

Mount Mercy Times

A student publication serving Mount Mercy University

Issue 3, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017

Inside the Times: Music for a cause



Concert benefits Fresh Start prison ministries

See Page 2

MMUANS supports cancer walk



See Page 4

Nate named temp dean



See page 6

Heads up:

Thrilling night at Scream Acres

Join Student Engagement on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Scream Acres Park for a fun-filled scary time. Scream Acres has four haunted attractions, including over 75 scary characters. MMU will provide transportation to and from the attraction. To sign up, and for more information check your email.

Gaming Club to sponsor full-length D&D campaign

The Gaming Club will be hosting a Dungeons & Dragons one-off campaign over Fall Break. This event will be happening in UC 202 on Wednesday the 18th, through Friday, the 20th. Times will be announced soon.

How to protest 101

Continuing the Fall Faculty Series, Dr. Taylor Houston will be giving a presentation on peaceful protests, effective protesting to see actions, and tips for rookie protestors. The presentation will be held at Betty Cherry Heritage Hall on Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.

Calling all nurses and future nurses

On Monday, Oct. 30 from 9-11:30 a.m., Mount Mercy will be hosting a nursing career fair. Both local and national nursing agencies will be represented at the fair. Fair goers are encouraged to bring their resumes. This event will be held in Betty Cherry Heritage Hall.

Click it:

MMU Alumna named Miss Iowa USA

Jenny Valliere, a graduate of MMU, was recently named Miss Iowa USA. Valliere received her communications and public relations degree in 2013, and is currently employed as an afternoon radio personality on Z 102.9. To read about Valliere's crowning in The Gazette, visit: <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/life/people-places/jenny-valliere-of-cedar-rapids-crowned-miss-iowa-usa-20171009> To read Valliere's personal thoughts, visit her blog: <https://jvalliere10.wordpress.com/about/>



Collin Wiley/Times

A large crowd (above) listens Sept. 30 as the Robert W. Plaster Complex is officially opened during Alumni Reunion Weekend. Speakers included Paul Gavin, athletic director; and Dr. Dolly Plaster-Clement, representing the Plaster Foundation.

Home at last

Collin Wiley
Sports Editor

“Home Field Advantage” came to life on Saturday, Sept. 30, as members from Mount Mercy’s faculty, staff, and donors helped open the Robert W. Plaster Athletic Complex.

Cedar Rapids Mayor, Ron Corbett, along with Executive director of the Robert W. Plaster Foundation, Dr. Dolly Plaster Clement, Athletic Director Paul Gavin, Father

“This athletic complex will not only be an icon on the Mount Mercy campus, but an attraction for the City of Cedar Rapids and a welcome neighbor to those living in the Mound View and Wellington Heights neighborhoods.”

Ron Corbett, Cedar Rapids Mayor

Tony Adawu, and Mount Mercy’s President, Laurie Hamen were all in attendance at this historic moment for the

school. The event kicked off with the University Pep band along with the University Choir as

they performed some pep tunes, the national anthem, and the University’s fight song. Hamen addressed the crowd. Speeches followed by Corbett, Plaster-Clement and Gavin. “This athletic complex will not only be an icon on the Mount Mercy campus, but an attraction for the City of Cedar

◆ See New complex page 4



Madelyn Orton/Times

Dr. Danielle Rudd speaks about rare diseases and the Affordable Care Act Oct. 5. The fall series continues Thursday with Dr. Eden Wales-Freeman speaking on feminism at 7 p.m. in Flaherty Community room.

ACA helps families cope with rare disease

By Madelyn Orton
Social Media/News Editor

Rare diseases and the sometimes-devastating impact they can have on families—especially in an era when health insurance is undergoing rapid changes—were explored on Oct. 5 as the Fall Faculty Series continues.

Dr. Danielle Rudd, Assistant Professor of Biology, gave a presentation entitled, “Putting the Care in Health Care”.

Rudd addressed what makes a disease rare, highlighted ways civilians can aid in research, and also shared the stories of individuals within the Mount Mercy and Cedar Rapids community who have been diagnosed with a rare disease.

“I want to make sure we are looking out for this population of people,” said

Rudd.

