

# Mount Mercy Times

A student publication serving Mount Mercy University

Issue 6, Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017

## Inside the Times:



### Rolling with it

Luna McKenna, a Mount Mercy freshman, was active in an Iowa City roller derby team. She has faced multiple battles with cancer.

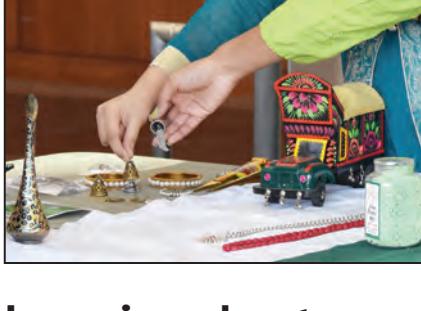
See page 6



### Reaching for it

Mount Mercy's men's and women's basketball teams traveled to Oskaloosa to open conference play against William Penn.

See page 5



### Learning about objects of Pakistan

The International Club sponsors a program about a different country each month. Learn about their program that featured Pakistan.

See page 2



### New DC movie fun, but flawed

Times movie reviewer Cam Junge says "Justice League" is a fine, fun movie, despite some CGI flaws.

See page 4

## Heads up:

### Celebrate the holiday season with songs

Join the MMU Music Department for Christmas music and seasonal readings on Sunday, December 10 at 2:30 p.m.

### A night of laughs

Sponsored by the M2AP Board, comedian Mike Paramore will be visiting campus. His show will be on January 5 at 7 p.m. in McAuley Hall.

### Test your knowledge at trivia night

The M2AP Board will be hosting Trivia Night on January 10 at 7 p.m. in McAuley Hall. Many prizes will be up for grabs. The theme of trivia night will be released at a later date.

### Click it:

### Dance Dance

To watch videos of the athletic team's dance performances at the Do it for Danny dance off, visit the MMU Times website at [www.times.mtmercy.edu](http://www.times.mtmercy.edu)

## Christmas at MMU



Decorated Christmas trees for sale are on display in the UC with proceeds going to MMU Dance Marathon. Various MMU clubs, organizations, and offices decorated these trees in late November. To buy a tree, contact a member of the Dance Marathon Club.

### Related Content:

Christmas at MMU CR, see page 4

## Dance Marathon starts tree sale tradition

By Madelyn Orton  
Managing editor

This year, the University Center is adorned with not one or two Christmas trees, but with 20 plus! New this year, the Mount Mercy Dance Marathon Team has started a festive tradition to help raise money for dance mara-

thon.

Students clubs, organizations, offices, and athletic teams decorated trees.

The decorated trees are currently on display in the University Center, where they can be purchased.

"It was great to see all the clubs and organizations on campus come together to support this great cause," said Sara

VanHoe, MMU Dance Marathon club member.

The trees that have not been bought, will be for sale at Market on the Mound on Saturday.

All the proceeds will support Dance Marathon and University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.



Connor Mahan/Times

Dr. Rob Callahan, vice president for administrative, enrollment and student services has been named the new president of Silver Lake College in Lakeshore, Wisconsin.



Connor Mahan/Times

Doug Brock, Mount Mercy vice president of finance, will be leaving MMU to work at St. Joseph Parish in Marion.

## Business VP has calling to work in parish

By Connor Mahan  
Editor-in-Chief

A "calling" to lead the business operations of the parish he attends is drawing the leader of Mount Mercy's business office away from The Hill.

Doug Brock, vice president of finance, has led the business office since 2014 but will be serving as the business manager at Saint Joseph Parish in Marion next year.

"I feel like this was my calling," said Brock. "So much has been done here in the past three years—I'd hate to see it go to waste."

Brock says he will continue to help the business office when help is needed so it can move ahead.

"Mount Mercy is a vibrant place to work," said Brock. "but I got to the point where I wanted to do something that was mission-oriented and not-for-profit."

Brock says he feels that working for the parish is his true calling. Brock has been a member of the Saint Joseph Parish since 1996.

"It certainly is an unorthodox move for someone in my position," said Brock. "One of the things I will miss about Mount Mercy is that it has a lot of energy and people to interact with."

## MMU VP named president of Silver Lake College

By Connor Mahan  
Editor-in-Chief

Everyone has a moment in their life where they feel it's time to move on in their career.

Dr. Rob Callahan, vice president for

**"I'm most excited that this is what I've been working towards for a long time and I think this is what God wants me to do."**

God wants me to do."

