

UN Ambassador Young to Cut Ribbon at Intercultural Center

Marcus Zwiebel
Staff Writer

United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young will perform the preliminary ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Intercultural Center named for his late wife Jean Childs Young on Saturday, Sept. 29.

The Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center, which honors the alumna who was an education and civil rights activist, will be open for university and community use following the ribbon-cutting. The facility will replace the current Intercultural Center (located on College Avenue across from the Administration Building) and, according to Michael Dixon, director of Intercultural Services and chief diversity officer, is going to be a replication of previous services, plus more.

The Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center will house more namespaces, an open layout, a larger kitchen, larger meeting areas, featured artwork and a rounded meeting space with a distinctive dome ceiling (to emphasize a “no-sides” perspective), which groups from every discipline and organization on campus may utilize. The Intercultural Center will also employ a new Assistant Director of Intercultural Services.

The Center’s exterior will showcase a memorial garden, patio and Peace Pole (which has, due to construction, been temporarily moved) to remember the tragic

passing of several international Manchester students in 2016.

The Intercultural Center—located at the intersection of College Avenue and East Street—is intended to be a location for improving student relation, as well as promoting community outreach and connection to a variety of area audiences. With the new facility, Dixon hopes that Manchester will become a cultural focal point for northeast Indiana, and a new capital of diversity for all students. Manchester University president Dave McFadden also acknowledged that groups outside of the old Intercultural Center did not always feel invited to utilize the space and hope that won’t be the case with the new Center.

The Center has already presented its potential for impact well beyond Manchester through the involvement of the Youngs. Jean Childs Young, the Center’s namesake, was a Manchester alumna (and first non-white May Day Queen) who held a federally appointed position as the chair of the U.S. Commission of the International Year of the Child, and worked closely with President Carter and civil rights leaders, Rev. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King.

Jean Childs Young was a Manchester trustee for four years and received an honorary doctorate from Manchester in 1980. Andrew Young is, formerly, a United Nations ambassador, U.S. congressman, mayor of Atlanta, and recip-



Director of Intercultural Services and chief diversity officer Michael Dixon speaks during the groundbreaking of the Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center on Feb. 1. This space welcomes all Manchester University students to come together and is intended to be a space for student relation and community outreach and connection.

ient of over 60 honorary doctorates. Ambassador Young will also welcome in a VIA event after the initial ribbon-cutting before leaving the university. “The Meeting,” a one-act play by Jeff Stetson, will last from 7:30–9 p.m. in Cordier Auditorium

and will portray a fictional meeting between civil rights leaders and activists, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

Prior to the ribbon-cutting and formal unveiling of the Jean Childs Young Intercultural

Center, there will be an internal tour of the facility on Sept. 14, with premier access to faculty, staff and students.

MU First-Years Experience Rainiest Move-In Day in History

Mariella Angeles
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Aug. 25, MU first-year students did not just experience moving into their dorms; they also experienced the rainiest move-in day in history. The first-years had a time slot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for move-in and it did not stop pouring the entire time.

Allen Machielson, dean of Student Experience, oversees several departments that are directly involved with move-in day and said that Residential Life and University Safety collaborated to mitigate any parking and move-in issues. Machielson described the day as “very wet,” and that it rained only during the hours of move-in.

In anticipation of a soggy morning, Residential Life, University Safety and Machielson implemented a plan that would help students move in efficiently. Information regarding how to get to the halls and where parents would park afterwards was also included in the plan. The goal was to be as proac-



SOLs, first-years and their families spent Move-In Day in the rain.

tive as possible but the rain simply made all aspects go slower.

Still, Machielson noted that no matter how unfavorable the weather was, a day like that will always be memorable. “Everyone will talk about that time they moved in

and that they were soaking wet,” he said. “Since the beautiful, sunshiny, easy days are hardly mentioned, it was a move-in day that everyone will always remember.”

It was a day that was full of building community and every-

body who was involved, whether it was cabinet members, custodial staff, members of Res Life, or University Safety, the MU community was there to make the experience as positive as possible. Machielson simply described the day as “wet,

organized chaos.”

