

MU Students Organize Climate Strike

Chloe Leckrone
Staff Writer

MU students joined hundreds of thousands of activists around the world on Friday, September 20, as they rallied on the steps of Funderburg Library to raise awareness of the effects of climate change and to call for action on Manchester’s campus.

The strike began at 11 a.m. Students, faculty, staff and community members alike congregated outside of Funderburg Library to call attention to the negative impacts of climate change. Speakers included Jesse Langdon, Fatu Kaba, Arpan Paul, Karly Eichenauer, Jade Gourley, Caraline Fearheller, and Chris Francois. They spoke on such issues as the climate justice movement, fossil fuel divestment, and what the Manchester University community can do to reduce its carbon footprint. Jade Gourley, a first-year chemistry major, informed the crowd about the importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Accord, an accord which would commit Manchester University to work toward 17 goals—many of which involve climate action—at all institutional levels.

While President Dave McFadden did not sign the accord as organizers had hoped, speakers

encouraged individuals and department chairs to sign themselves. “By signing this accord, I know we can build a better future,” Gourley said. “This will place Manchester University on the right side of history.”

Karly Eichenauer, a junior biology-chemistry major, focused on the importance of people from all different areas of study coming together to combat climate change. “It’s going to take all of us, from sociologists to chemists to psychologists and people with communication skills and people in the business industries, to be able to push for reform and for action,” she said.

Eichenauer also believes that the climate strike is, as she said another way to “stand up for Manchester’s beliefs of respecting the infinite worth of all individuals and improving the human condition to be able to help the environment so we can all live healthy lives.”

Much progress has been made on Manchester’s campus as far as sustainability goes, from the water-refill stations to the environmental responsibility graduation pledge to the recently updated recycling program. Much has been done at the departmental level, but Chris Francois, senior peace studies major, believes the university can do more. “As an institution we have not had a central, focused view on climate action,” they said.

The goal of Friday’s climate strike was to get the institution to commit to the UN SDGs. “Because of our connection to the UN, I believe it is our moral obligation to fight against climate change and take a stand,” Francois said.

Francois was an organizer for the student-lead initiative and was compelled to bring the strike to campus because of their upbringing in Haiti. “Haiti is in the Caribbean, and it’s one of the countries most likely to be affected by climate change,” Francois said. Being from a country that has been, and continues to be, devastated by climate change, Francois wants to take action while in the United States. Over the summer while Francois was in New York completing an internship, they developed many professional networks outside of their internship, including connections with people involved with the Sunrise Movement.

Sunrise is a social movement, mainly consisting of young people, dedicated to fighting against climate change. Those connections Francois made inspired them to start a Sunrise chapter at Manchester. This chapter is important to Francois because of the institution’s legacy as the first college with an undergraduate peace studies program.

“I feel like there’s always a lot of misconceptions that happen when you’re in a rural environment,



Arpan Paul speaks about the impact of climate change on India. Photo by Virginia Rendler.

and Manchester is in a rural environment,” Francois said. “When we talk about climate denial, it might be unfairly associated with rural places.” Francois hopes that the Sunrise chapter will not only bring awareness to Manchester’s legacy of activism, but also raise awareness of climate justice.

The decision from those at the administrative level to not sign on to the SDG Accord will not slow

down climate activists at Manchester. “This movement and its participants will continue to live differently and consciously think about their actions and its impact on the world whether the institution wants to maintain its legacy of leadership or not,” said Peace Studies Coordinator Caraline Fearheller. “We will continue to move forward with their support or not, because it is our generation working for our future.”



Photo by Destinee Boutwell. Manchester students draw pictures of what the world will look like if climate change remains unresolved.



Photo by Destinee Boutwell. Professor Katy Gray Brown draws image of people engulfed by water with a banner that reads “Help” while students holding protest signs watch.

Introducing the Biology-Chemistry Peer Mentor Program

Alex Baker
Staff Writer

Manchester’s biology-chemistry program has introduced a peer mentoring program for first-year students. This program gives upper-class students the opportunity to help first-year students with their studies. With numerous students being biology-chemistry majors, many are eager to help the prospective students as they take on their first year. Professor of chemistry Jeff Osborne, strives to

continue this successful program. But he makes sure to pay respect to those who founded the peer mentoring program for science majors.

Osborne credits two professors for the start of the overall program—Dr. Kathy Davis (Chemistry) and Dr. Kristen Short (Biology). It was initiated as part of the STEM Pathways Academy, which Davis and Short started at Manchester University about three years ago. Short then expanded the program to other science majors last year through the Pre-Professionals of Science student organization.

