ve been coming together, helping together,” he said. “When one messes up we all don’t put that one guy down; we surround him with open arms and watch film and come together collectively.”

What is Jones like off the field? “I’m a fun guy,” he said. “I’m kind of shy but at the same time when you learn me you’ll see how fun and unique I really am.”

Ethan Rinnert, a 6’2 185-pound quarterback from Davenport, FL, has one expectation for the season. “I want to win. Point. Blank. Period,” he said. “Especially with me coming off of this injury I have a lot to prove and to show, especially with my family watching and supporting me in Florida.

“It’s clear coming from Florida I have a bit of a chip on my shoulder,” he continued, “but I know that I can help bring a winning attitude to this school and team as a whole.”

Off the field Rinnert sees himself as a “cool, calm and collected guy.” He loves music, and, as he says, “I try to be more versatile and to understand all parts of life for sure.”

VIA Speaker Discusses ‘Life After Drugs’

Erica Mohr
Staff Writer

Monti Washington is one of the last people who would believe that your past dictates your future—he went from sleeping in parks and crack houses to becoming a writer, actor and a motivational speaker.

On Sept. 3, Washington gave a VIA titled “Life After Drugs” in Cordier Auditorium that taught students life lessons about how to rise against adversity. Washington seemed to have all the cards stacked against him: he was born to a prostitute, never knew his father and was bounced around from home to home. However, Washington’s VIA showed the audience how he overcame the trials of his life and gave students advice for how to face their own trials.

Washington commanded the attention of the audience before he even set foot onto the stage. He started out with a rap, freestyling from behind the audience so that although he could not be seen—he was heard. He slowly made his way to the stage, walking through rows and past members of the crowd, and when he got onto the stage what the audience saw was not a presenter in a suit and tie but was instead a young man who had dressed casually. Washington wore black pants and a black jack-

et with a white t-shirt under it. He also wore a red stocking cap with matching red shoes. Throughout the presentation he stood casually, pacing back and forth and often getting off of the stage to interact with the audience. One may expect a presentation titled “Life After Drugs” to be serious, however, Washington kept his voice light and his words causal, speaking to the audience as if he was speaking to a friend.

The biggest theme Washington stressed in his presentation was to have confidence in yourself. To do this, Washington did not lecture or give statistics; instead he interacted with the audience, walking down the aisles to get eight volunteers to come onto stage with him. Washington treated all these volunteers as though they were already friends, laughing with them and putting his arm around them. “Monti seemed to actually care and enjoy us being up there, said James Gilley, one of the volunteers. “He listened and understood where we were coming from.”

Washington had each volunteer speak into the microphone and tell the audience why they were, in his words, “the sh*t.” For example, when on stage Gilley said, “My name is James Gilley and I’m the sh*t because I overcame bullying at a young age.”

Another theme Washington put on his projector screen

was “Real Friends—Who Has Your Back?” Washington once again engaged the entire audience by having everyone get out their phone and look at all the contacts they had stored. Washington explained how he believed there are three types of people: haters, fakers and takers. He claimed that if anyone in the audience knew someone who would fall under one of these categories, they should be deleted.

“By having us think about if the people in our lives were good for us and then giving us a chance to delete them from our lives made me want to participate in the activity more,” said Madison Haines, a sophomore public relations major. “He did a great job of telling us what we needed to do, and then showing us how to do it.”

Washington ended the presentation on a more somber note. He played music, dimmed the lights, and said things such as “Stand if you have ever been told to man up”; “Stand up if you have lived in a home with domestic violence”; and “Stand if you have ever been homeless or lived in poverty.”

“It really made me think about other people and what they go through, said Apolonia Edwards, a first year. “It also made me think about how no one is alone, because there was always more than one person standing.”

X-Country Embraces High Expectations

Mackenzie Kopplin
Staff Writer

Manchester University’s cross-country team has been one to watch in the last several seasons. This season will be no exception. In the HCAC Preseason Poll, the women’s team was ranked first, and the men’s team ranked second. This could be a promising foreshadowing for a great season to come.

Already this fall, Manchester has hosted the Hokum Kareem, or a “relay” style cross-country race, on Friday, Aug. 30. “The Hokum Kareem was a great meet for us,” said Coach Brian Cashdollar. “My assistant coaches, Coach Natalie Richardson and Coach Dakota Steele, did an awesome job with meet setup and making sure it ran smoothly. I like to think we put on one of the best ‘early season’ meets in the area.”