Rudd deemed a disease rare if the condition affects less than 200,000 Americans. Of those rare diseases, only 5 percent have treatments.

In Rudd’s presentation, she interviewed individuals who have been diagnosed with a rare disease and their families, and gave insight on their daily lives.

She shared the stories of Laura Cross, daughter of assistant professor of philosophy, Bryan Cross, and Carol Cross, adjunct faculty member of the chemistry department; as well as Jess Hiney, president of the Student Government Association; Lucas Montgomery, brother of Mount Mercy student Hailee Montgomery; and Adam Todd, Cedar Rapids cross country star.

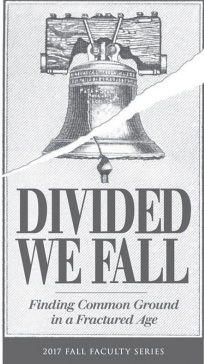
All of which have been diagnosed with

a rare disease. And although any one disease may be rare, Rudd also noted that around 30 million Americans in total live with these kinds of conditions.

“These are people in our communities, these are people at our school, these are familiar faces,” said Rudd.

As community member, Rudd highlighted ways in which we can support those with rare diseases. This includes supporting the Affordable Care Act, giving monetary donations to foundations who support those with rare diseases, such as the Shriners Hospitals for Children, and becoming an advocate.

For more information on rare diseases, and how individuals can join the fight, Rudd recommends visiting the website of the National Organization for Rare Disorders at www.rarediseases.org.



Sounds benefit Fresh Start Ministry

By Mariah Robinson
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Oct. 8, faculty, family and friends gathered in the chapel for the third annual benefit concert. This year's benefit concert was directed towards the "Fresh Start Ministry".

This ministry reaches out to inmates to help draw them closer to God and simply have a support system. 150 volunteers have participated in making this program possible.

The concert was opened with the statement, "Our name is mercy,

our spirit is compassion". This concert illustrated what all the students and faculty wholeheartedly believe in here at Mount Mercy University.

The type of compassion we represent is the same compassion Ricardo Larius showed through his emotions and words tonight. He was previously incarcerated and told his story about how Fresh Start Ministry helped him become who he truly is. His story of how he came from negative mindsets and a bad neighborhood to knowing God's mercy brought tears to his eyes.



Mariah Robinson/Times

The MMU Choir sings to an audience during the Fresh Start Ministry (right). Ricardo Larius tells his story (above). A student is reflected in his horn as he plays in the ban. (upper right)



Impact of DACA will affect 800,000 people in the US

By Mahder Serekberhan
Opinion Editor

Since the Trump administration issued the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, better known as DACA, there has been discussions and negotiations about the policy in Washington.

The repeal of DACA will affect 800,000 people who currently reside in the United States and their chances to continue working, studying and basically living in the country. The possibility of ending this policy has been met with nationwide protests since the administration introduced its repeal last month.

On Sept. 19, three members of

Congress and the New York City council speaker were arrested during one of these protests.

Initially, President Trump and his administration seemed to have had uncompromising thoughts on DACA and a possible fix. Trump had said that a permanent citizenship was not what the administration was looking for, but rather a way to make people stay.

"If we don't have the wall, we are doing nothing," Trump said.

A meeting with democratic leaders on Sept. 14 and statements from the President about how "the wall will come later" seems to have sparked hope for the policy. The President referred to the Dreamers, those who are currently covered by

DACA, as "good, educated and accomplished people" who are not at fault.

Both Democratic and Republican party members have introduced legislation that will offer permanent citizenship for DACA recipients. And as of late, the President seems to have a change of heart or a more positive attitude in terms of how to legislate DACA, but the same cannot be said about his administration.

As hope for supportive legislation continues, Politico reported that Stephen Miller, the White House aide and top immigration advisor, is crafting "hardline immigration reforms in exchange for supporting a fix on the DACA program."

As of Sunday, Politico's speculations were confirmed when the Trump admin-

istration released a list of uncompromising demands to grant any forms of legal status for DACA recipients. The president seems to have gone back on his word.

Some of these demands are more boarder security, money for Trump's wall and cuts on legal migration.