Rob Callahan, vice president for administrative, enrollment and student services

for Callahan when he leaves in January. However, President Hamen will announce the long-term plans for Callahan's replacement sometime early next year.

"I think one of the things I have enjoyed from my first day right up to my last day here is how Mount Mercy

really embraces "Our name is mercy. Our spirit is compassion," said Callahan.

"From the Sisters of Mercy, to our

students, to our

faculty and staff—

Mount Mercy really

walks that talk and

I've always thought

that this was an extra special thing."

Callahan is hopeful that Silver Lake

College will be similar in that way. He

thinks of Silver Lake as a smaller version

of Mount Mercy with 500 students attending

the college. Callahan hopes to increase

enrollment numbers, so they can be more

like the wonderful University we are a

part of."

Currently, there is no replacement



Mahder Serekberhan/  
Times  
Aiman Ashraf,  
sophomore,  
draws in henna  
on a student's  
hand. This  
was the hot  
attraction at the  
event (below).  
Ashraf and  
Rashmi  
Maharjan,  
freshman,  
talk to a student  
about artifacts  
from Pakistan.

## Pakistani culture presented in UC during November

By Mahder Serekberhan  
Opinion Editor

The UC was decorated with images of a foreign land and upbeat music was playing through the speakers. On Nov. 15, the International Students club was celebrating country of the month, Pakistan.

The event was led by Rashmi Maharjan, a freshman and Aiman Ashraf, a sophomore (who is actually a Pakistani native). The international club usually celebrates one country a month. Why Pakistan?

"I realized that people don't know much about Pakistan, all they know is what the media portrays," said Ashraf. "There is so much more to know and to talk about regarding the beautiful culture that we have."



## Paper tales

### Take it from a graduating senior, joining student news media is smart

If you would have told me about 10 years ago that I would be in the position I am today, I probably would have laughed.

I was a young child that never applied herself to school or really cared to get involved in extracurricular activities. Fast forward to now, and I have a completely different mindset.

If there is one thing I could stress to students, it's to get involved. Not only do you get to meet amazing people by doing so, but you gain skills and experience that you can add to your resume.

I always told myself that if I ever went back

#### Opinion



Brooke  
Woolley  
Staff Writer

to college, I would do it right—and I did.

When I was at Kirkwood, I got involved first with the Student Leadership Council. In doing this, I worked not only on planning events and activities around campus, but my leadership skills as well.

While at Kirkwood, I also did some editing and writing for the Communique and got involved with Kirkwood Student Productions. By doing this, I enhanced my media skills and got to apply the things I was learning in class, to actual real-life situations in these clubs. I even won second place for a talk show I hosted for KSP.

Since being at Mount Mercy, I've mostly been involved with the Mount Mercy Times. I immediately started writing for the paper when I came from

"I never thought I had the skills to become the editor of the paper until I was approached by one of my professors who recommended it; and for that, I thank him so much."

Kirkwood. I never thought I had the skills to become the editor of the paper until I was approached by one of my professors who recommended it; and for that, I thank him so much for.

Yes, there was a lot of work to do and sometimes the hours were long, but I don't regret a minute of it. Being Editor-in-Chief of the Times taught me

patience, expanded my knowledge in Adobe software, strengthened my writing and communication skills, and so much more. Another editor and I won first place for a story, and the editing team and I won first place for the front page in the annual Iowa College Media Association Better Newspaper Contest.

One thing that's the same about being involved in these organizations is that I can take all the skills I've learned and gained into my career with me. It also gives me an advantage to others who apply who may not have been involved in activities outside of class. If you don't think employers will look to see if you were involved in activities, you are sadly mistaken.

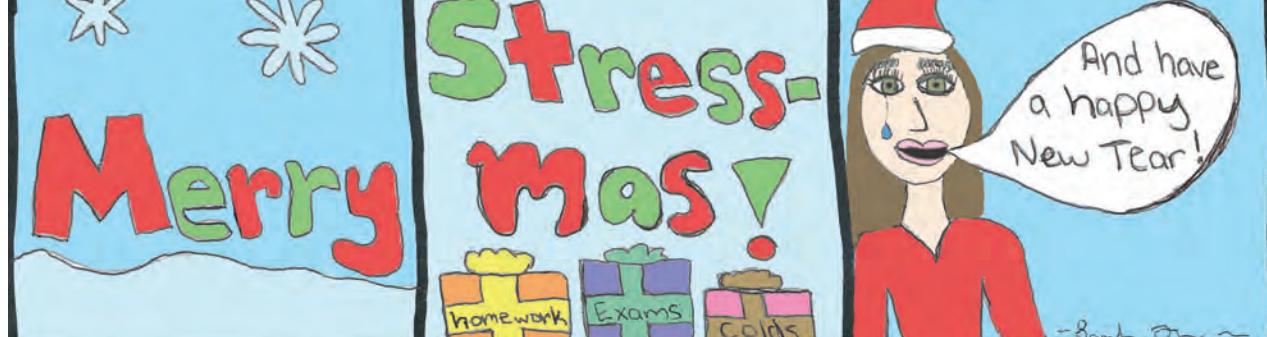
I strongly encourage you to get involved. Even if it has nothing to do

