

Mount Mercy Times

A student publication serving Mount Mercy University

Issue 2, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018

Rain Catchers



Mount Mercy students plant native flowers in a new rain garden northeast of Warde Hall Sept. 20.

Peter Brooks/Times

Volunteers Dig Garden To Trap Water

By Peter Brooks
Staff Writer

To mitigate storm water run-off and introduce more native plants, Mount Mercy installed a second rain garden outside of Warde Hall on Sept. 20. The first was installed on June 4 of this year.

The main reasons for the rain gardens are to manage storm water that comes in and to serve as a habitat for pollinator species.

"It was mostly brought to my attention through contacts throughout the city," said Mount Mercy Director of Sustainability Rachael Murtaugh. "People who I have talked to and just word

◆ See AmeriCorps Helps
page 6

Inside the Times

Provost Math: MMU=EEE

Dr. Tim Laurent, who joined MMU this year as its new provost, is seeking to make The Hill more excellent, efficient and entrepreneurial. Page 2.



Think Politics

Nov. 6 is election day: We think you have a duty to vote, page 5. Emma Lantz wants to register students, page 12. Need voter information? Click It, page 2.



Bump in the dark!

Chuck and Matt cure fears of MMU tunnels, page 9.



Heads up:

Step Out Hike Planned

Need a study break? Mount Mercy plans an outing to a county park along the Wapsipinicon River. Transportation to Pinicon Ridge on Sept. 29 at 3 p.m. will be provided for students who want to hike before midterms.

Packing Food for Homecoming

Volunteers are needed for the combined Mercy Week, Homecoming, and Alumni Weekend event on Sept. 30 at 4 p.m. Organizers hope to package food for the needy in Betty Cherry Heritage Hall.

Big Bingo!

There was a farmer had a dog ... is that Big Bingo? Prizes can be won at the bingo game to be held on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. in Donnelly 300.

Correction:

Donors Listed

In the Sept. 13 story, "MMU Forms First College of Nursing" on page 2, the names of the donors were incorrect. Ronald and Paula Martin-Herold are the donors for whom the college is named. Ronald Herold is a member of the MMU board of trustees.

Click it:

Register to Vote

With the election coming up Nov. 6, it would save you time to register in advance, although in Iowa you can register on election day. No matter where you are from, you can find out how to register at: <https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>. To check and see if our politicians are telling the truth, you can visit the most respected fact checking site at <https://www.politifact.com>.

New Provost Launches Three-Year Improvement Plan

By Madeln Orton
Managing Editor

Mount Mercy's new provost is emphasizing a three-year plan to improve the university.

Dr. Tim Laurent, provost and vice president for academic affairs, introduced the three-year EEE plan to Mount Mercy's faculty in August. This plan pushes faculty to be excellent, efficient and entrepreneurial.

"My overall goal is for the institution to be healthier each day," said Laurent.

According to Laurent, the EEE plan could include tweaking excellence within programs,

combining classes, and perhaps adding new majors and online programs.

Another goal of Laurent was to construct four-year curriculum plans.

According to Laurent, these goals were received well by faculty.

"What I thought I was going to get was a good group of faculty and students who said 'what do we need to do to get better,' and that's exactly what I found," Laurent said.

Laurent earned his undergraduate degree in athletic training/health education from the



University of Indiana. He then received his master's degree in athletic training/health education from the University of Arizona and his doctorate in education administration from Ball State University.

Caroline Groesbeck/Times

Dr. Tim Laurent Mount Mercy University's new Provost

Prior moving to Cedar Rapids and accepting the position at Mount Mercy, Laurent served as provost at the University of Providence in Great Falls, Montana.

"As I was looking for a position, I wanted an environment that was values-based. I was looking for an institution that had a very strong connection with students and was very student-centered," said Laurent.

Chemistry Professor Excited to Dive Into Teaching

By Nicole Carl
Staff Writer

Dr. Jonathan Humston, a new assistant professor of chemistry, may look like just a normal professor, but he is also a volunteer scuba diver for the Johnson country metro dive team.

This includes doing rescue and recovery while working together with local law enforcement. For example, if a car ends up in a river he would have to go swim to the vehicle and attach hooks to get it out.

Since the water is black here, Humston has to do intense training for the dark depths he goes in.

He was born in Iowa City and went to Northern Iowa to study chemistry. That is when he learned he wanted to do more. "I wanted to study and teach". He went to Tanzania to do his student teaching under a chemistry teacher from Canada.

He taught at the International School of Moshi located at the foothills of Kilimanjaro. Humston came back to the states and got a teaching job in Iowa city at City High for two years, and he had to teach freshman five times a day.

Although he enjoyed that job, he went back to school to get his Ph.D. Humston wanted to be able to teach higher education and still be

able to do his own study and research.

After obtaining his PhD he was in the area and heard of Mount Mercy and applied. He got to stay in the area he grew up in and now at Mount Mercy he can do what he has always wanted to do.

"My main focus here is going to be teaching of course" but he also wants to research and advise students.

He is excited that the chemistry major is still fairly new and wants to influence the direction it takes. Being one of the few chemistry professors on campus he gets to do a lot and wants to be involved with his students throughout their time here.

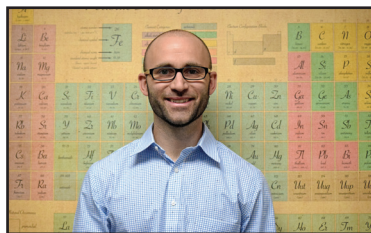
After work he goes home to his two boys in Iowa city, 3-year-old Levi and 1-year-old Dallas. Humston and his wife, Tina, are expecting their first daughter this spring. She is a captain in the Iowa City Fire Department. Humston also almost became a firefighter, he even took a basic EMT course, but he noted that married one instead.