Osborne was impressed with how helpful the program was for first-year science majors. But he knew there was another step that needed to be taken. “After the successes of this peer mentor program in helping first-year science majors find their way at Manchester University, making the peer mentor program available to all first-year biology-chemistry majors was a natural next step,” Osborne said.

There are many benefits of the program. “The biology-chemistry peer-mentor program provides less-advanced biology-chemistry

students with the opportunity to connect with and learn from a second, third, or fourth-year science student mentor who can share insights, celebrate successes, and help navigate challenges,” Osborne said.

“The goal is to motivate, encourage, and support biology-chemistry students in their successful transition to college and development as a scientist,” Osborne explains further. Not only do professors want mentors to help mentees with their education, but they are hoping that a friendship can be formed outside of this program as well.

From a student’s perspective, there are benefits of teaching their mentees as well. Ella Machall, sophomore biology-chemistry major, looks to benefit from the program. “I want to develop my leadership skills and gain a personal sense of satisfaction from knowing that I am helping someone achieve goals that are similar to mine,” she said.

Students involved are well-prepared to help out their mentees. Marilyn Schutte, junior biology-chemistry major is excited to start guiding her peers. “For us mentors, it gives us a chance to be able to utilize our own knowledge and experiences to help someone else,” she said. “We will discuss guided journal prompts that gives us the chance to reflect on how school is going and what tactics we use in order to be successful.” Schutte wants to give back to the program that has made her into a suc-

cessful student.

Machall wants to focus on professional development with her mentee. “I look forward to guiding my mentee in the right direction and enjoying my role in helping others achieve their goals,” she said.

This program will be very student-based. “We are expected to meet with our mentees once a month for an hour, but we have the freedom of our own schedules and we can meet whenever it is best for us,” Schutte said. The faculty have faith in their mentors and will not be heavily involved. Mentors went through adequate training before the semester started.

Osborne is optimistic about the future of this program. “I hope that our assessment of the biology-chemistry peer mentor program after this year indicates enough positive benefits in this student population that we’ll be able to offer it each year moving forward,” he said.

Schutte hopes for a promising year and has an ultimate task that the program should aim for. “I think the goal for this program is to have a mentor for every freshman in the major,” she said confidently.

The biology-chemistry program is one of the most-enrolled majors at Manchester and providing a mentoring program like this only strengthens it. These students become more confident in themselves and are ready to take the next level in the biology-chemistry world.



Photo by Chloe Arndt. Dr. Jeff Osborne, Dr. Kathy Davis and Dr. Kristen Short all contributed to initiate the STEM Pathways Academy.

Jeff Gundy Leads VIA Discussion, Reads His Own Poetry

Erin Hickle
Staff Writer

Author of eight collections of poetry, professor at Bluffton University and 2014 Ohio Poet of the Year, Jeff Gundy is a respected author and teacher. He has visited Manchester University several times, and on Sept. 17 he returned to give an afternoon VIA followed by an evening poetry reading to the students and faculty.

The VIA was put on by Gundy and English adjunct instructor Travis Poling. Gathered in Cordier Auditorium, students listened as he both gave background and shared stories regarding William Stafford, an American poet and pacifist who spent a year teaching at Manchester from 1955 to 1956. Then Gundy showed a short documentary based on Stafford’s internship as a conscientious objector during World War II, followed by a Q&A.

That evening Gundy spoke to students and faculty in Wine Recital Hall, at 7 p.m. This time, he was

reading from his many collections of poetry, sharing many of his poems while also providing his audience with background stories and other works of literature that inspire him—from chickens to Oscar Wilde.

The audience sat quietly, hanging on to Gundy’s words and every once in a while, offering a chuckle when appropriate. “I tend to think of poetry as the real writing,” Gundy said. “It’s a personal preference. I like the compression of poetry and the rhythm and sound and so forth you can work with it when you’re trying to make everything shine and glow.”

After Gundy finished reading his poetry selections, he opened up the floor to questions from the audience. The professor in him came out as he encouraged every student to ask a question, as it would impress their teachers. A variety of questions were asked about how he writes, why he writes, and if he has noticed a change in his writing over time. Gundy gave thoughtful answers, leaving the audience with more to ponder about.