with your major, I guarantee you will gain skills you can use in your career anyway. Right now, you may not be thinking about getting involved or don't have any interest in getting involved, but in my final semester I can tell you that's something you will regret.

So, take a chance and

join a club or organization. Meet new people and gain the skills and experience you'll need to excel in your career. Mount Mercy has amazing opportunities for individuals to get involved—you just need to take the leap.

Intermediate Ivy by Savannah Oler





**Who You Follow...**  
Determines Who You Become  
#Jesus

**And Jesus said to Kasey "Follow Me"**

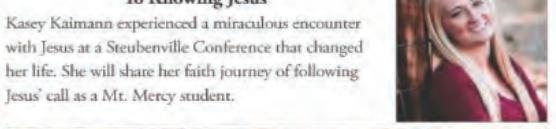
**Knowing About Jesus  
To Knowing Jesus**

Kasey Kalman experienced a miraculous encounter with Jesus at a Steubenville Conference that changed her life. She will share her faith journey of following Jesus' call as a Mt. Mercy student.

Where: Mt. Mercy University  
Bouze Chapel (top of the hill)  
1333 University Avenue, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
When: Thursday, December 7th, 2017  
Time: 7:00-8:30PM  
Refreshments will be served, child care is not available.  
This event is FREE and ALL are welcome.

CRCFO.INFO [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/crcfo) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/crcfo/)





**CFC** Catholic Evangelization Outreach

**Christmas Club Friday**  
December 8th at 3:00 p.m.  
University Center Commons

\*Come for games, food, prizes, Christmas music, and a special appearance by Santa!



# An uneasy feeling

## We welcome planned tech improvements but worry about tuition trend

Are you happy with next year's tuition increase? We suspect that most of the student population on campus are not pleased with the tuition increase for the 2018-2019 year. We know that nobody likes having to pay more, especially when it comes to tuition.

It's a little comforting to know that Mount Mercy University is not the only university that has annual tuition increases. Private and public universities across the United States have also seen increasing tuition rates. We doubt anyone expresses joy when they have to pay more than they signed up for.

The rates this year were increased by 4 percent, unlike the 3 percent increase last year.

One concern is whether we will reap the benefits of our contribution. We, the

### Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

student body, would like to know what kind of technology will be installed or upgraded and would like to make sure everybody makes good use of it.

Doug Brock, vice president of finance, did tell the Times that some of the money will be used to extend access points around campus. If paying a little extra cash will assure better campus Wi-Fi or make our campus more tech savvy, then we are all for it.

We want MMU to have adequate tech facilities that will make our learning process even better. We believe all our fellow students deserve high-quality education and optimum learning facilities. We are excited and we look forward to seeing the changes promised.

However, we also note that the MMU tuition increase fits into some disturbing higher education trends. For decades, the rate of tuition increase on average at U.S.

private colleges has outpaced inflation, USA Today reported on June 9, 2017. At the same time, federal aid to education has been on the chopping block, states are cutting back education spending and now, one version of the latest GOP

tax plan will make it harder for students to attend graduate school by undercutting tax benefits for tuition support.

And recent polls show much of the population, particularly on the conservative end of the spectrum, losing faith in the overall social benefit of higher education and universities. One of the long-time pillars of upward mobility and personal

**Private and public universities across the United States have also seen increasing tuition rates. We doubt anyone expresses joy when they have to pay more than they signed up for.**

betterment may become less available due to these macro trends.

We don't think MMU is entirely to blame for the tuition increase for next year. The university is stretching to make ends meet. But this feels like a challenging era

for higher education, and the future is uncertain.

We hope the new tech MMU plans to purchase will serve a vibrant campus. But, to be honest, we're worried. We certainly live in interesting times.

# Your future

## An internship gives you invaluable experience

If you are a recent college graduate and have a great GPA, some great recommendations, and a well written cover letter you may think finding a job will be not all that hard right? Well, you are missing one thing. An internship.