Dalton Bailey, a junior currently majoring in criminal justice, is a SOL and assisted the process of moving in the first-years. He showed up at 7 a.m. to prepare for move-in day. One thing he did not expect from the day was the car back up that occurred. However, he also expressed that despite the car chaos the day moved in a fast manner even though it was “super rainy and humid.”

He noted that MU had pallets on deck so the students’ possessions would not just sit on the ground or grass to get soaked. Since both Garver and East do not have elevators, all items had to be carried manually. Bailey mentioned that the fridges were the most difficult to move in, especially when students were placed on either third floor of the residence halls.

As for the benefits of the day, Bailey said how rewarding the day was because of how appreciative the parents and incoming students were.

Parking for Commuters, Faculty, Staff Difficult to Find

Allyson Fogerty
Staff Writer

Campus parking at Manchester University has been majorly impacted due to construction covering one of the main lots, just north of the Jo Young Switzer Center. While head of University Safety Tina Edwards has been diligently working on making the situation as easy as possible, many students still find it difficult to find parking spots to get to class on time.

Manchester University parking lots are separated by Resident Student Parking, Visitor Parking and Commuter and Faculty/Staff Parking. Since the Lockie and Augustua Chinworth Center began construction, one of the main Commuter Student and Faculty/Staff parking lots has been cut off and is mostly used as parking for the construction workers, with one small strip available to early arrivals. Students, faculty and staff are now forced to venture farther around campus to find parking.

Desiree Blum, a third-year commuter student who has most of her classes in the Science

Center, says that instead of being able to park in the lot behind the building where she can get to class the fastest, she now must park farther away, and even at times, on the other side of campus, because of the increased competition for spaces.

Not being able to find parking not only affects students, but also faculty and staff. Scott DeVries, a third-year Spanish professor who commutes to campus from Mishawaka, Ind., finds that this year parking is especially difficult for him as his normal parking spot across from the Academic Center is no longer available. On one of his first days back on campus for the school year, DeVries had to drive around searching for a place to park. He says that because he commutes from so far, anything can happen, like a train stopped on the tracks.

“I need to be sure that I can find a space where I know there will be space,” he said.

DeVries believes that an open, general parking area where individuals with certain colored parking decals can park when the other spaces are full, would be a nice guarantee of parking where



Students, faculty and staff are disgruntled with the lack of parking around campus while the Lockie and Augustua Chinworth Center is under construction. However, Campus Safety is working tirelessly to solve the issue.

you will not get in trouble, even if it means a bit further of a walk.

Edwards, head of Campus Safety, said that she is doing all that to make parking this year

easier for students, faculty and staff. When Edwards receives emails from students stating they cannot find a place to park, she goes out in real time to count the spots she can

find on the lots to help them find a place.

Missouri to Manchester:
New French Prof in Town



Photo provided

Professor Tara Smithson is the newest member of the Modern Language Department. She will offers courses in French language and culture.

Alexandria Collins
Staff Writer

Professor Tara Smithson, Manchester’s new French educator, moved here from a small town in Missouri to spread her love of French language and culture. She knew that this was the school for her, and loves the “at home” feel that North Manchester greets her with.

Smithson loves riding her bike through campus, looking at the students walking to class and enjoying the well-known oak trees. Riding her bike also reminds her of home, and gives her that warm, cozy feeling.

After growing up in Missouri, Smithson completed her PhD, then taught French, history of French film, and gender studies at Louisiana State University. She did not grow up speaking French, but was drawn to it for several reasons. “French is associated with love, cooking, art work, and reading,” she said. “I think there is so much to learn from the language and cul-

ture, so I wanted to learn more.” Smithson solidified her interest by studying abroad in France. “It was a more complex place than I imagined,” she said. “It was very different, but of course I loved it.”

As a new member of the Manchester University community, she is very excited to start teaching. “This is a great opportunity to learn and create new ideas,” she said. “I think this class will be very fun, and seeing a lot of the same students will be a great time to know all of them personally, and watch them grow.” She’s looking forward to a new French program, and to also teaching the focus of the institution to her students.

What is Smithson’s favorite part about the community? “The people here are just so welcoming, pleasant, and helpful,” she said. “I love how the students are curious, brave risk takers, and I really appreciate that.”