He likes to spend most of his time with his family, playing with his kids and dog. However, since he has a commute, he also spends time

listening to Audible books and lectures. In his home life Humston and his family enjoy going on walks, talking a trip to the farmers market and going on hikes together.

New Faces on The Hill

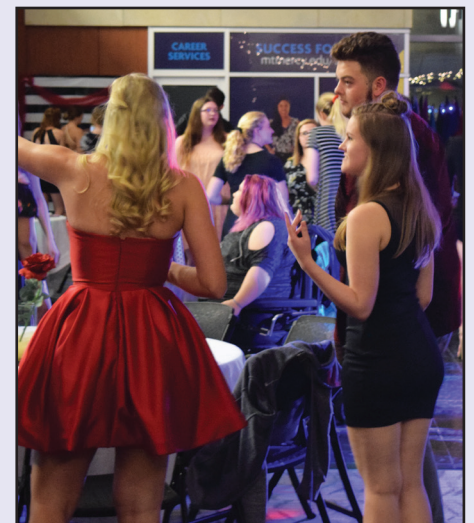
Introducing faculty



Nicole Carl/Times

Dr. Jonathan Humston, assistant professor of chemistry.

Glam in U Center



Nicole Carl and Marlon Flores-Paniagua/Times

The Sisters of Mercy University Center was transformed into a glamorous ballroom for the Gala Sept. 21 that marked the end of Mercy Week, an annual event celebrating MMU's Sisters of Mercy heritage.





Suicide Awareness Event

Caroline Groesbeck/Times

Mount Mercy held a candlelight vigil for suicide awareness as a part of National Suicide Prevention Week on Sept. 10. Participants lit candles for those who have taken their lives and their families, as well as anyone who may need help.



Census Shows Retention Drop

By Madelyn Orton
Managing Editor

The fall Mount Mercy's enrollment numbers were recently released.

The overall student headcount is 1,828 students. This number is down from last year's enrollment count of 1,886 students.

The number of full time students at Mount Mercy this year is 1,052. Last year Mount Mercy had 1,054 full time students, said Dr. Tim Laurent, provost and vice

president for academic affairs.

The fall census looks at the retention rate, or the first time, full time students from their freshman year to their sophomore year. This year, Mount Mercy has a retention rate of 66 percent. This is down from previous years.

The census is used to budget and plan for the future, according to Laurent. "It is a continuous cycle of planning and budgeting," he said.

Indie Pop Duo D and Chi Bring Heartfelt Music to the Hill

By Ekaterina Rangelova
News Editor

Indie pop musicians Darren Eubank and Chima Ijeh, known by the public as D and Chi, arrived on campus to present their music, sell a few copies of their album, and show off their skills as musicians Sept. 14.

Originally from Dallas, Texas, D and Chi derive their inspiration from their life struggles and what they learned on the streets of the Bishop Arts district.

Some of the songs they performed

include "Dancing in the Rain," "Miles," a few tracks from an unreleased album and cover songs from various artists, among which was Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off."

A good number of their pieces are devoted to love, one of which is called "One Way Street." Written by Eubank, it expresses the idea that a person can go one way and change his entire life completely. His life change came about because of a lost love, but the outcome was to meet the current love of his life, his fiancé.

"I think there are a lot of one-way streets

Klein Sets Goal to Chat With Each First-Year Student

Idea is to Better Understand Individual Student Goals and their Ongoing Adjustment to College Life

By Jada Veasey
Staff Writer

Vice President for Student Success Dr. Nate Klein has an ambitious goal for the beginning of the new school year: to meet with every first-year student and chat with them each individually. Klein appropriately calls each meeting a "Chat with Nate."

Klein said the idea was initially suggested by President Laurie Hamen, and he loved the idea and ran with it. He began chatting with fall student athletes and Project Connect students in mid-August, and hopes to have met with all first-year students by fall break. So far, he has met with 141 students.

"When I reflected on my time as a student at Mount Mercy, I remembered all of the one-on-one conversations people had with me, and I wanted to pay it forward," Klein said. "My whole goal is to get to know people, get an understanding of what people's dreams, goals, and aspirations are. You've come to a place where you're valued."

First year students appreciate Klein's efforts.

"I liked it," said Jillian Nafziger, marketing. "I think it's pretty cool that he wanted to meet with every freshman."

Nursing major Jessica Timm expressed a similar sentiment, saying "I thought it was a really good experience because it was another connection that freshman students get to make, so he's that person people can go to if they need help with anything. It was really nice."

Kara Kavanagh, elementary education major, added that her Chat with Nate was "really fun and light hearted!"

Klein uses the chats to talk to students about their goals, their adjustment to college life, and about what activities they plan to be a part of. He closes each chat by talking about graduation.

"I think it's important for people to see that they will make it. Graduation is a goal for many, and we're here to help," said Klein.

After their Chat with Nate, first year students can also expect to be contacted by representatives from both Student Engagement and Health Services.

Klein says that "the goal is to have all first-year students meet with three people in their first semester of college."

Klein would also like to remind first-year students to check for his emails regarding the chats. He says, "If we haven't met yet, I'll keep sending you emails until we meet. And we will meet!"

in our lives, and some of us are afraid to go down them because of what you have or what you are afraid to leave," said Darren. "Doing that can be one of the best decisions you can make."

The duo announced they have a new single that they are going to drop soon.

Ekaterina Rangelova/Times

Guest musicians D and Chi performed original songs and popular covers in the UC Sept. 14.



Student New to U.S. Notes Lack of Transport

With fall break being around the corner, I started searching for traveling options to manage my commute to New York from Cedar Rapids. To my surprise there aren't many options except paying \$600 for an air ticket or asking someone to drive you to Chicago to catch a cheaper flight, or perhaps request someone to take you to Iowa City to catch a bus to Chicago.