He went on to say that he thought his team executed their race plans very well. “Our senior and upperclassmen did a great job of follow-

ing the plan and working on the bigger picture instead of being selfish,” he said. “It was a great team effort.” The Manchester women’s team’s top three pairs were: Wappes & Gilbert, 37:21.8; 15. Ewen & Lynn, 37:23.4; 16. Acevedo & Brubaker, 37:36.7; 18. The men’s team’s top three pairs were: Baker & Salazar, 40:40.5; 8. Fontanez & Walton, 40:46.2; 9. Barnard & Richardson, 40:52.4; 10.

Manchester traveled to Grand Rapids, MI, on Saturday, Sept. 7, to compete in the Calvin Knight Invitational. The women’s team placed 15 out of 24 and the men’s team placed 16 out of 24. Senior Hannah Wappes finished in eighth place with a time of 22:12.2, which is a personal record for her.

Moving forward in the season Cashdollar has several key objectives for his team. “Our goals are pretty simple and might seem a little cliché,” he said. “We want to be the best Manchester University cross-country team that we can be in 2019. Our goals are for each athlete to accept the awesome responsibility of being a college athlete. That means that we have to make choic-

es constantly that will lead us to becoming the best team that we can be when it counts in November.”

How will they accomplish these goals? “We work towards creating a team environment where athletes care about each other and hold each other accountable,” Cashdollar said. “The goal is to live your life like a collegiate distance runner. If the teams decide to do this then they will be very successful.”

The athletes were optimistic for their future this season. “I think we have a really good chance of winning conference again this year,” said Ava Acevedo, senior. Of her personal performance, she said: “I’m super excited because I have never been this fast before so I’m feeling dangerous.”

Senior Emily Ewen expressed similar hopes but added: “We aren’t quite where we want to be yet, but all of us seem to have our eyes set on some high goals for this season. I believe we can get there with some hard work soon.”

Spartan cross-country returns to action on Friday, Sept. 20, at the Taylor Invitational.



Photo provided by Nick Rush.

Cross Country runners Sam Barnard, Daniel Baker, and Lucas Fontanez.



Photo provided by Nick Rush.

Cross Country runners Ana Acevedo, Emily Ewen, and Hannah Wappes.

Volleyball Sets the Season off Right

Carlos Argueta
Staff Writer

Manchester’s volleyball team ramped up their season two weeks ago in Michigan with big dreams and expectations on the line for this year.

The volleyball program is going through a new cycle with most of the program consisting of freshmen and sophomores. Many of these players are coming from different parts of Indiana and neighboring states eager to contribute their skills to the Manchester team.

Many young inexperienced collegiate teams struggle to compete with more seasoned teams, but this squad is confident that they can be successful, believing they are a tough opponent to face. “I think it’s going to be a great year,” said Halle Plank, first year. “I’m really excited to watch us all mesh together and to see what happens.”

The team is still in the process of finding their rhythm with upperclassmen filling up leadership roles, while the first years adapt to college volleyball. “I think it’s been an adjustment for them for sure,” said Ivan Matos, head coach. “I think the game is a little bit more aggressive and faster than they’re used to. But they have the talent to adjust accordingly and be successful at this level.

“We are just trying to

build a lot of chemistry with some of our returners and our incoming first years because we have a lot of freshmen that are playing right away,” Matos continued.

Part of Manchester’s strength may lie in its defense and blockers. “Our service team and our defense has been a key this year, and our blockers are nice and tall which makes us excited for this year,” said Anna Marie Lawrie, senior.

With new young players, the team is still finding a definitive line-up and is continuing to work together to adapt to each other play and style. They seek to improve their transition game from attacking to defending, while not being hesitant of hitting the ball and giving golden strike opportunities. “It’s just understanding that there are no moments of hesitation,” Matos said. “You have to be aggressive in attacking the ball because at this level you cannot be giving any free balls.”

So far, the volleyball team has traveled to two different invitationals in Michigan and Chicago. The group started out the season with two wins against Wilmington (Ohio) and Blackburn while falling to Kalamazoo College, Adrian College and Albion College. The team will play Kalamazoo College again on the road Sept.18, then host an invitational Sept. 20 and Sept. 21 at home. They will begin to fight for a position in the postseason which starts Oct.15, against Rose-Hulman, also at home.



Photo provided by Nick Rush.

Men’s soccer midfielder Zryan Abdullah readies to pass the ball for the Spartans.



Photo provided by Nick Rush.

Leo Rees receives a pass from his teammate.

Men’s Soccer Wins Overtime Thriller

Ryan Daine
Staff Writer

Following a 4-3 overtime victory over Olivet College on Sunday afternoon, MU’s men’s varsity soccer team is amped up, and ready to keep the winning energy going.