Dr. Charles Boebel, pro-

fessor emeritus of English, recalled that he had heard Gundy’s poetry during his earlier visits to Manchester, and inquired about how Gundy felt his writings have changed over the years. Had he noticed a development? Boebel even recalled topics of Gundy’s poetry that he had read in the past in comparison to the topics of his poetry for this evening. “As our circumstances change so does our writing,” Gundy said. “There’s that whole process-of-moving-through-life thing. In ways I don’t want to change all of that. I want to keep some sense of who I used to be tied with who I am now.”

Gundy’s books of poetry can be found across the internet for ordering or reading pleasure. His titles include “Abandoned Homeland,” “Somewhere Near Defiance,” “Spoken among the Trees,” “Rhapsody with Dark Matter” and “Flatlands.” He also has published two books with a focus on his religious background along with a few journals. These works of literature have won him both prizes and respect among the literary community.

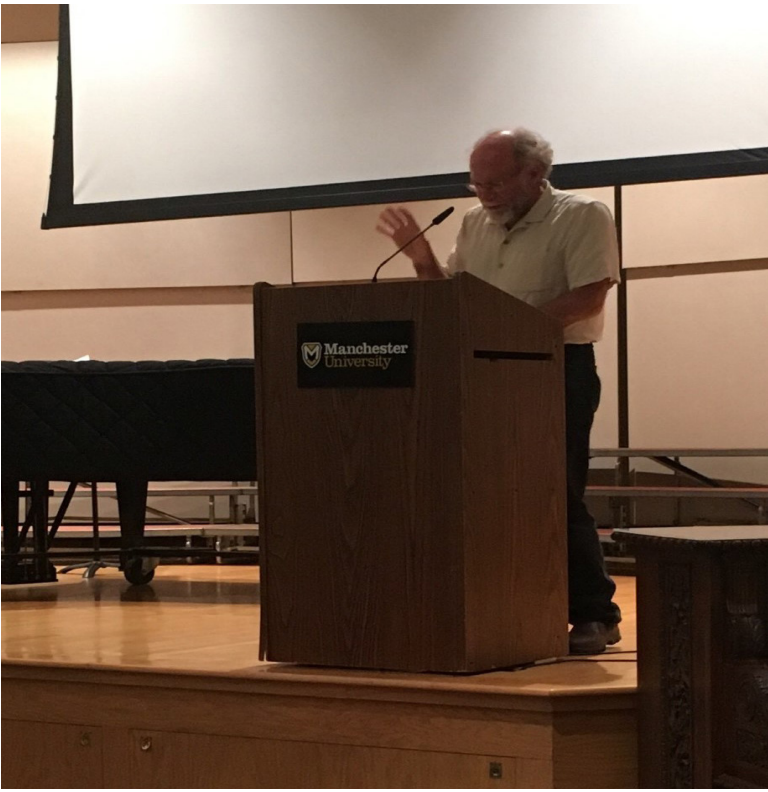


Photo by Chloe Arndt.
Professor and published poet Jeff Gundy reads his poetry to his audience in Wine Recital Hall.

Manchester University Prepares for Annual Walk Into My Future Event

Carly Greaves
Staff Writer

Over a thousand schoolchildren will flood into Manchester University today, Sept. 27, for Walk Into My Future, an event that introduces elementary school students to the opportunities and excitement of college.

Since 2013, the five school systems in Wabash County have sent their students to Manchester for this yearly gathering. This year the children, all in first through third grade, will number between 1,300 and 1,400. The volunteers that are needed to help maintain order for this event are numerous as well—between 215 and 300 people.

This considerable amount of volunteers is necessary in order to support the activities that the visiting schoolchildren will take part in.

Groups of kids, each containing one or two elementary classes, will be led by guides around the campus to get a taste of college life. The children will be shown what it’s like to dine in Haist Commons and dwell in a residence hall. “We invite students to visit campus and get to experience just a little bit of what it’s like to go to college,” said Senior Director of Auxiliary Services Alexis Young, who helps organize the event.

Arguably the most exciting part of Walk Into My Future is the 30 stations set up around the Mall’s grassy expanse. Each of these posts is dedicated to teaching the visiting children an educational subject or fun activity they could potentially take part in in college. “We have a variety,” Young said. “We have athletic stations, academic stations, and student organizations and clubs.”

This variety is certain to grab the kids’ attention, as the occupants of each station have prepared different activities or entertainment for the children to enjoy. Football

head coach Nate Jensen and his team have planned three stations for the day. The first football station will have an agility station where the kids end their session by tackling a big pop-up dummy. Their second station will have a QB target that the kids can throw balls through for points. And Football’s third station will have kicking nets set up for the students to kick balls into. “Our guys love doing Walk into My Future,” Jensen said. “They have an absolute blast with all the kids.”