SOLs Guide, Befriend First-Years, Serve as Mentors



Photo provided

Student Orientation Leader Morgan Shumaker holds up a Monsters Inc. themed sign to greet her group of first-year students. Each year, Welcome Week follows a specific theme, this year’s theme being movies.

Kaleigh Gabriel
Staff Writer

During Welcome Week on Manchester University’s campus, first-year students build bonds with their Student Orientation Leaders (SOLs) through both formal, scheduled activities and informal ones such as dinnertime chats. The SOLs do everything from helping answer questions that students might have to helping to build friendships with the students in their groups.

From 4 p.m. on move-in day until the first day of class on Wednesday, SOLs led their first-years through many pre-planned events to help them get acclimated to their new environment. However, pre-orchestrated events are not all the SOLs did for their students. Many have gone out of their way to bond with their first-years and build friendships with them.

As the name Student Orientation Leader implies, SOLs help make the transition to college life easier for students. SOLs guide their first years in areas such as navigating the new campus, meeting with advisors and staff to adjust to classes, meeting new people and making the overall adjustment to life away from home an easier one

than if he or she made the change alone.

“Transitioning to college was a really hard thing for me and my SOLs made me feel so much more comfortable,” said first-year Mary O’Neill. “Not only with everything to do with school, but also just general problems. It didn’t matter whether I was struggling with being away from my family, or just fitting in, my SOLs were there to help.”

SOL groups could be seen together at breakfast, lunch and dinner, but many groups also participated in activities outside of campus such as a group dinner at one of North Manchester’s restaurants. Other groups took small field trips to stores such as Target and Walmart to shop for supplies students had forgotten to pack for their move.

“Our SOLs took us on a dorm room tour, which helped me become accustomed to residential life,” said first-year Connor Glenn.

He noted that this helped him get to know his group better. Glenn would consider his relationship with his SOLs to be most like having advisors, and he knows that they are always there if he has questions.

First-year Jojo DeLaRosa has a clear description of the bond that a first year has with their SOLs. says “I call my SOLs my moms,” she said. “We talk about weird things sometimes that can be super random, but in the short time I have known them, they have been amazing and true people of confidence. I feel I can talk to them about anything and not feel weird about it because they have experience with being in college.”

DeLaRosa also says that SOLs, and not just her two assigned leaders, have always been willing to help her with any questions she may have, especially when trying to navigate the campus. “Other people see us looking lost and automatically label you a first-year, while SOLs will see you and take you to your class or explain to you how to get there,” she said.

SOLs have a large impact on the incoming first years and how they adapt to life on campus and the expectations of college. By spending time with first-years at dinner and through other events such as hall tours, they help to establish bonds within their first-years that instills confidence in them for the next few weeks as they adjust and make friends.



Photo provided

Student Orientation Leaders greeted their first-year students on Move-In Day, their first official day on campus as a Spartan.

VIAs: ‘Engaging’ or ‘Redundant’?

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Staff Writer

OPINION

For some students, VIAs may be fun, new and exciting ways to learn about new topics, but for some, it’s just not something they’re interested in but are required to do.

Manchester offers a variety of VIAs (Values, Ideas and the Arts) on campus, the goals of which are to “broaden students’ cultural experiences, enrich students intellectually and aesthetically, provide opportunities to experience the arts, promote dialogue about ideas and values, and embody in its programs the values expressed in the University Mission” as stated on the Manchester website.

Students who attend VIAs are required to show up on time, stay for the duration of the lecture, and have their ID on them, ready to be swiped once the event is over. Nearly all VIAs last one hour, unless otherwise stated.

Manchester tries to provide diverse, engaging programming. During the 2017–2018 school year, for instance, a VIA

addressed the series “13 Reasons Why”, healthy ways of dealing with depression, and the show’s poor handling of the topic of mental health. This week featured, “Manchester in Action: Addressing Poverty”, which informed students on ways to fight against poverty and highlighted opportunities for specific service opportunities related to poverty.