This could possibly split Congress among those who favor hardline immigration policies, such as cutting legal immigration in half, and those who are against it. The split will make it even harder for Congress to pass legislation, which would protect the Dreamers before DACA is scheduled to expire.

Counseling services host activities as a break

By Gabriela Kreinz
Editor-in-chief

Every week, Mount Mercy offers study breaks to help relief stress from school. Students get together to do crafts and many other relaxation activities.

These activities have been going on for about two years. Karol White, Director of Counseling, said counseling services wanted to do some kind of relaxation activity other than yoga, which is already offered in Lundy Fitness.

White explained there is scientific reasoning behind the need for study breaks. "There is research out there that shows that when we take break after studying for a long time, the parts of our brain being used will get some rest."

"If we do something



Karol White/contributed image

Students show crafts they put together while taking a creative, which uses several parts of our brain, we are re-energized to return to our activities, and our brains create new neuro-networks with those brain parts," she explained.

White believes this is also a good way for students with social anxiety to interact with other people. "This is an opportunity for students who might feel like they don't fit in, but want to find a place to plug in and talk to people," White said. "I hope things like study breaks are

an entry way for them."

In addition to crafting, students also have relaxation activities. They have the opportunity to work on breathing exercises and other things students may request. White said some students have gone to their RA's to let them know what they would like to do in the next study break session.

According to White, attendance has been good. They started by getting around 16 students per session, and now, she considers that to be a low number.

Study breaks happen every Thursday from 4-5 p.m. Locations vary between the student services work room in the second floor of the UC and Betty Cherry.

JOHN FINCH

THE Wildfire TOUR

October 26
7pm-9pm
Chapel of Mercy

Heard on The Hill

By Mahder Serekberhan

What people are saying on topics of interest

Fall break is finally almost here! With classes ending for a few days next Tuesday, the Times asked MMU students:

What are you looking forward to this Fall Break?



Valerie Cross, Senior, Psychology major:
“I’m actually going up to Minnesota to go to a podcast event, ‘my favorite murder.’ It’s comedy murder, it’s pretty fun.”



Vikolia Meade, transfer student:
“Originally, I was going to try and get on to one of those Fall Break trips, however, I have volleyball games those weekends, so I am just looking forward to the W’s.”



Ben Ruggles, Freshman:
“Well I am going to a Playboi Carti and Uzi concert in Chicago, so that is what I’m looking forward to.”



Ben Steffen, Freshman:
“I am looking forward to hanging out with my family, seeing my loved ones.”



Dakota Frazer, Freshman
“I am looking forward to all the Halloween stuff that’s going to go on and decorations, totally checking out decorations.”



Ambrose Poduska, high school senior:
“Just being able to catch up with old friends and just time to relax.”

Break!

We offer our advice on how to enjoy fall time off, but we’ll probably kick back before we work, too

Fall break is right around the corner, and the Times’ staff couldn’t be more excited about it. We want students to have an awesome break, so we put together some tips on how to make the most of it.

It is no surprise that a lot of students get really excited for fall break. Most are looking forward to relax, visit family, hang out with friends, and not think about school for a while. Considering how much stress school causes, we could even say it is a health need to take time off. We don’t want anybody losing their minds!

On the other hand, as experienced students (editors are least sophomores), we know from experience that relaxing is not all you should do during break. Once the break is over, the semester goes by even faster. Professors say this all the time, and some people just brush it off.