The Department of English’s two stations are organized by Professor Beate Gilliar, and will invite who Gilliar calls “future MU students” to write their favorite word on a half sheet of paper using thick colorful markers.

Art will offer two stations as well. The first, led by Associate Professor Jena Oke, consists of a gallery walk through the Cordier Lobby Gallery featuring the art and writing of Gijsbert and Robbyn van Frankenhuyzen. “My docents and I take

them through the gallery talking about how we study art and then we practice observational skills and talk about the art with the kiddos,” Oke said. The students from Manchester Elementary School (MES) have been reading about this artist/author pair all semester. They participated in workshops at MES and this evening they—along with the Manchester University community—are invited to meet the artist and author at a reception in Cordier from 5 to 7 p.m.

While the event is a great opportunity for the kids to have fun, the true goal is always to get kids excited about college, higher education, and the benefits that come with it. Manchester University uses this event to support Promise Indiana, an initiative whose goal is to expand access to and awareness of college savings accounts. “Part of this is building the student’s excitement to go to college and then getting them interested in starting their own college savings account at a young age,” Young said.

While today is only the seventh Walk Into My Future, there is already evidence that this goal is being fulfilled. According to Young, there were initially only 1,084 of the Promise accounts with \$625,896 in assets within Wabash County. But as of Aug. 5 of this year, there are 2,754 Promise accounts with \$1,805,092 in assets. Events such as Walk Into My Future are a huge, invaluable part of this growth.

Walk Into My Future might just seem like another community event for Manchester students, but for the visiting children it could be a life-changing experience. Their eyes will be opened to a whole new world of learning and opportunities. And for an institute whose mission is to teach “persons of ability and conviction who draw upon their education and faith to lead principled, productive, and compassionate lives that improve the human condition,” this event could not be more important



Photo Provided by Manchester Marketing.
Elementary students gather on the mall for the 2015 Walk into My Future event.



Photo Provided by Manchester Marketing.
Manchester students host elementary groups in 2015 as group guides or activity leaders.

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Photo by Chloe Arndt.
Dr. Mark Huntington is the dean for Natural and Health Sciences and program director for Graduate Athletic Training Education.

Masters of Athletic Training Moves to Ft. Wayne Campus

Carlos Argueta
Staff Writer

This fall, the master's program for athletic training moved to the Fort Wayne Campus in order to revitalize the educational experience and to meet accredited standards.

The move comes after a low interest in the master's program in its rural North Manchester location, and was made believing that both the new urban environment and the new facility would draw more students. With the move to Fort Wayne, the university hopes to attract more attention to its athletic training program from clinics and other institutions in the area for students to work with and gain experience from.

"Because Manchester's focus on health professions is going to be on the Fort Wayne campus, we thought that it was a great opportunity to improve our visibility, to improve our perception of athletic training as a healthcare profession,"

said Dr. Mark Huntington, dean for Natural and Health Sciences and program director for Graduate Athletic Training Education. "With graduate students, we felt that Fort Wayne was a much more desirable place to live. There is a lot more to do, and we have a lot of more clinical experience opportunities."