As a college student, the only way to get that real-world experience is through internships. Some might think that getting an internship is just fetching coffee or running errands. But in reality, you are there to gain real experience. They are a great way to test drive the field you wish to enter. You get a great chance to network during your time with the company, the best way to get jobs is through personal relationships and some guy might know a guy who knows another guy. That is often how it works.

It is overwhelming at first when you get to the company. They tend to throw you right into the fire, but that is the best way to learn. By doing this your employer is allowing you to get your feet wet. You can develop skills to learn in the

### Opinion



Peter Brooks  
Staff Writer

future when you do get a full-time job.

Most internships today offer some sort of financial benefit whether it being paying you, or giving you a bonus at the end of your internship.

I have heard many say, start your internship search early and try to do two or three before you graduate. Do not rush to your dream scenario internship. You can start at a small company and make mistakes and learn how to improve yourself. By the time you complete one or two internships, then you will be ready to apply for that dream scenario.

**You get a great chance to network during your time with the company, the best way to get jobs is through personal relationships and some guy might know a guy who knows another guy. That is often how it works.**

## MMU academic department condemns 'cruel' and 'cowardly' hate speech

Dear Editor:

In our most recent department meeting, we discussed

### Letter to editor

An opinion of Times readers

our university's response to hate incidents on campus. While we were heartened by the video "Hospitality > Hate," our department would still like to more directly voice our sentiments about the racist events that have occurred recently and in the past on our campus.

We condemn bigotry. We hate hate speech. We hope that such speech never again occurs on our campus, but we are taking steps to ensure that it will be addressed more quickly if it does.

To the gay students who received death threats last year, to the black students who were verbally attacked this semester, and to any other students who have been mistreated, our hearts hurt for you. At your university, you deserve to be safe, welcome,

and treasured.

To the individuals who wrote the F-Word on a student's white board and car, and to the individuals who shouted the N-word at students walking to the library, our hearts also hurt for you. Clearly, you have not yet learned to be decent human beings. Your actions were cruel and cowardly.

Please take Hamlet's advice: "Assume a virtue if you have it not." In other words, if you are not yet a caring and mature adult, try to act like one. Better yet, make use of your Mercy education and become one.

Sincerely,  
The Department of Communication, Literature, and Arts:

Belkis Suarez, Jose Clemente, Chris DeVault, Kathryn Hagy, Joseph Hendryx, Daniel Kleinknecht, Dave Klope, Joy Ochs, J.T. Richards, Joe Sheller, Carol Tyx, Mary Vermillion, and Eden Wales Freedman

## Heard on The Hill

By Collin Wiley

### What people are saying on topics of interest

Happy holidays! Whether you're Catholic, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, agnostic, atheist, Baha'i, Buddhist, unsure or something else, the MMU Times extends wishes for fun family time and togetherness to you this holiday season. And help get you into the holiday spirit, the Mount Mercy Times asked MMU students:

"What are some things you're looking forward to doing over Christmas Break and why?"



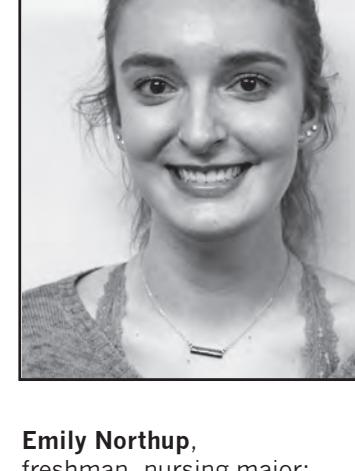
**Madison Knight,**  
freshman, psychology major:

"I am looking forward to continuing family traditions during Christmas break, along with having no school and watching Christmas movies."



**Maria Young,**  
freshman, nursing major:

"I am looking forward to actually having a break and not having to do any homework."



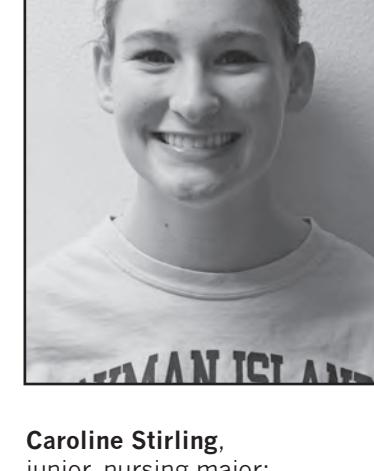
**Emily Northup,**  
freshman, nursing major:

"I am looking forward to opening up presents on Christmas day and also petting my cats."