As an exchange student from Pakistan, I want to discuss something practiced so commonly in the American society with such intensity that the residents don't even feel it. It is felt only when you are a new person here expecting the public facilities to accommodate the basic life needs of a normal person.

Before coming to US, I used to imagine traveling here to be much easier than Pakistan. I thought the public transportation system would be efficient enough.

I expected my university to have some arrangement for resident students to help access downtown for their usual activities such as grocery shopping. In simple terms, if you wish to travel in the U.S., there aren't many options available except if you have your own wheels.

Since the public transportation isn't helpful, people tend to have their own cars which creates the problem traffic and a lack of parking spaces. Cedar Rapids doesn't have a huge traffic problem,

Opinion



Maria Awwal
Staff Writer

but Cedar Rapids surely has a big parking problem.

The point I am trying to make is that this is a big lesson for both societies: the U.S. and Pakistan. Instead of spending money on parking spaces and cars, the money should be invested in building a better public transport system; this won't only solve the problem for those who can't afford a car but it will help in multiple other ways:

1) It's environmentally feasible. The more demand for cars, the more material is used and disposed in the manufacturing and dumping of cars, which could be replaced by a big bus. This could simply replace the excessive consumption in a sustainable way

2) It's important for the fabric of the society. Public transport is run through tax money. It expresses the level of trust and cooperation between the people and government. It's an expression of delivery and acknowledgment of the responsibilities of a government

3) It reduces the cost of living. When you look at the budget of a family living on the line of poverty, which is set by a country's government to be the minimum wage to live on without being qualified as impoverished, you will see a great chunk of it going to transport. If you enable a good public transport network it will just make their lives easier.

4) Lastly, it will ease the life of people like me. I don't have a car and am not allowed to drive in the U.S.

Open Letter to Freshmen: How to Adjust

Dear Freshmen,

I am just going to be straight up with you: College is going to be hard at first. This is the first huge jump one makes after high school graduation, in most cases. I remember my first steps onto Mount Mercy's campus as an actual student, and I had so much adrenaline for this new chapter of my life. I didn't know how to control my smiles and hellos. I was meeting new people and trying new things like food and activities offered on campus!

After a week or so, it started to hit me that I was two hours away from home: not being able to see my little brother every day, not seeing my parents or friends, having to quit a job I loved, and living with another person I have never known. I was honestly feeling sad after that realization of my life, but how did I overcome this hardship?

I started communicating with my family like I was still at home. I could see my brother in a video chat, and it honestly made us so

Opinion



Cassandra Forsythe
Guest Writer

happy. My mom and I texted about every day, which also helped her out. There is also a great invention called "social media" to keep people in some sort of loop.

I drive home once a month, going from city life to small town living. I always sit down with my family immediately after arriving home, on our brown L-shaped couch with a huge TV in front of us, and we talk about the past month and my adventures versus their adventures; these talks gave us many laughs and moments of accomplishment!

After being around Mount Mercy a time, I can already call this my home away from home, which is what you need to keep in mind. All college worries go away sooner or later as you adjust to your new life of using campus resources, meeting new friends, trying new things, and striving to do what you want to do in the future.

This was something my band director told me on my graduation day: "Don't be afraid to try something different, but don't be afraid to be yourself either!" As long as you stay positive, college will be a much better experience with less worries!

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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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Wikimedia Commons
American flags on the National Mall, Washington, D.C.

You Have A Clear Job Coming Nov. 6–Vote

No matter where you stand on the political spectrum in this increasingly polarized political climate, we hope everyone can come to a consensus on one thing: It is important for you to vote.

Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

Midterm elections are coming up soon (Nov. 6, to be exact) and are essential for both our state and country. Not only are they our first chance to really express our judgment on the current president of the United States, but this also marks the election of Iowa's governor.

Current Gov. Kim Reynolds has received both praise and criticism for her work to expand firearms rights, ban abortion after 20 weeks, massive income tax cuts and blocked funding to sanctuary cities.

She's also been stuck with the aftermath of outrage from public workers, whose collective bargaining rights were stripped while former Gov. Terry Branstad was in office (Reynolds was Branstad's lieutenant governor).

And if you're concerned one way or another about the President's job performance, now is your chance to flip things to your point of view. Thirty-five of the 100 Senate seats are up for grabs, along with all 435 seats in the House of Representatives.

This means there's potential to vote in a Republican or Democratic majority, which is likely to either help or hinder Trump's escapades.

Though we can't vote for president in this election, and Iowa does not have

a U.S. Senate race, our representatives and governor have enough power and influence to completely change the political climate. Plus, we can choose members of the Iowa Senate, House and other state offices which are important to our future.

Despite the importance of voting, less than half of all college students voted during the 2016 presidential election. Only 18 percent voted in the 2014 midterms.

There are, of course, a few possible scenarios if you're thinking about skipping the midterm elections this year.

One: You don't like the way things are currently, but don't bother voting. In

this situation, you're complicit in the actions of the government. You could have voted against them, but chose not to, and you're just as responsible as the people who voted for those officials.

Two: You're perfectly happy with the current state of things but don't vote to protect it. In that case, you shouldn't be upset if positions change.

And as always, there's the third possibility of being somewhere in the middle. There might not be a candidate that particularly stands out to you, or



maybe you just don't like them all. It's still your job to do some soul-searching, decide what's most important to you in our leaders, and vote to reflect that.

Maybe you think your individual vote doesn't matter—a thought you share with the other half of our country's eligible voting population that didn't bother with the 2016 election. Individual votes add up fast and can make huge differences in the way a country is run.

With each election, it is our duty as self-governing adults to help carve out the path we're on and to put all of our complaints from the past two years to use.