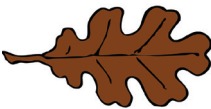
Despite the wide variety of VIAs offered for students at Manchester, many stick to the same topics, causing some students to lose interest. “They are redundant, and have a tendency to become inconvenient,” said Victoria Clark-Conrad. “We are here for an education, not to be forced into events that I have no interest in.”

Rather than becoming an exciting experience, the requirement to attend at least 10 VIA events a year becomes more of a burden. For many students, finding the time to attend this many VIAs can be a struggle, especially if they don’t have an interest in the topic, leading to a lack of concentration on the presentation.

Their inability to attend events may also be schedule depen-

dent, as a student may work during the hours of many of the VIA events. For students with lighter schedules, and a larger frame of interest, attending 10 events a year would be quite easy, and could very easily become incredibly educational experiences for them.

So although Manchester’s VIAs are presented with the best of intentions, they may not be meeting students’ interests and availability.



Extracurriculars Beneficial to College Experience

Kylie Mitchell
Staff Writer

OPINION

Are extracurricular activities essential to the college experience? Three individuals say they are.

First-year Noah Dillon enjoys the social aspect. “They not only help you meet new people, but most of them can give you a learning experience that you can’t learn in books,” he said. “You could also meet someone who could be a really good friend or you could miss out on someone great.” He pursues several clubs including Band, We Are Board and MU Gaming Society.

Senior Delaney Ray agrees. “It’s a great way to make friends, have connections to faculty and staff, and to keep you involved and busy,” she said. “Generally, it also makes people happier because they like to feel a part of something and have people to hang out and do things with.”

In her three years, she has taken part in Student Orientation, Fashion Club, Student Senate, and many more. Involvement in her extracurricular activities has taught her to be a better student. “It ironically helps with time management,”



Students walk around the Mall to sign up for new clubs to join this year.

she said.

Professor Barb Burdge added: “It builds a social network of friends and acquaintances by providing a sense of identity outside of classroom. It also gives students a way to blow off steam, and get heads out of books to contribute to campus community.”

“There’s more to life than strictly academics, and a liberal art school is in the business of devel-

oping the whole person,” she said. “Therefore, extracurricular activities give young adults the opportunity to develop other aspect of their personalities, improve other skills, and have fun.” Burdge’s hobbies included participating in multiple bands, the Psychology Club, and volunteer work at the local Domestic Violence Shelter.

All vocalize the values of self-discipline, time management,

and the importance of making friends. A mutual consensus determined that not taking on too much and balancing all responsibilities will aid in avoiding a negative experience. When asked whether anyone had regrets, Dillon exclaimed “Not yet!”

However, Ray had an opposing response, stating: “Yes, I got too involved right off the bat instead of slowing getting involved

as I aged.” Burdge declared her most prominent regret by stating: “Looking back I would have been better off at a smaller school because I got lost in a huge school and became anonymous.”

Despite any potential unfavorable encounters, the good most definitely outweighs the bad. Having more experience, Ray confirms this. “Not many people are involved in too much so it’s more likely that the extracurricular will be more beneficial,” she said.

Burdge added: “Yes, college presents students with the opportunity to figure out the balance between work, play, civic involvement, and social involvement.”

Overall, extracurricular activities enrich the college experience. They have multiple opportunistic qualities that allow students to make new friends, be involved, and retain a confident sense of individuality. These activities also aid in enhancing treasured values such as time management, self-discipline, and sustaining all obligations. It is highly encouraged to get involved and see what is out there. With more than 60 clubs to join, any possible interests will have an organization to go with it.



Professor of criminal justice and sociology, Peter Martini is interested in mock trials, enjoys reading and traveling to visit family and friends.

New Professor Brings Criminal Justice Expertise to MU

Tiffany Williams
Staff Writer

When Peter Martini was still an undergraduate student engaging in mock trials against Manchester University, he never expected the university to become his future home.

Martini is a new assistant professor of criminal justice and sociology at Manchester University, a small liberal arts college like he had been searching for. He has a degree in interdisciplinary social psychology that has prepared him in many different subjects from medicine and law to criminology and sociology.