Staff Editorial
The opinion of Times editors

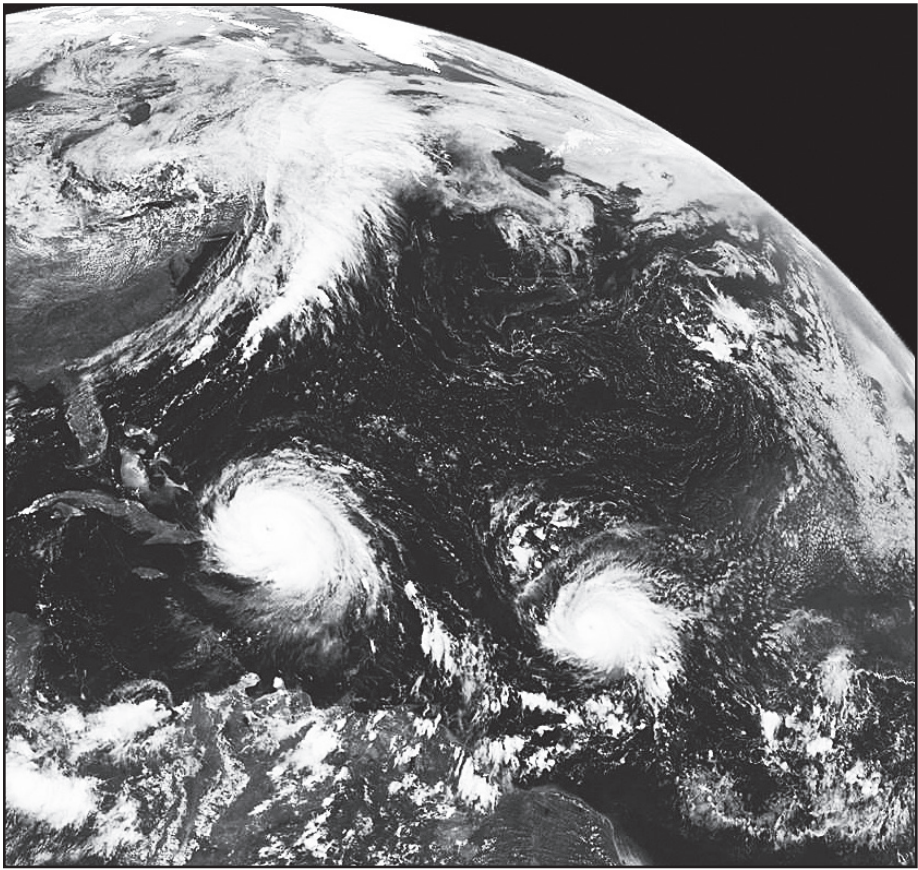
Related Content:
Looking for fun things to do over fall break in the Cedar Rapids area? See page 4.

We are here to tell you, though, that you should really listen to them.

This doesn’t mean you should spend your whole break with your head in the books. But you should definitely devote some time to doing homework and studying. Our main tip is to plan your break. Take the first day or two to focus on school. Select your main upcoming assignments and exams and focus on them during these first days.

Once you are done with those, you can actually take some time off. You can devote the rest of your break to catch up on sleep, hang out with family and friends, and do whatever else you need to unwind and relax once your school work is out of the way. If you follow these tips, you won’t find yourself staying up late on Sunday night right before classes start again; we say this from personal experience that this not fun!

Fall Break 2017 begins on Oct. 18. We hope you have a great break!



Government satellite picture from Sept. 7 shows hurricanes Katia, Irma and Jose all lined up in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Oceans.

#Make Mercy Real

Thoughts and prayers not enough, people who suffer also need action

If you’re anything like me, college pressures, tragedies, and other occurrences can serve as distractions in our everyday life as a college student.

In the midst of college pressures and all the tragedies happening in the world, it can be hard to feel like you can make a difference. I often find myself going back to the Sisters of Mercy value of service and asking myself, “What can I do to help?”

Living in Iowa, I feel so disconnected from these current events, specifically the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and surrounding areas. That doesn’t mean I don’t want to help.

The recent mass shooting in Las Vegas was absolutely horrific, but have we already stopped talking about the victims of the hurricanes? Think about it for a second. Does everyone affected by the hurricanes have enough food? Are all of their homes rebuilt? The answer is “probably not.” Their problems did not just disappear because another tragedy occurred.

It’s always kind to give thoughts and prayers during times of need, but thoughts and prayers don’t equate to actions. Actions must be taken in order for these victims of tragedy to recover. Cedar Rapids residents should understand this because we didn’t recover from the flood of 2008 overnight. Almost 10 years later, we are still trying to rebuild and recover.

I heard that a local transportation company was sending items to Houston for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Opinion

Bailey Rickels
Staff Writer

I immediately knew that I was going to donate. To my surprise, it turned into something bigger when I opened the donation collection to anyone on campus. I set up a collection spot in the Campus Store and took their donations up with mine. Mount Mercy then held another donation drive following mine.