Voting is a privilege, right, and duty for every person who meets the requirements to do so. You should never underestimate the power of your vote; it's basically

an investment that your very future depends on, dramatic as it sounds.

With each election, it is our duty as self-governing adults to help carve out the path we're on and to put all of our complaints from the past two years to use. "We the people," in the stirring words of the preamble to the U.S. Constitution, get our shot to shape history and to stand for everything we believe in, even if it feels like choosing the lesser of two evils.

Don't waste this chance. Vote.

Heard on The Hill

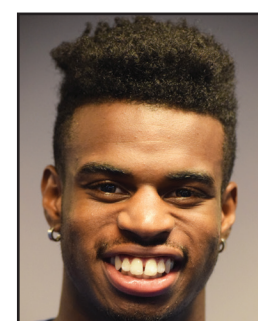
What people are saying on topics of interest.

By Marlon Edgardo Flores-Paniagua

Mount Mercy University is celebrating its 90th birthday this year, so the Times asked students: What is one thing you want to accomplish before you turn 90?



Alan Milliman, freshman, computer science major. "I want to go to the South Pole, do a handstand and hold the earth up."



Josiah Watson, freshman, nursing major. "I want to visit the Holy Land (Jerusalem) and I want to visit the Church of the Nativity where Jesus was born."



Natalie Kosek, senior, nursing major and psychology minor. "To be a great grandma."



Jarred Tegeler, freshman, biology major and psychology minor. "I want to have a family and go to every single national park in the country."



Sophie Feahn, freshman, criminal justice major. "I want to live to be 90 and see all of my grandchildren."



Molly Simpson, freshman, nursing major. "I want to go down in Tennessee and live in the mountains."



Maria Awwal/Times

Cedar Rapids community members (above) walk from Greene Square to the Cedar River chanting and carrying signs about climate change. Rachael Murtaugh, Director of Sustainability, is joined by two Mount Mercy students at the march for climate change (right).

Cedar Rapids Community Marches Against Climate Change

By Maria Awwal
Staff Writer

On Sept. 15, the community of Cedar Rapids came out to gather and express their concerns for climate change, emphasizing the need for government to take some concrete action.

The gathering had a number of stalls and activities to engage everyone in activities building up the voice against climate change.

The event proceeded with a gathering in Greene

Square Park. This lead to a march to the river with climate change slogans and chants, and ended with a prayer on the Cedar River which invited people of all religions in the community including those practicing Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

The event had stalls for organizations like Feed Iowa First, Alliant Energy, Sierra Club, and First Gen Iowa. The stalls at the park held activities, including a ribbon tree where people were supposed to write one thing they are not ready to sacrifice because of climate change on a ribbon. They would then hang it on a metallic frame so that the abundant amount of

hanging ribbons would show the high stakes people are risking for climate change.

Also, they had a banner-making stall where they were recycling the old banners and inviting people to draw a protest sign of their choice on the opposite side of the used banner

Several Mount Mercy faculty, staff, and students were present at the event. Two ECO club members along with the Director of Sustainability Rachel Murtaugh participated in the event.

The event started at 10 a.m. and a number of representatives from organizations were invited to speak

on the cause, including the representative of Sierra Club who voiced his concerns with genuine expressions.

Finally, the march to the river started around 11a.m., where every participant was handed a sheet with climate change chants printed on them.

By the end of the event, everyone was seated in the tree shade near the river and listened to the words of clergy people representing a range of religions in the community.

“We are hoping to install a third,” Murtaugh said. “Through the three gardens we will be capturing water from half of the roof, which is about 5,000 square feet.”

AmeriCorps Helps MMU Design Rain Garden

◆ Volunteers Dig from page 1

of mouth. I talked with Cara, who is a storm water director for Cedar Rapids, who brought it to my attention.”

Other than just managing storm water, the garden is also used to help

insects. Monarchs would also lay eggs on the plants.

“The native plants help pollinators, so native bees and butterflies because those are the plants that they are naturally adapted to using,” Murtaugh said. “For example, the first rain garden we put in, it was only a few months old and we

already had monarchs laying eggs on the milkweed that was in there.”

AmeriCorps did all the work in installing the first rain garden and helped out with the second, but Mount Mercy was able to do a lot of their own work with the second garden.

“We went through AmeriCorps,

they designed the first one for us,” Murtaugh said. “They figured out how much square foot we are draining from the roof, how many plants we needed, and types of plants. They still helped with the design with the second one but we did most of installation ourselves. We kind of more designed it as a partnership.”



Concerned with the Earth

Harmony with the Natural World is Key in Living Full Life

Assistant Professor of Philosophy Uses Pope Francis Encyclical to Talk Sustainability

By Courtney Hoffman
News Editor

In the second event of this year’s Fall Faculty Series: Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si*: Harmony with the Natural Order and the Dignity of Creatures, Dr. Bryan Cross, assistant professor of philosophy, explained the religious perspective on the current sustainability crisis.

The event, held in Flaherty at 7 p.m. on Sept. 18, included several excerpts from *Laudato Si*, the second encyclical of Pope Francis. In it, he laments the rise of consumerism, environmental degradation, and the human mindset which allows these things to continue.

Cross began the event with a statement about our ethical obligation to live with and respect the natural order.

“In order to stop the unsustainable practices that are currently harming humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems and to achieve a sustainable way of life as a society, we have to overcome this philosophical blindness by which you reduce everything to its utility and consume and pollute as if

there is no natural order,” he said.

Cross also spoke of the necessary harmony between humans, God, and nature that must be respected, and gave several examples of the injustices that have come about as we neglect to uphold it. These include the several species we’ve hunted into extinction, massive deforestation, mountains being flattened for coal mining, and several other events which come together to form an ominous picture.