When Martini was doing his doctoral work, he was involved with a research arm at the University of Nevada called The Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies (GSCJC) that conducted research on a wide variety of subjects related to social and criminal justice. This includes a project he spearheaded on how prison reentry programs work and how to make them more effective so that fewer people return to prison upon release. Additionally, he studied how judges interpret scientific evidence, and was also able to work at the National Judicial College to help teach sitting judges how to do their jobs more effectively by deepening their understanding of statistics, research methodology and which experts to trust and why.

Another research project Martini worked on for the GSCJC was for a forensic science program studying the forgery detection of handwriting analysts compared to that of the average person. In this

project, he utilized a robot that follows a person’s pupil within the eye and tracks what a person is looking at to empirically determine if their justification on the forgery matched what they were looking at during their analysis. Martini and his colleagues’ results suggest that handwriting experts found similar results to those of the average person, even though they looked at different parts of a signature. These projects gave him a wide range of backgrounds with which to assist his students.

When not in the classroom, Martini advises students, so they have the best opportunities when they leave Manchester even if he understands they won’t like a certain subject. “I really see my job as helping [students] get jobs,” he said. “What are the tools that a criminal justice graduate should have or should leave with to be able to get good jobs, and not just get them, but move and be promoted in those jobs?”

He hopes to help with Manchester’s mock trial team this year, now that he has finished his dissertation. In addition to participating in mock trial as an undergraduate, he also coached mock trial before going to graduate school. “That’s something that I’ve been itching to get back into,” he said. “I’m finally ready to do fun stuff again.”

Although Martini has fun with his job, he also enjoys a multitude of other activities, including reading and traveling. He’ll visit his brother’s family in St. Louis, in conjunction with other family members in northern Michigan, and visit friends on the west coast in places such as San Francisco, Reno and Seattle.

Student-Oriented Approach Suits New Professor

Noah Tong
Staff Writer

Manchester University has an energetic, new professor in the education department, and she’s ready to make a difference in students’ lives. Mistie Potts, recently hired assistant professor of education, is looking forward to teaching courses in educational psychology as well as classroom management conflict resolution during the 2018–2019 school year.

“Being a teacher, I wanted to do more for my students and see more growth in them,” she said. “Educational psychology gives us more tools to see how children learn and how we can provide better interventions for them.”

Her passion for these issues has a long history. After completing her undergraduate degree at Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne through the Indiana University program for education, she earned her masters at Ball State University. Potts is currently a doctoral candidate in educational psychology.

Potts has professional experience in a myriad of other roles during her career. From 2003 to 2016, she served as an employee at Whitko Community Schools, first as a teacher, and then as an educational diagnostician. She often tested students on IQ and achievement to see if kids qualified for special education services. Potts later taught developmental psychology as a graduate teaching and research assistant at Ball State.

The culmination of this experience led her to North Manchester, Indiana. She became a faculty member to begin influencing how new teachers impact the lives of children. “That way I can make a bigger difference not just in my own classroom,” she said.

Syrian Refugee Art Exhibit in Gallery G

Erin Brock
Staff Writer

Gallery G, located on the second floor of the Jo Young Switzer Center, is currently exhibiting artwork from children and adults living in Zaatari, a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan. The exhibit, called “Amal—When Hope Endures,” features images that have all been painted on pieces of tent salvaged from the camp. They represent the refugees’ long enduring hope for the future despite the pain of the past.

Refugees spending time in an audiologist waiting room were given the opportunity to paint when doctors realized that not only would it be helpful to have something for each person to do, but it could also benefit the patients when dealing with what they have gone through. “I think it’s a therapeutic way of dealing with trauma while



Mistie Potts, new assistant professor of education, has a passion for changing the lives of children through education. Now, she is eager to change the lives of future educators.

Despite her success at other institutions, Manchester provides a unique appeal that she could not overlook.

“There is a bigger focus on teaching and developing the whole student here,” she said. “Ball State is a research-focused institution, which is great, but I love teaching and working with students, so for me, this was a better fit. The students already seem so welcoming and kind. There is a real feeling of community here, and even a stronger focus on family too.”