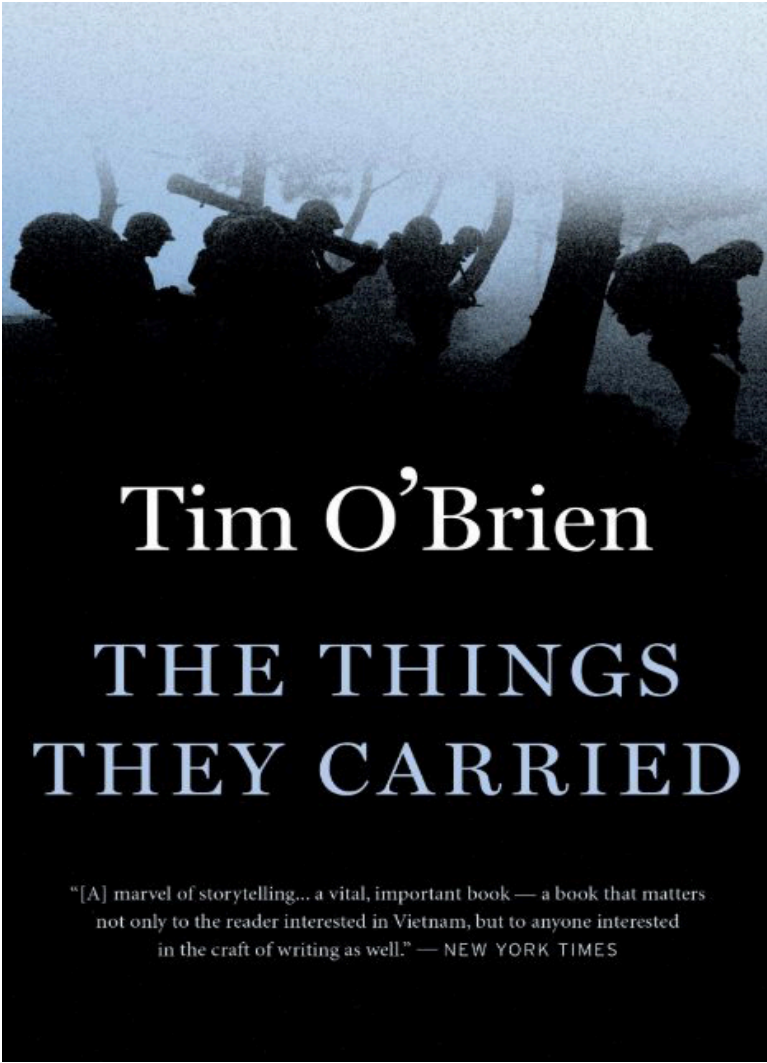
Seeking higher enrollment was not the only reason for this move. The program had to move to meet accredited standards by housing all the health profession programs in one location. "We are a part of an accredited program with a standard we have to meet, and that standard is that if there is another health profession at the institution, then you have to be administratively housed at the same place," Huntington said.

The move has gone well for the program. With the Fort Wayne campus already being dedicated to medicine and health, the university did not have to make too many significant changes to accommodate the athletic training program. "It was a chance to move into an almost

brand-new facility," Huntington said. "We did reconfigure a room on campus for our athletic training laboratory, and it worked out well for us."

Manchester is already seeing the benefits of the transition. Enrollment numbers have gone up, the change is more convenient for the professors who commute, and it is just the start of the athletic training program transitioning to Fort Wayne. "We saw our enrollment go from a class of two to a cohort of 14 that came onto the Fort Wayne campus," Huntington said. "A lot of that is due to the fact that we are at Fort Wayne."

This is just the beginning of a shift to move the athletic training faculty and curriculum to the Fort Wayne campus permanently in the future. "Dr. Beer, Professor Foreman and I have teaching responsibilities on the North Manchester campus," Huntington said, "but eventually we will shift over to Fort Wayne full time."



MU Book Review

Destinee Boutwell
Co-Editor in Chief

I ironically picked up this novel right before Veteran's Day last year and it has given me a new perspective on war and the sacrifices that Veterans make or have made, for us.

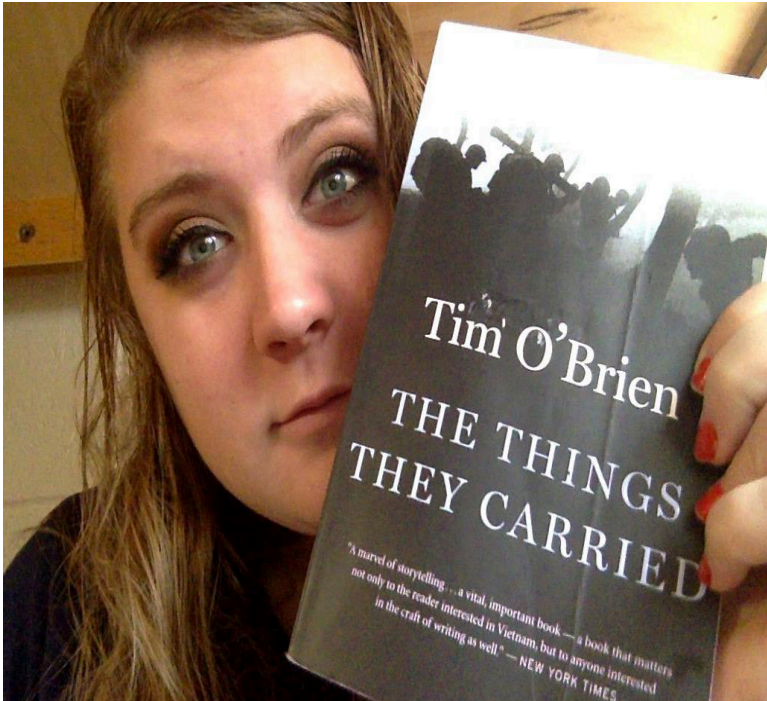
"The Things They Carried" is an autobiographical novel (meaning the author wrote it about himself) about a soldier's experiences and reflections on the Vietnam War. It is a work of literature that can be analyzed and pulled apart sentence by sentence and something can be gained from every word. However, when I read it I realized that that wasn't the spirit of the book. O'Brien wrote it for himself and for his men. Reader's don't need to gain something from it, or pull out the morale of the story, or develop a theme. It is a story that begs to simply be read.