Another key issue Cross identified is the mindset which allows us to take advantage of the environment and the creatures that live in it—including other human beings. When we fail to see the intrinsic dignity in other living beings, we begin to view them as objects to take advantage of.

Though it may be easy for us to see non-humans as tools for our survival with a market value, Cross argues that these beings have their own intrinsic dignity and don’t exist to make our

“We have to overcome this philosophical blindness by which you reduce everything to its utility and consume and pollute as if there is no natural order”

Bryan Cross



Matthew Mumm/Times

Dr. Bryan Cross, Assistant Professor of Philosophy gives insight on the relationship between humans, God, and the natural world at his event in the Fall Faculty Series.

lives more convenient.

“They have a priority of being—existing—over just first being useful,” said Cross.

“It’s a hard thing to see, intrinsic dignity,” Cross added. “It’s easy to see the market value of something. It’s harder to see the intrinsic value of something. We have to learn to see deeply. To see the harmonies that tie all things together in the natural order. To see

the harmonies that tie all things together in the natural order. To see

ourselves in that order, and to see the intrinsic dignity in the creatures God has made.”

Though this all comes together to form a daunting picture, Cross ended the event with a reminder that we shouldn’t give up hope.

“It’s easy to fall into despair,” he said. “I think even as a person of faith your response to that can’t be to just wallow in despair and existential angst. You have to say ‘Well, what can I do?’ There has to be some small hope. We can do something together. We have to try.”





Stephanie McDonald/Times

Sisters of Mercy and others join hands to join a peace pole at the convent with one on campus for the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21.

Xavier, Regis Students Join MMU in Peace Day Ceremony

By Paige Toomer
Staff Writer

Mount Mercy joined with Xavier High School and Regis Middle school on Sept. 21 to celebrate the International Day of Peace.

The day is celebrated every year at Mount Mercy University as students from all three schools join to link hands, reaching from one peace pole at the convent to the other in the plaza while singing the song "Peace is Flowing into the River."

As part of the celebration, people are supposed to give one minute of silence to be in harmony with the rest of the world, as each region is silent at the exact moment.

According to Sister Emily Devine, the International Day of Peace first appeared when a declaration was drafted on Dec. 10, 1948. "This declaration is amazing because it has been translated to more than 500 languages from all around the world," she said.

This year marks the 70th year of celebrating the International Day of Peace. The theme this year is The Right to Peace - the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A statement from the UN

Secretary General Antonio Guterres describes this day as a "milestone in the history of human rights when peace takes root and we are free from hunger and trafficking and poverty and depression and can thrive and prosper in a better world."

Sister Emily's favorite part of the International Day of Peace is "knowing we can get the world out that peace is God's message to us."

This Mount Mercy tradition was founded by the Sisters of Mercy, as a huge part of the Sisters' mission is seeking peace and non-violence.

Campus Minister Erin Broich said, "It is important to stop and think about the issues that the sisters hold as vital, while also thinking about what peace means to us."

This day also shares one of the five critical concerns as the International Day of Peace provides support for non-violence around the world.

Sister Emily Devine noted the importance of such events to remind us of the importance of individual actions to better the world.

"Always say 'what can I do now,'" she said.

'Predator' Proves Poor Sex Jokes Don't Make A Movie Great

"The Predator" (2018) falls short of anything remotely great. The film starts off with a simple premise: a young boy discovers Predator technology and accidentally summons them back to Earth. Now it's up to a ragtag team of ex-soldiers and a science teacher (Olivia Munn) to take the Predators down and save all of mankind.

The premise seems like a simple action/science-fiction film; however, when director Shane Black adds in an enormous amount of crude, sexual jokes that fall flat and loads of toxic masculinity, the film cannot help but shut in on itself.

The cast is a mixed-bag of action film stars and comedians that ultimately aren't developed well enough as characters for the film's audience to care. Keegan Michael-Key, arguably the most popular cast member, stands out as the funniest character (which surprises no one). However, the jokes that come out of his mouth are poorly written and seemed to be in the film purely for those who don't enjoy clever humor.

The jokes become repetitive. There's only so many times that a comedian can throw a bunch of swear words and sexual terms together and make it funny. This wouldn't have been much of an issue if Shane Black hadn't made all the jokes this way. In my experience with the film, only about a third of the jokes landed their punchline.

I have to give Shane Black and crew some credit for being able to have such thrilling visual effects, especially when it came to the Predators' make-up and costumes. The creatures looked incredibly real and as equally threatening. I only wish that the Predators had more screen-time

Review



Chuck Uthe
Staff Writer

in the film, but sadly most of the film's one hour and 47-minutes was dedicated to following around the humans.

The Predators were easily the best part of the film because wherever they went, that's where the action would go as well. The action was cinematic and felt fresh, for the most part. There were a couple of moments that felt out-of-place. For example, how the ex-soldiers kept shooting the Predators even though the film had already established that regular guns aren't as effective.

The film lacks any real motivation to be a great action-flick. Black focuses way too heavily on crude humor to carry the film to victory. The female characters, all of which are just Olivia Munn's science teacher and Yvonne Strahovski's (Chuck, The

Handmaid's Tale) house-wife/artist, feel extremely under-developed and are the center of most of the sexual jokes.

I wanted Olivia Munn to strive for greatness, but her character only ends up joking around with the rest of the guys.

In the end, "The Predator" is a major disappointment when it comes to sci-fi/action films. The only thing great about this film is the visual effects, and the poorly-developed characters and crude jokes only drag the film down.

The worst part about the film is that it set itself up for a sequel, but with how horrible it was, I hope it doesn't get the chance to try again. If you're looking for a great action film to watch this weekend, "The Predator" isn't it.