An upcoming way to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey is by going on the alternative spring break trip to Houston. The dates of the trip are March 19 – March 23. Mount Mercy plans to send about 50 students to help with the hurricane relief. More information will be given to students in November or December. Any questions can be directed to Jamarco Clark, Director of Volunteerism and Service-Learning.

Those are not your only opportunities to help. You could also donate money or blood to local organizations. If none of these options work for you, simply seek out other ways to help. Keep in mind it is not too late to apply the Sisters of Mercy values of service to this situation.

Editor’s note: #Make Mercy Real is a slogan used by the West Midwest community of the Sisters of Mercy.

It’s always kind to give thoughts and prayers during times of need, but thoughts and prayers don’t equate to actions. Actions must be taken in order for these victims of tragedy to recover.

Mount Mercy Times

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The Mount Mercy Times is a biweekly student publication serving MMU students, faculty, and staff and those close to the Mount Mercy University community. The Times is published on alternate Thursdays during the school year (each issue has a Thursday date, but the paper is usually distributed Wednesday).

In addition, the Times maintains a student-run website for the dissemination of additional news in various forms, including Times TV video stories.

Membership on the staff of the Times is open to any MMU student, full- or part-time, undergraduate or graduate.

Please attend one of our staff meetings, which are all open to the public, or contact an editor or our advisor for more information. Meetings will be announced in the paper, via social media and with on-campus posters

Staff Writers are listed by name on

the stories they write, photographers are credited on photos.

Content in the Times represents student writers, and is not official communication from Mount Mercy University. Editorials express the opinions of the Editorial Board and may not be the opinion shared by the university nor by all individual Times staff members. Bylined commentaries and cartoons reflect the opinions of the writer or artist.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Letters should be concise, 300 words or less, and preferably emailed. The author’s name, phone and address must be included. The name is published with the letter. Longer commentary, in the form of guest columns, is also encouraged. Besides the name, a photograph of the author is published with guest columns.

The Times reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. Letters and other submissions may be sent to the Times via email, campus mail or brought to

the Times office in the lower level of the Busse Library.

The Times sells advertising space. Advertisers are responsible for their own content, but the Times reserves the right to refuse an ad at its sole discretion.

The Mount Mercy Times will not print material found to be in poor taste or that it deems detrimental to a person’s personal character. However, provocative comments on matters of public interest are encouraged.

Letters are due Friday at noon for consideration of publication the following Thursday.

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Big walk



Doriann Whitlock/Times

Officers of the Mount Mercy University Association of Nursing Students (above) gather at the New Bo Market on Oct. 1 after the Especially for You Race/Walk. A long stream of people (right) are seen during the walk, which organizers estimated attracted 14,000 people. Cheerleaders from a local high school (below, right) greeted walkers.



Over 30 from MMU take part in cancer walk/race

Doriann Whitlock
Staff Writer

The organization of Mount Mercy’s largest major recently participated in a prominent annual local event. The Mount Mercy University Association of Nursing Student met at the Newbo Market Oct. 1 for the 27th Annual Especially for you Breast Cancer Walk and Race. “I think we had over 30 students walk, run and overall participate in the Especially For You Race,” said Madison Coates,

nursing senior and president of MMUANS. “As president, I am excited and happy with our involvement in the cause.” Walkers commented on how wonderful it was that students from college campuses were participating in raising the awareness of breast cancer. “I think it is so exciting to have so many people here to support the cause,” said Cali Arbuckle, nursing junior.

“Being with a group such as Mount Mercy University nursing students to help spread the awareness of breast cancer is an amazing experience. There was so many people of all ages at this walk that showed the same enthusiasm.” “Great race! What they are doing for raising awareness about breast cancer is amazing, truly a great cause,” said Aliana Kuper a sophomore nursing stu-

dent. MMUANS handed out pamphlets and interacted with members of the community, heightened their awareness of ways to support breast cancer patients and their families. An estimated 14,000 people showed up to support the annual event to raise awareness of breast cancer.

5 fun ideas for fall break activities

By Madelyn Orton
Social Media/News Editor

The leaves are turning, the temperatures are finally dropping, and fall break is almost upon us! Here are five fall activities in the Cedar Rapids area to check out:

1 Allen’s Orchard: Located in Marion, this orchard grows more than 40 varieties of apples. On the weekends, you can walk out to the groves and pick your own apples from the trees. In addition to apple picking, they also carry many tasty apple treats and have nightly bonfires that can be rented out.