**Courtney Hoffman,**  
freshman, journalism:

"I am looking forward to seeing friends, sleeping, eating home-cooked meals and petting my cat."



**Caroline Stirling,**  
junior, nursing major:

"I am looking forward to spending time with my family and, over J-Term, I am traveling to Tanzania."

# Mount Mercy Times

### Editorial Staff

Connor Mahan  
Editor-in-Chief

Madelyn Orton  
Managing editor

Collin Wiley  
Sports editor

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Opinion editor

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Joe Sheller  
Faculty advisor

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.

**Mailing address:**  
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**Email:** [times@mtmercy.edu](mailto:times@mtmercy.edu)



Ho  
Ho  
Ho  
at  
MMU

Mount Mercy  
students  
admire the  
trees  
in the U  
Center (left).  
The tree that  
the facilities  
department  
decorated is  
for sale in the  
UC (below)

## Market at the Mount among campus events

By Connor Mahan

Editor-In-Chief

The December holiday season brings its share of events to Mount Mercy—Christmas on the hill includes the biggest Club Friday of the year, Market at the Mount and musical performances. Here is a roundup of those events:

The Market at the Mount sponsored by Enactus club will be taking place Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hennessy Recreational Center. The event will include services, artisans, crafters, and food vendors that will be selling refurbished furniture, jewelry, children's book and toys; vegan pastas, quilts,

home décor, fused glass art, cupcakes, wood art, soaps, quilts, and more. Santa Claus will also make an appearance at the event!

Christmas Club Friday will also be taking place Friday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the University Center. Campus Ministry will be hosting an event that will have food, prize and activities for all students to enjoy.

There will be a Lessons & Carols Christmas Concert that will be taking place Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Chapel of Mercy. The event is open to the public and will feature the University Choir, University Band, and Chamber/Jazz Singers.

## Five community Christmas celebrations

By Madelyn Orton

Managing editor

Here are five suggestions for holiday activities in the Cedar Rapids area:

**1** Santa at the Market: Santa will be visiting Newbo Market from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 14. Pictures with Santa can be taken in front of their large Christmas display free of charge.

**2** A Christmas Carol: Join the Old Creamery Theatre Company on December 15 or 16, at their production of A Christmas Carol. The show is \$31 for adults and \$19.50 for college students (including children that are 18 and under).

**3** Brucemore Mansion Holiday Evening Tour: Take a stroll through a historical mansion, as it's decorated for Christmas. These

special tours of Brucemore are on every Thursday evening starting on December 7.

**4** 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Delight Parade: This unique parade will begin downtown on Saturday, December 9. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will extend downtown to First Street SE.

**5** Tannenbaum Forest: Experience over 40 Christmas trees, visit with Santa, and grab a bite at St. Nick's Café. Tannenbaum Forest is located in Amana, Iowa, and they are open Friday-Sunday.



Faith Robinson/Times

## Justice League finally assembles in fine film form

After years of anticipation, the Justice League finally assembles on the silver screen in the fifth installment of the DC Extended Universe.

There is no denying the fact that the DC Extended Universe has constantly been struggling to beat the Marvel Cinematic Universe at its own game. After the massive success of Wonder Woman this summer, I was confident that Justice League would deliver the same level of action, fun, and excitement that fans like myself often look for in a superhero movie based on the DC comics.

Taking place just a few months after the events of Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice and inspired by Superman's apparent sacrifice for humanity, Batman enlists the help of his newfound ally, Wonder Woman, to assemble a team of superheroes consisting of Cyborg, Aquaman, and The Flash in order to save the world from a new catastrophic threat. Together, the Justice League must face off against the villainous Steppenwolf and his army of parades who are on the hunt for three ancient artifacts that are hidden across the planet.

### Review



Cameron  
Junge  
Movie Reviewer



Directed by Zack Snyder, Justice League is a very entertaining movie and for the most part, delivers plenty of memorable sequences that will certainly satisfy fans and leave them wanting more once the credits begin to roll. While Gal Gadot's performance as Wonder Woman and Ben Affleck's performance as Batman are both as fantastic as before, the movie is very much about the other superheroes and the chemistry they bring together as a team.

Even though the characters of Cyborg, Aquaman, and The Flash are drastically different from one another, they all have their moments in the spotlight. Ezra Miller's The Flash provides

the comedic relief throughout the course of the film, and while it sometimes works, the humor occasionally comes off a little heavy-handed.