Following a win and a draw in Illinois the past week, the team has been struggling to bounce back after losing several starters to various injuries. Pushing through the problems, the team returned on Sunday to face Olivet College, in the cool and rainy fall air, on its home turf.

Thanks to the leadership of several players who stepped up to fill the cleats of their injured teammates, the Spartans were successful in coming off the muddy field with another victory under their belts, bringing their early season record to 2-2-1.

Following the end of the match, the players seemed very happy and excited for their next matchup (DePauw University, Sept. 14). The energy was very much alive and present, as the attendees and players alike were

buzzing with excitement.

One such player, Matthew Roop, has goals for going forward. “Getting into and eventually winning the conference title is definitely at the top of everyone’s list here,” he said. Roop elaborated that later in the playoff portion of the season, rankings based on wins would begin to be taken into account, and would determine how exactly the team would be seeded.

Placing within the top four seeded teams, Roop noted, would grant them access to compete in the conference tourney games, with the end goal being to clinch the title of Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Champions.

Personally, Roop wants to take things, “game by game,” he said, and produce good results each game. “Ultimately we want to win the match, but produce personal good results that will help to make me a better player.”

He also recognized that the team is currently “injury plagued,” and that most of the injured players are upperclassmen starters who are key elements to their game plan. Indeed, it has

been an uphill battle without them.

Another player, Alex Baker, who has the opportunity to play with his twin brother, Max, was ecstatic about the victory, and looks forward to the upcoming matches. “I’m ready to get back to our winning ways,” he said.

Baker explained that he felt the team was beginning to get on a roll, and said that when the injured players return within a couple of weeks, he feels that the team will begin to shape into a force to be reckoned with. He went further, adding that he feels they have what he calls a “real shot” at making it to the conference tourney.

He has personal goals as well. “I plan to get more involved on the field,” he said. Baker plays a mostly defensive role on the team, but expressed how he has made it a goal to become more of a double-threat player. “I want to begin scoring more goals, and making more assist plays to set up those goals,” he said.

The winning spirit is alive and well within the men’s soccer team, and it appears that they are taking the challenges and roadblocks head on, and in great stride.



Photo provided by Bridget Nash.

Lauren Gandhi sets the ball for Samantha Campbell.

Women’s Soccer Continues to Build Program

Jacob Hamilton
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MU’s women’s soccer team is brimming with new talent, excited for the season, and poised to have a successful run this year both in and off the field. Although there were a fair number of seniors who graduated last year, the team has recruited a number of promising first years to make up for the loss, giving the team depth as well as a substantial amount of room to grow over the course of this and future seasons.

As for the present, so far the team seeks improvement. From games to practices their overall goal is to take it day by day and make progress toward their ultimate goal: to use the new influx of talent, as well as pre-existing skills and experience, to prove themselves a winning team. They plan to achieve that progress in a few ways. For one, the team is invested in building bonds of trust and camaraderie among the members. Sophomore striker Bridget Nash puts it best. “I’m looking forward to the relationships built with

my teammates and all the memories we make,” she said. “When it comes down to it, in the future we won’t remember the numbers and stats but you will remember the rush of the adrenaline when you rush the field after your first win in a whole season drought or the laughs on the way to Kentucky for the long Transy road trip.”

Further stressing the importance of building relationships among the members of the team, it seems to be the consensus that there is a direct correlation between the overall team chemistry and how well they perform together as a unit.

According to numerous team members, it improves their group coordination, passing, communication on the field and their ability to strike and drive as a concentrated force. All of these culminate to form a very effective playing style that is formed due largely in part to the excellent team chemistry. Said chemistry, even at such an early stage of the fall season, seems to be as good as ever and bodes very well for the future success of the team both in the field as well as off.

Another method that

they are using to improve is focusing on key strategies. They’re working on keeping the ball on the ground, making safe and reasonable passes, communicating with teammates, and keeping each other accountable off of the field as well.

In addition to the general team goals, the teammates also happen to have their own personal goals as well. “Personally I have been striving to be a defensive asset and to understand my position as best as possible,” said returning defensive player Becca Colbert. “As a team we have been working on both defending and attacking as a unit to move the ball more effectively.”

This shows that the players striving to achieve their personal individual goals and succeed themselves will, in turn, lend to the overall goals of the team. So far this season the women have a record of 0-2, having lost to Ohio Wesleyan (Sept. 4) and Albion College (Sept. 8).

The season, however, is far from over and the women have plenty of games left to improve on that record, the next of which will be Sept. 14 at Indiana-Kokomo.



Photo provided by Nick Rush.

Jayden Murray evades a defender.



Photo provided by Nick Rush.

Jessica Hudnall looks to find a teammate.