“I try to make my classroom interactive, collaborative, and interesting,” Potts continued. “I try to make things relevant to their career and give them a lot of examples from real life. I don’t like to just lec-

ture at them from the textbook.” It’s no surprise then that she enjoys engaging with students’ ideas. “I love to read and hear student feedback, hearing about their class schedules or their different stresses,” she said. “I guess just getting to know the people is my favorite part.”

Outside of teaching, Potts can be found refurbishing antiques, gardening or playing with her beagle and 5-month-old French bulldog. She also has two sons in high school and another son in the sixth grade.

“I guess you could say my hobbies are going to sporting events!” Potts said jokingly, referring to her children.

waiting to get help,” says Professor Ejenobo Oke, director of Galleries at Manchester.

Oke said the idea came about while talking to a colleague from the Fort Wayne campus. Dr. Ahmed Abdelmegeed, assistant dean of Student, Alumni and Community Engagement and associate professor of pharmacy practice, helped generously in making this exhibit possible, not only through introducing the idea, but also providing financial support to help with the budget. “I really liked the idea that I was working with my Fort Wayne colleagues,” Oke said. She searches and plans for exhibits as far as two to three years in advance, and when talking to Abdelmegeed, she knew this was an opportunity she couldn’t pass up.

Oke tries to find pieces that fits Manchester University’s mission as well as the curriculum. In this show, she sees a relationship between the artists finding peace of

mind through their work and Manchester’s mission of allowing people to become their “best self.” She notes that the exhibit also portrays a global perspective that Manchester values, and educates onlookers not only about the current issues surrounding refugees, but also the personal struggles of them.

“Amal – When Hope Endures” will be held in Gallery G through Nov. 14 before being moved to the Fort Wayne Campus from Dec. 4 to Mar. 21. Visitors may also purchase prints and cards, and the money will go to HearCare Audiology and Hearing the Call Art Initiative.





Men's Soccer Hopeful after 11-0 Win Against Blackburn

Camron Canniff
Staff Writer

The black and gold men's soccer squad is off to a good start this season. They are currently 2-2 and hope to continue with more wins.

On Friday, Sept. 7, the Spartans beat Baldwin Wallace 4-2.

During the match against Baldwin Wallace, sophomore forward Josh Gonzalez led the way with a hat trick.

Saturday, they defeated Blackburn 11-0. Both senior midfielder Samuel Tetteh-Quarshie and first-year midfielder Drew Gavit scored two goals each. The team totaled 38 shots, 28 which were on frame. Gonzalez tied up the weekend with 4 goals and 3 assists. Senior midfielder Josh McCoy also scored during this game.

"At halftime we were winning 3-0, but despite the score, we weren't quite happy with our performance," McCoy said. "When the second half started, we knew we had to play better, and we ended up scoring eight more goals that half. Despite the 11-0 score, we know there's



Photo provided

Sophomore forward Josh Gonzalez is starting this season off strong with a hat trick, helping the team earn two wins this past weekend. Last year, Gonzalez earned the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year Award for posting 4 goals, 6 assists and 14 points among 62 shots last year.

always room for improvement. We're looking to take this momentum into the weekend."

Spartan soccer will keep the non-conference games going up until Sept. 29 with an away game against Hanover. After that they will play conference games.

Nick Surber, sophomore midfielder is happy with the team's success so far this season. "The team is doing well, though we had a little bit of a rough start to our season," he said. "We bounced back in the last two games and started scoring more and more. Our team is coming

together to form that camaraderie."

That camaraderie will be crucial with bigger games on the horizon. "Hanover is a huge one to look forward to not only as a team but for our university, too," Surber said. "Since it is the start of our season in regular conference

games, we want to see how we match up against a strong conference opposition.

"We also can't wait to face Transylvania because they are always ranked and they won conference last year," he continued. "They are a good team and we believe that we are too. We can't wait to work every day and become better as a whole."

The team has practiced much to prepare for this season. "We went into every day with the right attitude," Surber said. "It is always a big day for us whether we are in practice or having a game day."

"There is not a day where we don't want to work," he continued. "We have so much to look forward to and we feel it'll be a great season to come. We have good shots at being great on the field."

The Spartans will continue their schedule by facing Kalamazoo College on their own turf on Saturday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m. They then will face DePauw University for another away game the next day, Sunday, Sept. 16, at 3 p.m. Then the men's soccer team will bring it back home on Sept. 19 to play Huntington University at Good Field.