I would give it a 3/5 stars for plot development. Many recreational

readers get easily board with novels that don't grasp you by the imagination and pull you through each and every page with a tightly clenched fist. So this book may be a challenge to get all the way through. Each chapter tells a different story and they are not in chronological order which could cause a lot of difficulty in finishing the novel.

However, if one manages to get to the end, the book sits heavy on your soul. I give it a 5/5 for books that will change the way you think about the world; or more specifically war. One of my favorite quotes from the book was, "And in the end, of course, a true war story is never about war... It's about love and memory. It's about sorrow. It's about sisters who never write back and people who never listen".

"The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien is definitely a story I will be carrying with me for the rest of my life. Nearly a year later it is a book that sits heavily on my soul and has made me look at conflict in a new light.



Reception with Robbyn and Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen

Location: Cordier Auditorium Lobby Gallery

Time: 5 p.m. on Friday, September 27





Photo by Chloe Arndt.

Alex and Max Baker are a package deal because they play soccer together and are both business majors.

Baker Twins Push Each Other to Successful

Erica Mohr
Staff Writer

One hour and 20 minutes. That is all the time between the births of Alex and Max Baker, senior twins on the Manchester soccer team. The twins are both in the Gilbert College of Business and have studied at Manchester for the past three years.

Although the boys share an interest in business, one of their similarities is not what they will be getting their degree in. Alex is a finance marketing major who intends to go to graduate school for marketing research, while Max is a marketing major with a minor in economics and sales. Max also plans to attend graduate school with a focus in marketing but is not entirely sure what that focus will be. Max and Alex were both fairly certain they would not attend the same graduate school; however, nothing is out of the realm of possibility.

The Baker twins play different positions on the soccer team. Alex is a center defensive midfielder while Max either plays as an attacking midfielder or an outside midfielder. “I run more,” Max said, his tone making it clear he wanted to get a rise out of his brother.

Alex quickly responded, “I’m stronger than you,” making it clear that both were aware of where they could beat the other one.

Additionally, while both consider their greatest attribute to be how they are such technical players, Max is more of an attacking player while Alex, according to Max, “stays in his circle.”

Josh McCoy, former teammate, was at a loss for words initially. “When I first started playing, I couldn’t tell them apart at all and I would just say ‘Baker, Baker’ if I wanted the ball,” he said. “When Max grew

a beard everything got easier.” McCoy continued: “They work really well together, and I think they’ve pushed each other to be better each year.”

Alex agreed, saying of Max: “I just love playing with him. I really do. We know what we want to do every time.”

The similarities and differences do not stop at simply school and soccer. Max and Alex agreed they were both funny and were both very social, but they had some differences they were quick to point out as well.

“Max is very lazy,” Alex said. “Ask him how many times he’s done laundry in the four years here.”

“Here’s my thing,” Max replied while laughing, “Why would I do it when he’s willing to do it?”

After joking around about who knew how to do laundry and who didn’t, Alex explained how he likes to be on schedule, but Max tends to be more “free roaming.” This statement seemed to be exemplified by the nature of the two boys. Max sat with his elbows on his knees, saying whatever thought crossed his mind, sometimes off topic and sometimes on topic. On the other hand, Alex sat with his back against the seat, and seemed to stay on topic with ease.

Currently, Max and Alex are living off campus, and they share a room. They also shared a room freshman and sophomore year and were suitemates their junior year. “We’re used to it,” the boys echoed in regard to having always shared a room.

“The best part about having a twin is you always have someone to hang out with” Alex said. “The worst part is that you always have someone to hang out with.”

Max added with a smile: “The worst part about being a twin is how we are a package deal.”

Volleyball Hosts Manchester Invitational

Mackenzie Kopplin
Staff Writer

The PERC was alive with the sound of squeaking shoes, whistles blowing and the smell of fresh popcorn from the concessions stand as MU hosted a volleyball invitational on Friday, Sept. 20 and Saturday, Sept. 21. The competition included Ancilla College, Anderson University, Indiana University Northwest, Governors State University and Terra State Community College, as Manchester played four games.