2 Borrow a bike and hit the trail: Mount Mercy has bikes for students to use, free of charge in the Lundy Fitness Center. Grab a sweatshirt and enjoy the beautiful changing of the leaves by biking through town or on the Cedar Valley Trail that is less than two miles from campus.

3 Pop-up Market at Newbo: Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Newbo City Market hosts an artisan market filled with food, seasonal goodies, and unique products. The vendors and merchandise at these markets are always changing so you never know what you’re going to find!

4 Bart’s Farm and Pumpkin Patch: Sitting on the outskirts of Marion is a family owned farm and pumpkin patch that charges no admission or parking fees. The easy going atmosphere makes it the perfect option for a fun and relaxing fall activity. In addition to pumpkins, they also have various farm animals to pet and feed!

5 Tour Brucemore Mansion: Located less than three miles away from campus, the historic Brucemore Mansion sits upon a hill overlooking the Mound View area. The 26 acres are rich with colorful foliage and tours are available of the estate and landscape.

Collin Wiley/Times

Mount Mercy’s band provides music as the university celebrates the opening of the Robert J. Plaster Athletic Complex near the main campus.



New complex provides fields for six teams

◆ Home at last
from page 1

Rapids and a welcome neighbor to those living in the Mound View and Wellington Heights neighborhoods,” Corbett said at the opening, in a statement released by MMU.

“We are very grateful for the opportunities Mount Mercy provides for area residents and those that come here from around the country and the world to study at this top-notch university,” he continued. The Plaster Athletic Complex will be home to six of the University’s 18 intercollegiate

athletic teams. Those teams include baseball, softball, men’s and women’s track and field, and men’s and women’s soccer. Father Tony offered a special blessing to the complex before the complex was officially open for business. Hamen, along with Gavin, ended the ceremony by thanking

everyone who came out and supported the university during the construction of the complex. “The Robert W. Plaster Athletic Complex has changed our campus, our student-athletes, and our neighborhood. We set out to build something great—and through the work, dedication and generosity of so

many, we have accomplished it,” Hamen is quoted as saying in the MMU statement. The celebration ended with the kickoff of an MMU women’s soccer against Baker with Men’s soccer to follow against Baker as well.

NFL players: Kneel if you must, but please don't sit

It has been a little over a year since the first protest in the form of kneeling took place in the NFL. The point of the protest was to take a stand against police brutality and social injustice, but it has turned into a national debate on everything but that.

“Once again, I’m not anti-American,” Kaepernick said. “I love America. I love people. That’s why I’m doing this. I want to help make America better. I think having these conversations helps everybody have a better understanding of where everybody is coming from.”

Kaepernick first started his form of protesting by sitting during the national anthem. Some of the crowd thought that sitting down when Kaepernick was perfectly able to stand, was disrespectful to our nation, our nation’s military, and our nation’s flag.

“I have great respect for the men and women that have fought for this country,” Kaepernick said. “I have family, I have friends that have gone and fought for this country. And they fight for freedom, they fight for the people, they fight for liberty and justice, for everyone. That’s not happening.”

This is not the first time a professional athlete has protested, not only about police brutality and social injustice, but about war in general.

For two seasons, Carlos Delgado, a first baseman at the time for the Toronto Blue Jays, stayed in the dugout when “God Bless America” was played during the seventh-inning stretch as a way of protesting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Delgado eventually signed with the Mets in 2005, so he acquiesced to the team’s wishes and joined his teammates on the field when it was played.

President Donald Trump has started to speak his mind on the protests going on in the NFL this

Opinion



Collin Wiley
Sports Editor

season. On the week of Sept. 23, Trump let out tweets that took the NFL by storm.

Trump said: “If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect...” Trump also said, “...our great American flag (or country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU’RE FIRED. Find something else to do!”

With those remarks being made, more and more NFL players, teams and team owners went against Trump by kneeling during the national anthem. Many teams during Week 3 of the regular season stood together with their arms linked during the national anthem, while three teams decided to stay in the locker room during the anthem.