Verdict: 4/10

Food Packaging Event

Sunday, Sept. 30

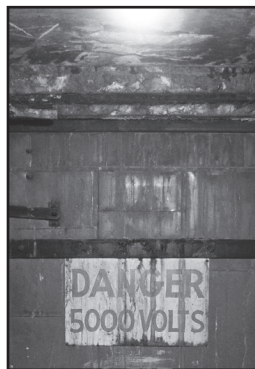
1pm-4pm

Betty Cherry



Check your e-mail to sign up!

Sponsored by Mission and Ministry,
Homecoming Committee and
Alumni Reunion Weekend



Courtney Hoffman/Times

Some views of the MMU tunnels. Comforting sign on a door (left) and view heading from Warde Hall (right)

Tunnel Visions

Conquer Your Fears of What Hides Under The Hill



Hello ladies and gentlemen; welcome to the Truth of Youthe, an advice column for Mount Mercy students. Our first submission comes to us from an anonymous contact who wants to know how best to conquer their fear of the tunnel system on campus.

Chuck—My advice to you is to not fear the tunnel itself, but what lurks behind the shadows inside the cemented hall. The tunnel system is there to protect you from the icy snow or rain above ground, but it is not there to protect you from what lies inside.

I would recommend wearing headphones and listening to some soothing music. Focus on the rhythm of the music and the tender bliss of the singer's voice instead of the shadowy figure stepping out from behind that large metal door with a hazardous sign on it. Listen carefully to the singer as they tell you the world is beautiful while the paintings on

The Truth of Youthe



Chuck Uthe and Matt Trueblood
Sages and Staff Writers

the wall slowly morph themselves into your deepest darkest fears.

Open your ears to the sweet melodies of that piano and draw your eyes away from the rat cult that is gathering and sacrificing breadcrumbs to the eternal rat god Atricious. Snap along to the catchy beat as the shadows lurch forward in your direction, slowly making

their way towards you. Then, as you approach the door to Warde, take a deep breath and quickly close the door behind, entrapping the spirits that roam the tunnel system once again.

Trueblood—I remember getting lost in the Mount Mercy tunnels freshman year. I was trapped down there for four entire minutes! I didn't know enough about the tunnels to find my own way out. Now, knowledge is power, and if you want the power to overcome your fear of the tunnels, then I advise you to study them.

Think like the tunnels. Know the tunnels better than Facilities does. Heck, join

Facilities! Learn the complexities of the pipes that run throughout the tunnels. Memorize the locations of the mouse traps. Read the ventilation blueprints. Be the first one to volunteer when a coupling slips and the pipes start leaking. Is there a bad smell on the incline under Hennessy? You know what cleaning products work best on that concrete, get down there and fix it.

Eventually, you'll understand that the tunnels are nothing to be afraid of! The tunnels will no longer be an aspect of fear for you; they will be a point of annoyance instead! You won't be afraid of entering the tunnels, you'll be irritated that you have to go down there again. "I haven't seen the sunlight in days!" You'll say. "I see the boiler room door more often than my roommates!" Your irritation will overshadow your dread, and isn't that better?

If you have an issue, quandary, or problem about anything at all, we can help. Send your questions to us at truthofyouthe@gmail.com or @ChuckUthe on Twitter. You have questions, we have advice, let us help you! And, as always, be a sweetie, wipe the seatie.

Essayist, Poet Speaks Thursday

By Caroline Groesbeck
Editor in Chief

Arón a. abeyta (who spells his name without capital letters) will answer questions and read his work Thursday in two separate events.

abeyta is from Antonito, Colo., where he serves as the mayor. He is a former football coach, and professor at Adam State University in Alamosa, Colo.

abeyta is best known for his poetry and episatolary essays, where he captures the attention of readers with creative decisions, including his use of English and Spanish throughout his writing and a staunch refusal to capitalize his name. abeyta works to capture the human experience and connect to the environment through his writing.

The English department will hold a Q and A session with abeyta at 3:30 p.m. and a reading at 7 p.m. in the Flaherty Community Room, located in Basile Hall, room 204.

"He has that deep connection to land and the earth and to sustaining what has existed that violence has been done to," Assistant Professor of English Dr. Eden Wales Freedman said.

Wales Freedman worked with abeyta at Adam State University before coming to Mount Mercy University. When the English program was discussing what writer it should bring in, Wales Freedman

suggested abeyta. "His poetry really just embodies all of the critical concerns."

Carol Tyx, professor of English, is in charge of the Visiting Writer Series this year. "In the Visiting Writer Series, our goal is to bring in a variety of voices and people that we think will appeal to different audiences," she said.

abeyta also fits in well with the Fall Faculty Series' theme of sustainability. Wales Freedman said, "He sees, in his poetry at least, the land itself as a character or a subject that great wrong has been done to and that part of that can be redressed through the power of word or language or poetry."

Celebrate the Season with Times Fall Puzzle

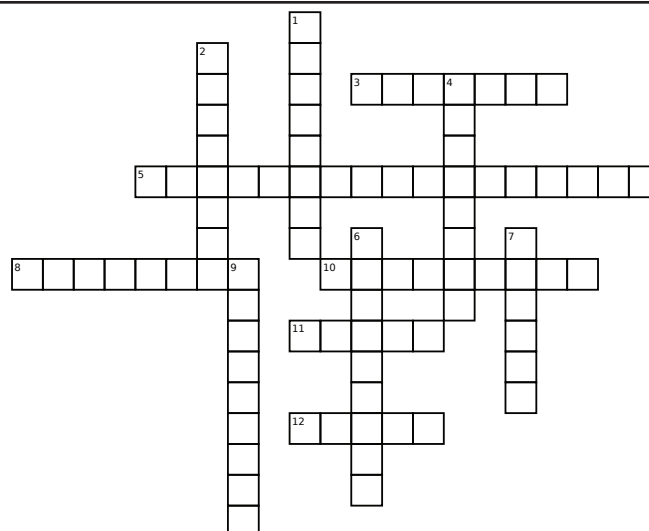
(Puzzle written by Savannah Oler. Puzzle design copyright Education.com. Answers on Times web site, times.mtmercy.edu.)