Jason Momoa's Aquaman serves as the muscle of the group, and unlike The Flash, who is eager to join the team, Aquaman prefers to work on his own instead of working together.

Finally, there's Ray Fisher's Cyborg, who perhaps has the biggest arc in the entire film by serving as a connection to the mysterious artifacts that Steppenwolf is after. What makes Cyborg stand out from the others is that his journey is more inspiring as he struggles to accept his newfound abilities while at the

same time learning how to work with the Justice League.

That being said, Justice League has several flaws that prevents the movie from reaching the same level of greatness of past DC superhero films such as The Dark Knight and Wonder Woman.

For instance, the CGI that was used for several action sequences (including the main villain Steppenwolf) came off as weak and made it feel as if I was watching a video game cinematic trailer. Another issue with Justice League was that the editing felt kind of choppy because whenever there's a scene where something interesting is about to happen, the scene cuts away instead

of letting it play out.

Finally, the last issue that I had with Justice League was its main villain Steppenwolf. In past superhero films, a power-hungry villain who wanted to destroy the world with little to no explanation might have been enough to get fans on board. However, that is not the case with Steppenwolf as there is nothing remotely interesting about him or his motives that would make him appear more menacing to the audience.

Overall, Justice League is a very entertaining movie and despite the weak CGI, predictable story and underdeveloped villain, Justice League still manages to be a fun superhero film that's sure to thrill hard-core fans of the DC Extended Universe.

I give Justice League 3 1/2 Mustangs out of 5 because it manages to overcome its flaws by providing fans with solid acting performances from its ensemble cast, memorable action sequences and other satisfying moments that will certainly leave fans wanting more once the credits start rolling.

# Cross Country travels to national meet on West Coast

**Mahlon Steepleton**

Staff Writer

The Mount Mercy's men's cross-country team competed at the NAIA National Championships in Vancouver, Washington. It was the fifth time ever that the NAIA nationals were held in Vancouver, WA. This was the 62nd annual Men's Cross-Country Championship.

The meet was held on Saturday, November 18, at the Fort Vancouver National historic site. The Mustangs men's team qualified for nationals on Saturday November 4, at the

Baldwin City, Golf Course in Baldwin City, Kansas. The hosting team was Baker University.

British Columbia won the team's first-ever title dominated with 41 points and three runners in the Top 10. There were 36 NAIA teams at nationals and 87 individuals overall running.

The Mustangs and the Missouri Valley Vikings earned the Heart's automatic berths to run at nationals in Washington. It was the second time in three years the men's team qualified for nationals. For Michael Marshall, junior, it was a great

accomplishment.

"I'd say that when I first found out, it was pretty surreal. After a yearlong of training, all of everyone's hard work finally paid off," Marshall said.

The men's team got second place runner-up and finished with 94 total points. While, the Vikings had a total of 22 points. With 5 of their runners in the top nine. James Lindstrom, junior led the way with a time of (26:29). Lindstrom finished sixth overall in the 8k race. Colton Forster paced the Mustangs with a time of (26:23) and placed 90th over-

all.

As for the women, Molly Pruitt and Alexa Zamora also posted their highest finish ever at Nationals. The national qualifiers were led by junior Alexa Zamora and senior Molly Pruitt in the 5k race. A total of 20 seconds separated the Mustangs.

At nationals, the Mustangs men's team finished 28th overall out of 38 NAIA teams competing. For the men, this was history in the making because it was the highest they have ever finished as a team at nationals. The men finished in 34th place in their last

appearance at the national meet back in 2015.

For fellow freshman, Cameron Steffens running at nationals was a great feeling.

"It was a very astonishing experience for the first time ever being in that elite of a race. It was a great experience as a freshman learning the ropes by some amazing upper-classmen," Steffens said.

The Mustangs look forward to keeping the momentum going heading into the indoor and outdoor track seasons.



MidAmerica Nazarene handed the men's basketball team its first home loss, beating the Mustangs 82-63 in a conference match on Dec. 2.



## At men's basketball game, soccer women show that they can move it for Danny

**By Madelyn Orton**  
Managing Editor

On Saturday, five Mount Mercy athletic teams took the court at half time of the men's basketball game. In this case, however, they took the court to dance, honoring the late Danny DeBacker.

"Danny was a fun-loving guy, and he would have gotten a kick out of the dance off," said Rhonda Martin, athletics office manager.

Danny, a member of the MMU men's basketball team, passed away in a car accident in the fall of 2014.