The volleyball team has had a strenuous season thus far. With an overall record of 5-7, Manchester has had its ups and downs, however, hopes are high for good performances in upcoming conference play. “Something we need to continue working on is our efficiency in attacking while being aggressive enough to put pressure on our opponents,” said head coach Ivan Matos. The Spartans struggled converting in crunch time situations over the course of the past weekend.

Coming off a loss against Kalamazoo (KZOO def. MU 25-22, 20-25, 25-21, 24-26, 15-12) the Spartans were challenged great-

ly at the Manchester Invitational. Winning two out of four games, Manchester split the weekend with a .500 record. The Spartans defeated both Terra Sate Community College and Ancilla College. Manchester’s scores for the weekend were the following: MU def. TSCC 25-23, 25-21, 25-23; GSU def. MU 25-18, 25-23, 25-23; MU def AC 25-20, 25-20, 21-25, 25-19; IUNW def. MU 22-25, 25-10, 25-16, 25-26. These scores all show great potential for the Spartans, but the team must turn the corner and play fresh again today when they travel to Franklin College to kick off HCAC play.

Currently sitting in seventh place in the HCAC conference, the Spartans hope to string together wins as conference play begins. “Moving into conference play, I foresee it being a definite challenge and no opponent will be an easy task,” Matos said. “In order for us to be successful we will need to stay focused throughout matches that will probably go the distance, and everyone has to execute in pressure moments.”

In previous years, the Spartans have been a team to be reckoned with, but with new players comes new challenges. The Spartans have a handful of upperclassmen on the team, but their

roster is fully loaded with first-year talent and nerves. “I believe our freshman class is doing a good job adjusting to the speed and intensity of the game at the college level, but I would have to reiterate that they need to continue working on being more efficient in attacking,” Matos said.

“Some of our strengths this season are the fact that we are continually getting better as a team,” Matos continued. “I believe everyone has gained a lot of knowledge from situational training in practices and video sessions.” The team is working hard to improve their record day in and day out.

The team used their experience this weekend to learn more about themselves. “This weekend was a great opportunity to show how hard we trained the week prior,” said junior Lexi Collins. “We saw a lot of different level of skill from different schools which gave us a great opportunity to mix things up and challenge us.” “We need to work on confidence,” Collins continued. “We have great skill but we also have young players on the court. When we work together it’s dangerous what we can do. We are super excited for conference to prove a lot of people wrong.”



Photo provided by Bridget Nash.

Ivan Matos, head coach, addresses the team between sets at the Stauffer-Wolfe arena

Women’s Soccer Battle Non-Conference Opponents

Jarred Hubbard
Staff Writer

After an underachieving season last year, the women’s soccer team look to improve and grow as a unit from 2018–2019’s disappointing record of 0-19. Manchester’s schedule has 18 contests with 7 being played on Good Field and 11 of the remaining games on the road. The Spartans will host the Hanover Panthers, Anderson Orioles, and the Pennsylvania Bats.

The Lady Spartans have also brought in more first years to come into the young core. They enter the season with 10 fresh faces added to the roster. But most recently they have gone on a small 7-game losing streak. Head Coach Christine Johnson, who is entering her 4th year at Manchester, comes into this season with higher goals and expectations set for the team. She also brought in Josh Route as an assistant coach to help deliver a winning attitude and more mental toughness. Route was team captain and goalkeeper at Muskegon University before becoming goalkeeper coach and a managing

member for 614 Ultimate Goalkeeper LLC.

Four players have been named as “players to watch” by the HCAC. Katie Green, Jayden Murray, Bridget Nash and Jessica Hudnall were all recognized and acknowledged for being this year’s standouts. They have set the stage in past years, with Nash and Hudnall appearing in all 19 games last year as first years.

The Lady Spartans played two games this past weekend against Otterbein and Olivet, both of which slipped away, and will return to the pitch at home against Alma on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Manchester Junior Varsity Football Looking to Get Back on Track

Ryan Daine
Staff Writer

Following a rocky first-week start, MU’s junior varsity football squad hopes for more positive results in the upcoming games on the gridiron. As of Sept. 22, the JV squad’s overall record for the year fell to 0-2, as the Spartans were defeated by the Trine Thunder in an away game up north in Angola, Ind., losing 42-14.