Down:

1. you carve these
2. people go in these to willingly get lost find their way out
4. a chocolaty drink that warms even the coldest of souls
6. a fall candy that lowans should love
7. you grudgingly rake these
9. a human made of straw to scare birds

Across:

3. a place where apples are picked and sold
5. a Starbucks' fall favorite
8. you roast weenies over these
10. the next upcoming ~spooky~ holiday
11. a fancy word for warm apple juice
12. one of these will say "BOO"





Matthew Mumm/Times

Coach Amir Hadzic gives instruction to his players before the Sept. 15 home match against Waldorf. Hadzic is currently in his 24th season as head coach of Mount Mercy's mens soccer program, and has recently picked up his 200th win.

Coach Hadzic Reflects on 200 Wins

By Mahlon Steepleton
Sports Editor

On Labor Day, Sept. 3, men's soccer coach Amir Hadzic got his 200th career win as a coach.

For Hadzic, coaching soccer at Mount Mercy University and Xavier High School has been a privilege, an honor and a wonderful experience for the last 20 years. Hadzic is in his 24th season as a coach here at MMU.

The Mustangs beat Iowa Wesleyan 2-0 at the Robert W. Plaster Athletic Complex. It was a very special win for Hadzic.

"It was a surreal experience, 200 wins means that you stayed at the job you love and cherish for a long time," said Hadzic. "I also thought of all those student athletes I had the privilege to coach over the last 20-plus years—each one of those wins is theirs as well."

Every year Hadzic has a

goal for the team. That goal is to compete at a high level and compete for the NAIA National Championship.

"We play in the toughest soccer conference in NAIA and it will be challenging. However, we have a well-balanced and experienced team and I think we can go far this year," Hadzic said.

He says coaching high school and coaching college has its differences and challenges, but both bring different aspects of coaching to surface.

"In high school, you work with kids who are already attending the school and you try to be a positive role model

and create positive habits and an atmosphere for the kids to succeed," Hadzic said.

"In college, you recruit

your own team so you are directly responsible for student athletes who are a part of your team. It's challenging to have players from all over the world in our team as they bring their differ-

"I also thought of all those student athletes I had the privilege to coach over the last 20-plus years—each one of those wins is theirs as well."

Amir Hadzic, men's soccer coach

ent experiences with them," Hadzic said.

Hadzic enjoys all the athletes he's coached. "However, when all those experiences align in one direction, it's the most magical thing! We are one team, one world," Hadzic said.



Matthew/Mumm

A Mount Mercy soccer player passes the ball through the Waldorf defender.

Soccer Ends in Draw

By Matthew Mumm
Staff Writer

Excitement was in the air as the men's soccer team took the field against Waldorf at Robert W. Plaster Athletic Complex Sept. 15 at 3:30 p.m.

The Warriors were able to get their first goal against the Mustang's within 11 minutes of the first half, making the score 0 to 1 in favor of the Warriors. As the first half continued on, it was a back-and-forth game. With four minutes and five seconds left in the game clock in the first half, Souleymane Diallo, a senior business administration major, scored the first goal for the Mustangs to tie the game at 1 to 1.

During the second half, the Warriors were able to make their second goal at the exact same 11-minute mark, made by number 29 Goitom Kidane, to make the score 2 to 1.

"We are playing better now, then in the first half," said Yves Shabani.

"We just need to be patient," he said. Shabani is a sophomore computer science major, who is currently injured and will be expecting to play in next week's game.

With 10 minutes and 17 seconds

"We played hard and we had put in a lot of work for today's game. I really appreciate the other players, we play well together as a team,"

Souleymane Diallo, senior

left of the second half, Diallo got past the Warriors defense and scored the second point for the Mustangs to tie the game 2-2. As the second half continued, both teams kept on playing hard, but neither team was able to score

again and at the end of regulation were tied 2 to 2.

As the Warriors and Mustangs went into double overtime, both teams kept playing competitively. At the end of the second overtime, the score remained the same, which then ended the game in a draw.

"We played hard and we had put in a lot of work for today's game. I really appreciate the other players, we play well together as a team," said Diallo.

With this game, the Mustangs are now 4 and 0 along with 2 ties.



Mustang Womens Volleyball Wins, Loses



Caleigh McGuire/ Times

The womens volleyball team lost against William Penn on Sept. 11 and won against Graceland University on Sept. 14.

Number 6, Lauren Stopko (above) looks on as number 17, Kayla Daggett sets the ball.

Sam Whalen (above) pushes the ball to the outsider hitter. Lauren Stopko (far left) serves the ball. Alyssa Weldon (left) passes the ball.



Sports shorts

Mens and Womens Cross Country Claim Titles in California

The mens and womens cross-country teams were successful in Bakersfield, California for the Bakersfield Invitational on Friday, Sept. 21. McKenna Johnson was the first to finish for the Mustangs in the womens 5k with a time of 20:37. That was good for third place overall out of the women's field. Mount Mercy had six racers finish in the top 10, including Andrea Ertz (6th/21:22), Vanessa Cortes (7th/21:34), Samantha Croghan (8th/21:45),

Alexa Zamora (9th/21:57), and Kathryn Vander Poel finishing (10th/21:59). James Lindstrom ran the four-mile race with a time of 22:06 which was good for first place overall. Also finishing in the top 10 was Aaron Golding with a time of 22:32, and a second overall finish. Colton Forster finished fifth (22:50), and Michael Marshall and Jacob Blackmon finished with times of 22:52 and 23:07. The Mustangs won the women's team title with 33 points, and the men's team won their title with a total score of 22 points. The Mustangs next meet will be the Dan Huston Invitational on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in Waverly, Iowa.