Richard Sherman, cornerback for the Seattle Seahawks, said, “The behavior of the President is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. If you do not condemn this divisive rhetoric you are condoning it!”

Personally, I agree and disagree with the protests that are happening in the NFL. I understand why players and owners are protesting and I understand why it is going so viral, but President Trump’s actions towards the matter honestly did not help matters any. I also do not think that the player’s protests and actions need to hurt the NFL.

Fans are booing at games and NFL T.V. viewers are declining since the protests have started. Some satellite companies are offering refunds for customers who bought NFL packages, if they want to cancel.

On the other side of the argument, I do think it is disrespectful to sit during the national anthem. I don’t find it too disrespectful to kneel during it, but sitting during the anthem should not be allowed. The point of the anthem is to bring all of “us” as Americans to come together through unity and respect for the men and women who fought and are still fighting for our country.



Women who battle

Colline Wiley/Times

Libero, Lauren Stopko passes the ball while teammate Gabi Delsing looks on (above). Becca Thomson (left) communicates to her teammates while waiting for the serve. Caiti Peterson (below) jumbos serves.

The Mount Mercy women’s volleyball team is currently 10-11 overall on the season and 5-7 in their conference. The Mustangs have proved their ability to battle back on multiple occasions.



Olivia Coe (left) spikes the ball against the opponent’s block Friday, Oct. 6 against Missouri Valley. The Mustangs lost the match 2-3.



Kickin’ in the rain

Hayley Gibson/Times

The men’s soccer team faced the storm Oct. 3 at the Plaster Complex. Due to lightening, the contest with Clarke University was rescheduled for Thursday (today).



Sports shorts

Men’s soccer falls to Evangel University

The Mustangs put up a second half fight but were defeated by their in-conference opponent, Evangel University, on Saturday October 7 at Plaster Athletic Complex. Evangel scored their first goal in the 29th minute of the game and it wasn’t long before they scored their second in the 31 minute to put Evangel up 2-0. Mount Mercy came out of halftime to cut the deficit in half by a goal scored by Ljubisa Palic, freshman, in the 61 minute, but Evangel scored right back two minutes later to put the game away with a final score of 3-1.

Mount Mercy will host Clarke University at Plaster Complex on Thursday at 7 p.m. in a rescheduled match that was postponed due to lightning back on October 3.

Women’s soccer rough second-half ends in a loss

The Mustangs scored early in the game by a goal from Cally Salter, senior, in the seventh minute to put the team up 1-0. MMU held that lead all through the first half, but Evangel came out from halftime strong and put two goals on goalkeeper Sarah Johnson, freshman, to prevail Evangel over the Mustangs by a score of 2-1.

The women’s next home game will be Thursday October 12, at 7 p.m. at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Men’s and women’s CC place top third in Bettendorf

After a long two-week break, the men’s and women’s cross country teams competed at their meet in Bettendorf, Iowa on Saturday, October 7. The women’s team finished in fourth place with a team score of 100 points. The men’s team finished in third with a team score of 88, just three points shy of second place. McKenna Johnson, freshman, led the way for the Mustangs with an eleventh-place finish, while Colton Forster, Junior, placed in the top ten for the men with a sixth-place finish.

The Mustangs host the NAIA Seminole Valley Stampede on Saturday, October 21, at Seminole Valley Park in Cedar Rapids. The women’s team race at 11:30 a.m. while the men’s team races at 12:15 p.m.

Men’s Golf finish middle of the pack at Polk City

The men’s golf squad competed at the Grand View Viking Classic in Polk City, Iowa on Monday and Tuesday, October 2-3. The men’s team finished in fourth place on day one, and ended day two with a fifth-place finish. William Bruyeres hit very consistently over three rounds on day two, shooting a 73, 72, and a 73. Bruyeres finished in third place overall. Next up for the golf team will be a meet in Silvis, Illinois on Monday, October 16-17.

Klein named interim dean of students

By Connor Mahan
Web editor

Mount Mercy University is getting ready to install a new interim dean after a key administrative departure.

Dr. Nate Klein, assistant professor of business, was named interim dean, starting next week. Klein will be interim dean through May.