Taking away some positives from the matchup, the JV team was able to string together two successful scoring drives resulting in touchdowns. In addition, several tackles for losses, broken-up pass plays in open field, and effective intermediate passing plays helped to provide some solid highlights for the young crew to evaluate and use as learning tools to improve upon as the season goes forward. The team intends to do just that, taking the positive aspects out of each game, whether it be a victory or loss, and learning lessons from both what went right and what went wrong.

Despite the rough beginning, many young Spartans on the junior squad are still eager to learn new

concepts, and further develop their skills, hoping to produce more success as the season winds on. One such player, Payton Frye, was eager to discuss how the first week has been, and some of the future goals and plans that the team share as a collective. Frye, a first-year student, and the JV starting fullback and tight end, refuses to let the two early losses affect his mindset for the season. “It doesn’t define who we are,” he said. “As for the JV team, honestly, the scoreboard doesn’t reflect what we are all about, and the hard week we’ve put in as a team.”

Being a first year student-athlete making the jump from high school level sports to the collegiate level is likely to bring unique challenges and struggles. Frye offered his insight into how it feels to be playing as a first-year, which he feels is similar to how most of his other young JV teammates feel as well. “As a first year, you’re definitely out of your comfort zone a bit,” he said. “It’s definitely a step up, and more intense than high school ball in every aspect. Even for those who only play special teams on JV, the expectations and pressure is just so much more heightened—you’re grown up now, and at a new level; you have to play like it, even if it’s only on JV. It’s an intensive learning curve.”

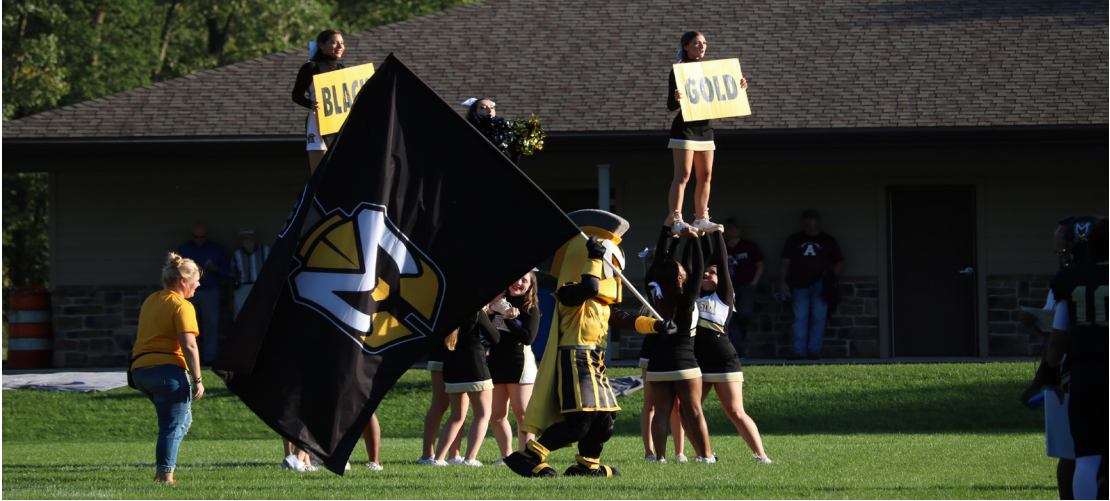


Photo by Bridget Nash.

The Manchester Junior Varsity team will play six games this year against other universities from around the Midwest.

Tyler Stone, another first-year JV player, wished to offer his perspective from both a personal, and team-wide view of how the beginnings of the season are shaping out. Stone, the JV squad’s starting defensive tackle, and left guard on PAT, shared Frye’s view concerning the increased pressure to be effective and play well.

“It’s all about small yet critical moments,” Stone said. “For instance, being on the front line, just blocking for PAT’s doesn’t sound like

a very important role, but it is, most definitely. It is a very challenging spot to play, with a lot riding on my shoulders. If I miss my block, and make a critical error, that one missed point could mean the difference between coming home on a loud and energetic bus, or having a very somber and quiet ride back to campus.”

Stone continued: “We may not seem like we play all that important of a role, especially only being on the JV team. But we’re all crucial as

individuals, to the goal of winning games as a collective. It really is a team effort.”

He ended his comments on an optimistic note, voicing his readiness for a new week of practicing and improving his skills, hoping to get more meaningful playing time across the board for himself in the future.

The JV football team plays their next game on Sept. 30 when they take on Trine University again on the Spartans’ home turf.