The third-annual Do

**"Danny was a fun-loving guy, and he would have gotten a kick out of the dance off."**

Rhonda Martin, athletics office manager.

it for Danny dance off included the men's and women's golf teams, women's soccer team, softball

and baseball teams and the women's volleyball team.

The winners of the dance off were decided by

audience applause, and the women's soccer team won bragging rights for the second year in a row.

In addition to the dance competition, fans were encouraged to bring socks and underwear as their admission fee to support the Catherine McAuley Center and the Willis Dady Center.

"We do this event to reiterate the type of person Danny was," said Martin.



Collin Wiley/Times  
The Mount Mercy women were defeated by William Penn 63-41 in their conference opener at Oskaloosa, Iowa, Nov. 29.

## Cold shooting hurts MMU

**By Collin Wiley**  
Sports Editor

Oskaloosa, Iowa-The Mustangs women team hoped to get a rhythm established against a William Penn squad, who is 3-0 at home this season, in Penn Gymnasium on Nov. 29.

It was a rather cold shooting night for the women as they shot only 28 percent from the field. Ashley Dolan, senior, led the way for the Mustangs scoring 13 points and shooting (6-7) from the field.

William Penn won the battle statistically and had 19 assists to Mount Mercy's 8, (42-



30) on rebounds, and also forced 18 turnovers to the Mustangs 15. The Statesmen beat the Mustangs 63-41.

Mount Mercy's next home game will be against Luther College on December 14, at 7 p.m. at the Hennessey Rec center.

## MMU foiled by Penn

**By Collin Wiley**  
Sports Editor

Oskaloosa, Iowa-In what seems to be a bitter rivalry, the Mustangs marched into Penn Gymnasium to take on an undefeated William Penn University on Nov. 29. Mount Mercy looked to get some revenge after William Penn took the victory back on March 7 to take the Heart of America Championship. Both teams later went on to the NAIA national tournament.

The first half went just as scripted for the Mustangs as they went on to shoot 55 percent from the field versus William Penn's 37 percent. The Mustangs also drained eight first half three-point shots to help them take a 44-40 lead at halftime.

The second half started with a basket by Mychael Brawner-Henley, but then



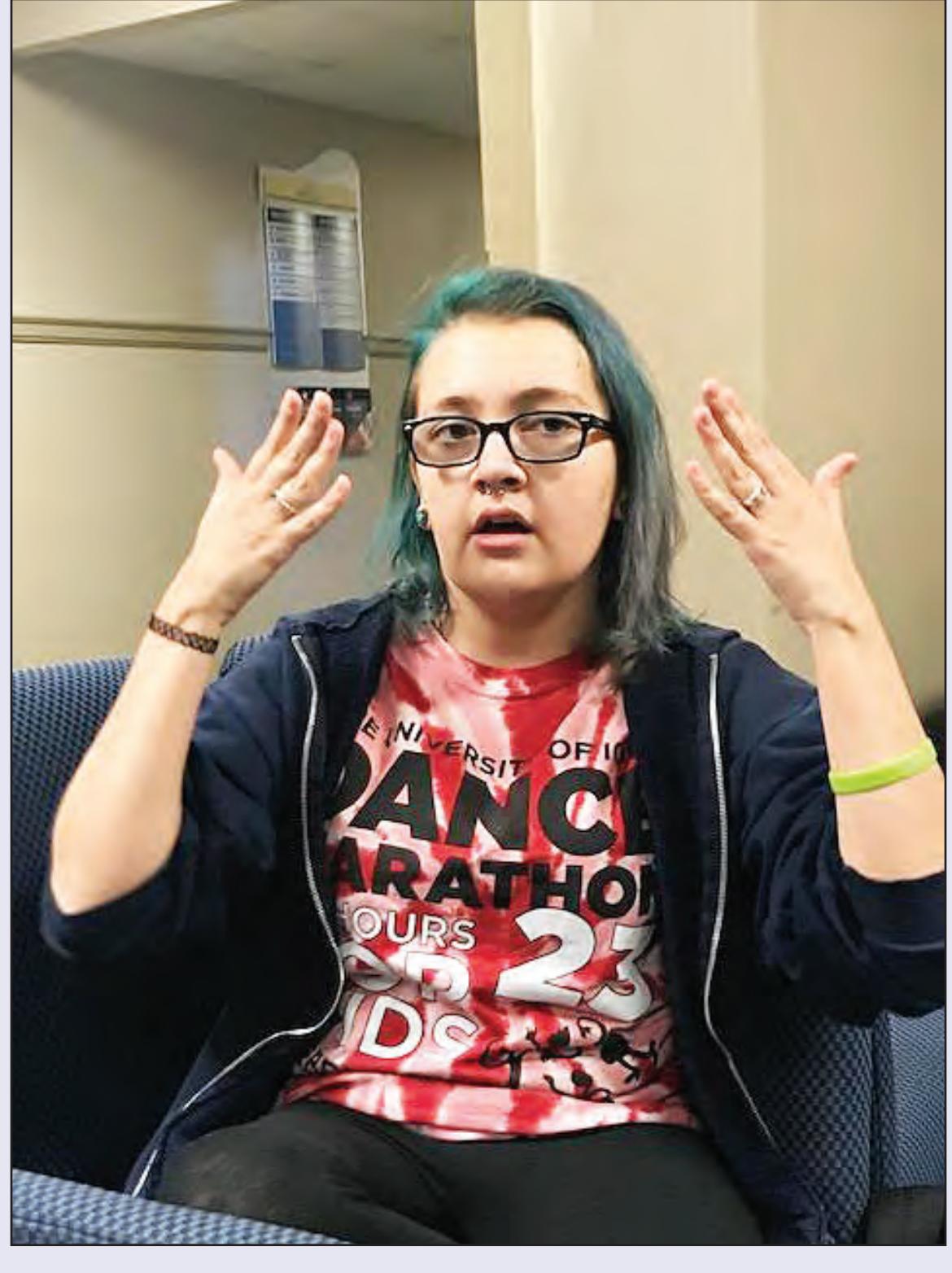
the Statesmen started clicking. The Statesmen shot 55 percent from the field and also draining five three-point shots versus Mount Mercy's 44 percent from the field and only making one three-point shot as the Statesmen ended up defeating the Mustangs 92-80.