“I’m really excited to start soon,” said Klein. “Ever since I was student

here, I thought students were the heart of what makes this campus great.”

Will Oprisko, the former dean, left Mount Mercy after just four months.

“I’m just excited about the new opportunity because there are some great students, and I think one of the biggest benefits is that I have been with the faculty for the past few years,” said Klein. “There is a lot of

opportunity to do some really good things, and I have been very passionate about student engagement ever since being a student as well as a faculty member.”

Rob Callahan, vice president of administrative enrollment and student services, says he has worked with Provost, Jan Handler, to plan Klein’s transition into the interim dean role.



Mount Mercy University/contributed

Dr. Nate Klein, assistant professor of business and an alumni of Mount Mercy, has been named interim dean of students.



Collin Wiley/Times

Alec DeCapria, MMU music student, plays more than 20 instruments and marches each summer in a drum group.

Drummer boy

MMU musician marches in summers

By Collin Wiley
Sports Editor

You could say that MMU freshman Alec DeCapria marches to a different drum.

The Mount Mercy student, who graduated in 2017 from Jefferson High School, is involved in band and choir. But he also marches Drum Corps International during the summers.

DeCapria can play more than 20 instruments, ranging from woodwind instruments like the oboe and flute, to brass instruments like the trumpet and mellophone.

“I started to gain interest in drum corps my freshman year when I went to a show in Dubuque over the summer with a friend of mine, where I saw around 10 corps competing,” DeCapria said. “Seeing these groups and hearing about the lives they live over the summer with the other people they march with instantly sparked my interest. Ever since that moment, I wanted to start playing a brass instrument so I could someday march in a drum corp.”

DeCapria began his marching band career his sophomore year of high school marching for the well-known “Band of Blue” from Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School where he played the

tenor saxophone.

Drum Corps International (DCI) is considered to be “Marching Music’s Major League.” DCI has 47 performing groups or “teams,” with 24 of them being classified in the World Class section and 23 in the Open Class.

“In 2016 I did a bit of things with the Cavaliers where I chose to play mellophone to let myself grow as a player,” DeCapria said. “However, I didn’t get to do much during the season, so 2017 would probably be my official rookie year with Carolina Crown.”

DCI is also a learning experience for both high school and college participants. Each year, more than 8,000 students audition for the fewer than 3,500 positions available in top-tier DCI member corps. In the group, 59.6 percent of the current college students are pursuing music education degrees, while 65 percent of those that indicated they are high school students intend to major in music education, according to DCI.

“I would definitely recommend Drum Corps to others,” DeCapria said. “It’s an amazing experience with a huge amount of benefits tied to it, from the friendships, to the benefits of growing as a musician, to the amazing show you can be proud of putting on the field.”

SNAPSHOT
Meet the people on the hill
Alec DeCapria

“Seeing these groups and hearing about the lives they live over the summer with the other people they march with instantly sparked my interest.”
Alec DeCapria, freshman



Connor Mahan/Times

The Latin Festival Sept. 27 featured dance on the Rohde Family Plaza (above, left and below).



Connor Mahan/Times

Soccer (left) and a pinata were also included in the festival on the plaza.



Latin Festival draws 130 people

By Connor Mahan
Web editor

Latin festivals are a place for people to dress up, dance, purchase food, and maybe take a swing at a piñata filled with candy.

El Club Latino and Student Engagement services held the Latin Festival Sept. 27 from noon to 2 p.m. Students learned how to do some salsa dancing and grabbed a bite to eat. Tacos Y Mas sold burritos, tacos, and enchiladas. Students

were even able to get the food cheaper if they received a ticket to purchase them at a discounted price.

“I thought the event went really great this year,” said Tiffany Leschke, the director of student engagement. “Students, faculty, and staff were enjoying themselves. We had over 130 folks stop by and take part in at least one of the many activities we had going on during the festival.”

A soccer net was also set up and students took tries at scor-

ing a certain number of times to win small prizes. There even were piñatas filled with candy that students took swings at it to reveal its contents.

“We had everything from dance lessons, to games, to food trucks,” said Leschke. “It was really great to see the Mount Mercy community take part in traditions and experiences of our Latino community because learning about each other is so important.”