Two-Day Golf Event Ends with Team Score of 868

The mens golf team competed in The Warrior Challenge at The Preserve on Rathburn Lake. The competitive field of teams played 36 holes in two days. The Mustangs finished in fourth place with a team score of 868 behind the senior leader Will Bruyeres, who finished in a tie for third with a 54-hole score of 207 (-9). Also, finishing in the top 20 for the Mustangs was Thomas Schuhkraft, senior, (220/15th), Nile Happel, sophomore, and Philip Nelson, junior, (222/19th).

Womens Soccer Narrowly Loses Sept. 22 Game

Graceland University came back from a 3-1 deficit to beat the Mustang women's soccer team on Sept. 22, in Lamoni, Iowa. Graceland stole a victory from the Mustangs in the fifth minute of overtime when a Mustang defender headed a strike from Graceland into her own goal for a 4-3 Mustang loss. The Mustangs take a 3-2-2 overall record and 1-1-0 mark into conference play.

Fighting for the Future: Freshman Encourages Students to Register to Vote

By Courtney Hoffman
News Editor

The main thing that sets Mount Mercy apart from other colleges is its spirit of service and dedication to making the community a better place. Despite only moving in a little over a month ago, freshman Emma Lantz has been working hard to do her part in keeping this spirit alive.

Lantz has a lot on her plate as she pursues a double major in criminal justice and psychology with a Spanish minor. She's a member of the law and politics club, the eco club, and SAVS on campus. She's also been working tirelessly with NextGen America, a nonprofit committee dedicated to political action and sustainable living, to encourage students to vote.

Lantz says she didn't grow up in a particularly political family but had been wanting to get more politically involved. That's when she found NextGen.

"I started volunteering with NextGen after March for Our Lives came to Cedar

Rapids," she said. "It kind of snowballed from there and I just love it."

Her main focus is to get people out to the polls for the midterm elections on Nov. 6, and to let them know that they have the ability to vote while helping students register.

"Just in Iowa, there's 600,000 potential young voters, but we vote at the lowest rate of any demographic," Lantz said. "So, it's really hard to get our voices heard when we don't vote. So, we're just trying to register students to vote, pledge them to vote to make sure they do get out to the polls in November."

So far, Lantz has had a booth at the involvement fair, a few tabling events outside the UC, and had personally visited several classrooms on campus to share information about voting and registration resources.

The reaction overall has been mixed with some professors saying they'd prefer to keep politics out of the classroom. Overall, though, Lantz says reception has been positive. Several talks with administration have left an impact, and many are

SNAPSHOT

Meet the people
on The Hill

Emma Lantz



Courtney Hoffman/ Times

Emma Lantz presents in a class, emphasizing the importance of voting.

excited to see her hard work come to light.

"Me being able to get the word out about it and registering more people to vote and getting a voting place on campus is something they're really looking forward to, which has been good to see," Lantz said. "It's nice to see that reaction."

Though she hasn't done anything like this before, Lantz is extremely pleased with the results. All 100 signatures needed to add a new polling place on campus have been collected and turned into the auditor, making it possible for students to vote on campus. She's hoping that easy access to the polls will further encourage students to

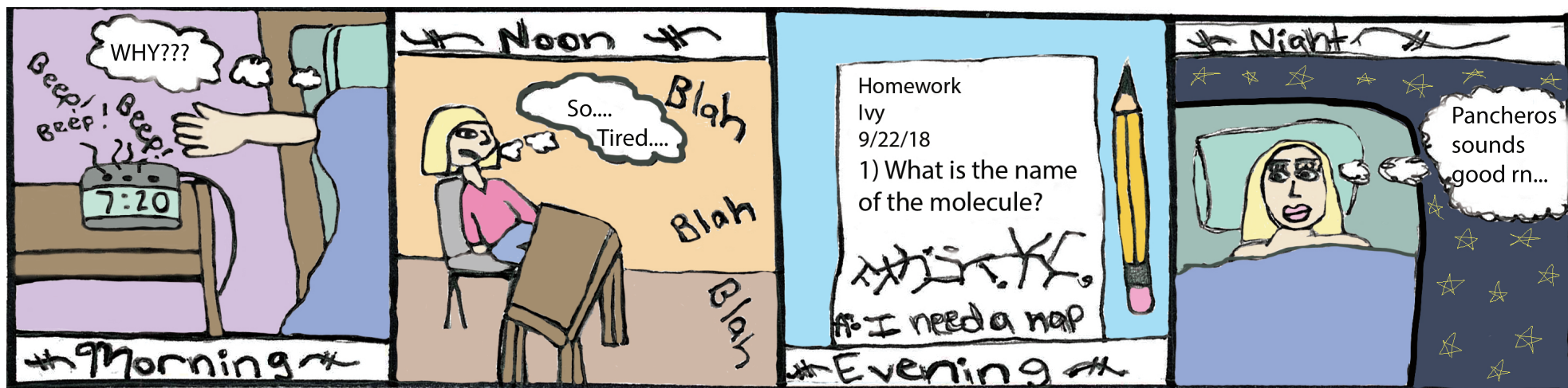
vote for the midterms.

"The main thing that I want young people to know is that your voice matters, and that voting is an important role that you play in democracy in general," Lantz said. "And even though it is kind of scary with politics, it is still an important part of our culture and the way our politics do end up playing out. Please register to vote. If not with me, online."

Students can register to vote online at nextgenamerica.org/register.

Editor's Note: Related commentary, staff editorial, page 5.

Intermediate Ivy by Savannah Oler



Savannah Oler