Photo provided

Senior midfielder Josh McCoy dribbles the ball in a match against Baldwin Wallace.



Photo provided

From left to right: Drake DeWitt, Samuel Tetteh-Quarshie, Jared Wondergem and Josh Gonzalez celebrate after a Manchester goal.

XC Places Top 3 during Wet Opening Meet Women's Soccer to Build

Emily Ryder
Staff Writer

The Manchester University cross country team recently competed at an annual home event known as Hokum Kareem. During this meet, each runner has a partner, and takes turns running three miles for the women and four miles for the men. This event was held on Aug. 25, the First Years' Move-in Day. Through the steady rain and the hustle of moving in, the teams were not fazed by the unforgiving conditions provided and earned top placements.

Coach Geoff Lambert appreciates how the cross country team is doing. "The team has been on campus for a few weeks now and I am happy with the progress that we are making," he said. "We are working hard every day to become the best team that we can be while trying to hold everyone to a standard of excellence." This standard of excellence was seen as both the men's and women's teams achieved a pair of top-three team finishes.

Although the runners experienced rain delays during this meet, runners like Dinah Gilbert, a first year on the team, were not discouraged. "Even though we were running through water almost the entire time, I really enjoyed it," Gilbert said. Perhaps the biggest challenge she faced was juggling moving into



Photo provided

Senior Brittany Udell races in front of her opponent during the annual Hokum Kareem on August 31.

her First-Year Residence Hall and competing in her first cross country meet on the same day.

Gilbert explained how she feels the team is doing so far. "I think the team is doing pretty good, though we can all definitely improve," she said. "I am just a first-year, so I'm still learning everyone's potential, but I like the coaches' workout and racing plans. He has us in groups for whatever he thinks is best for the team, and I really like that."

"I feel a lot more like a team here at Manchester than I did in high school," she continued. "The girls are all positive about everything and we work

together to get things done."

While the teams achieved a high ranking in the first meet, Lambert highlighted the plans for the future and their goal to strive toward a standard of excellence. "The team right now is focused on the things that we can control," he said. "We are working to get better every day and fulfill our potential as a team."

The next meet will take place on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Blue River Cross Country Course in Shelbyville, Ind. The Indiana Intercollegiate Championships, which was previously scheduled, is cancelled.

Matt Barbosa
Staff Writer

Christine Johnson, head coach of Manchester University women's soccer team, maintains a positive outlook on the season despite three tough losses to start the pre-conference season. She sees great potential in her team, which consists of a majority of first-years, and hopes that this season helps shape that outlook.

The first game of the season was against Huntington on Friday, Aug. 31, resulting in a 7-0 defeat and the second game on Wednesday, Sept. 5, against Olivet, resulting in a 6-0 defeat. Recently they played Rochester on Saturday, Sept. 8, with a hard-fought loss of 3-2 and Trine on Monday, Sept. 10, with a loss of 4-0.

The team's record overall is 0-4.

Johnson feels that this season the team is performing well in practices as well as having a much stronger bond than earlier years. She says the team "leadership group" boosts the morale of the entire team. Seniors Cameron Holford, Priscilla Ortiz, Caroline Smith, Isabella Zoog and Miranda Birmingham with Junior Katie Green compose the leadership group and they share their coach's perspective about their closely knit, high-morale team.

"I would say that the team gets along so well and we are building something great," Holford said. "I think the potential for our team to be successful is very high and when we work as a team I think we can make it to the tournament."

This group looks forward to the first conference games of the season. Green said she is especially excited about their rematch against Rose-Hulman on Saturday, Oct. 20. She says she is excited to redeem last season's 3-1 defeat. Studying film and defense were areas the ladies suggested for the first years to work on but feel that the pre-conference teams are a good challenge to help build for conference games.

"I would say this team is a competitive team that will bring their competitive spirit to the conference games," Ortiz said. "They work hard every day and strive to get better and I think that will pay off in the tournament."

The coach and leaders all have their eyes set on qualifying for the conference tournament at the end of the season.