Statistically, William Penn led the way thanks to a monstrous second half. Mount Mercy as a team,

ended Wednesday's game shooting 49 percent from the field including going (9-21) behind the arch and only shooting 45 percent (9-20) from the free throw line. The Mustangs had 35 total rebounds along with 23 assists, 6 steals, and 16 turnovers.

Mount Mercy's next home game will be on Jan. 3 against Viterbo University at 5 p.m. at the Hennessey Rec Center.

Jade Milota/Times  
Freshman Luna McKenna discusses her experience being treated for cancer (right).  
McKenna was a part of a roller derby team out of Iowa City (below).



## Overcoming her obstacles

Student faced cancer at early age

By Jade Milota  
Staff Writer

College life is a difficult time for many students. The transformation from adolescence to adulthood is unfamiliar and typically takes time. Add to that a serious health issue, and that transformation becomes more of a challenge.

One Mount Mercy University (MMU) student, Luna McKenna, a freshman, knows all too well the demands of adulthood. Beginning at the young age of 4, McKenna was diagnosed with Acute

### SNAPSHOT

Meet the people on the hill

Luna  
McKenna

Myeloid Leukemia—a form of blood cancer. She underwent chemotherapy and radiation, and in 2005, received a bone marrow transplant that had her in remission for nearly three years.

After experiencing pain in her right hand, McKenna learned the cancer returned.

Again, chemotherapy, radiation, and remission occurred for nearly a year. At the beginning of her educational career, a lesion in her eyes strained her, and McKenna, once again, was diagnosed with cancer. After receiving a stem cell transplant in 2010, she is now nearly eight years in remission and enjoys

advocating for those affected by cancer.

"A lot of people don't realize the after affects are sometimes worse than treatment," McKenna said.

"Adjusting to college life while juggling the effects of cancer proves to be troublesome at times."

To combat the difficulties, she kept herself busy in the past with the I.C. Bruisers roller derby. McKenna participated for one year and is currently look-

**"Adjusting to college life while juggling the effects of cancer proves to be troublesome at times."**

Luna McKenna, freshman, sociology, gender studies

ing for an adult league to join. Her go to entertainment is listening to music and making art.

McKenna is a sociology and gender studies major because she loves working with people and has a passion for gender equality.

"All I want to do is help people and if I can figure out a way to do that that's what I'd like to do in life," said McKenna.



## No mercy for turkeys

Times/Connor Mahan  
SGA officers Fernando Fernandez and Jess Hiney (above) address the crowd getting ready for Thanksgiving dinner. The turkey is being carved up and served by Wyatt Cady and Payton Baskerville (right)



Times/Connor Mahan

Students are dressed and ready for thanksgiving dinner to be served (left). A group of ladies pose for a quick picture before dinner (below).

