

Jade Milota/ Times

The old Chapel of Mercy spire was removed due to structural issues causing leaks in the chapel. The spire went through a redesign and was installed again on Sept. 26. The new Chapel of Mercy spire will be rededicated on Nov. 1 at 12:15 p.m.

Spire on The Chapel Again

Iconic MMU Symbol to be Rededicated After Mass on Friday

By Jade Milota
Staff Writer

For months, an iconic symbol of Mount Mercy, the cross on the spire of the Chapel of Mercy, has been missing. This fall, the symbol has returned and will soon be rededicated.

"The spire is more than an architectural element. It's shares the university's religious stance and embodies the mission for showing compassion," Father Anthony Adawu, chaplain said.

The cross is arguably one of the stron-



gest symbols in religion and is an iconic feature at Mount Mercy University, which is why the newly designed spire located atop the chapel will be celebrated Friday, Nov. 1. The rededication will follow the All Saints liturgy around 12:15 p.m. with a prayer in the chapel-library atrium.

"It identifies who we are as a Catholic Mercy institution and what we are about on this campus," said Sister Linda Bechen, vice president for mission and ministry. "To have it back in place is a constant reminder of our tradition and our legacy. This is who we are and we are proud to proclaim it to all."

After a leak in the building appeared

"Every day I walk up the hill and see the spire, and it reminds me of why I chose this college. I love that I can focus on my academics while building my relationship with God."

Michaela Bailey

nearly 10 years ago, David Dennis, director of facilities, launched an investigation beginning with a focus on the roof and glass windows in the center of the chapel. The culprit: deteriorated weld joints admitted water inside tubing of the

original spire.

A redesigned spire, without joints, was installed by two cranes on Sept. 26. Dennis shares his hopes that the spire will be maintenance-free for the next 50 years.

Members of the Catholic faith such as students, staff and faculty view the spire and chapel as more than just another building on campus, but as a safe place to strengthen their religion.

"Every day I walk up the Hill and see the spire, and it reminds me of why I chose this college. I love that I can focus on my academics while building my relationship with God," said Michaela Bailey, junior nursing major.

Bailey isn't the only person who recognizes the spire as an iconic symbol at MMU.

"Mount Mercy is dubbed as the highest point in Linn County," Sister Bechen said. "The spire reaching to the heavens exceeds this even more. My hope is that the spire will firmly stand on top of the chapel for years to come, and that it be a constant reminder of who we are, who's we are, and what we are about on this campus."

"It is my hope that this spire may inspire all here at Mount Mercy to aspire to greatness as persons of compassion to all the world," she added.

Impeachment Means More than Just a Vote

By Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

Over the past few months, impeachment has become the buzz word that no one can seem to stop talking about. From television news to

print media to Twitter feeds, talk of impeachment is everywhere.

Despite the topic's prevalence, many Americans don't truly know what the impeachment process entails. What many people see as a quick fix to the country's Presidential woes is actually a very complex process.

Impeachment is a right given to Congress in the Constitution, which states that, "The President, Vice President and all Civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

According to Allison McNeese, assistant professor of history, the impeachment pro-

cess begins with an inquiry in the House of Representatives. After moving through a few internal steps, the House votes on impeachment. If the House achieves a simple majority of votes, which means that at least

half of the members present vote "yes" to impeachment, then the president is impeached, and the process moves into the Senate.

The Senate then holds a trial, where senators decide if the president

has committed a crime. It takes a two-thirds majority vote to convict the president, in which case the president would be removed from office.

As far as the grounds that the current president could be impeached upon, McNeese said that the phrase "other high Crimes and Misdemeanors" is intentionally vague, so Congress can charge presidents in ways that they deem appropriate.

McNeese also emphasized that there is a big difference between being impeached and



Official White House Image

President Trump is under investigation by the House of Representatives and may become the third President of the United States to be impeached. The others were President Andrew Johnson, who became president after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, and President Bill Clinton in the 1990s. Neither Johnson nor Clinton was convicted by the Senate. President Richard Nixon was being investigated by the House for impeachment when he chose to resign.

being removed from office. "Impeachment means that the president is put on trial, not that the president is removed from office," she said. This means that a president can be impeached by the House but can stay in office afterward.

In fact, that very situation has occurred before. In 1868, the House impeached President Andrew Johnson, but the Senate didn't convict him, so he remained in office.

President Bill Clinton was also impeached by the House in 1998, but the Senate failed to convict him. In fact, the United States has never convicted a President. Richard Nixon likely would have been impeached, but he resigned in 1973 before the process caught up to him.

Though many people are understandably confused by

the impeachment process, there are still many students here at Mount Mercy who are in the loop with how it works. Freshman actuarial science major Quinton Gaul and political science and psychology major Maggie Peterson both have a good understanding of the process and have ideas on why college students should care about it.

"I'm no law major," Gaul said, "but I understand impeachment. I know impeaching someone doesn't mean they have to leave office." He added, "I don't know if impeaching Trump would be a good thing or a bad thing. Maybe the chaos in the White House just wouldn't even be worth it, especially since he may be voted out in 2020 anyway."

Peterson feels similarly. She said she has a good understand-

ing of how impeachment works, but also added that "the process makes me worried because of how polarized the country is right now. I'm terrified that impeaching the president would make the divide even deeper."

Peterson's concerns are certainly not unwarranted; the United States' political scene is incredibly tense tight now. Tensions are running high on both sides of the aisle.

McNeese said that at the moment, "talk of impeachment is unavoidable."

Students at Mount Mercy and Americans everywhere should pay close attention to the impeachment process. As Maggie Peterson put it, "we can't just go through life with the mentality that what happens in Washington doesn't matter. It does. Politics affects everything."

Heads up:

Halloween Dance

A Halloween dance is being held on Friday, Nov. 1 in the University Commons from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., following Halloween on the Hill. Food, drinks and a costume contest will be available at this monster mash.

Art Faculty Exhibition

The art of current MMU faculty members will be on display in Mount Mercy's Janalyn Hanson White Gallery from Monday, Nov. 4 through Thursday, Nov. 21. The gallery is open from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Fall Faculty Series

Father Tony Adawu will speak for the Fall Faculty Series on Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Flaherty Community Room. The event, called "Food and the Making of a People: A Biblical Perspective" will assess the role of food in how God makes a people for Himself.

Build-A-Critter

Students can come down to the University Center at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5 to build their own stuffed animal. Quantities are limited, so students are encouraged to head over as soon as possible.

Visiting Writer:

Patricia Park

On Thursday, Nov. 7, author Patricia Park will be hosting a Q&A session at 3:30 p.m. and a reading at 7 p.m. in Flaherty Community Room.



Haley Weideman/ Times

Current state of the Mercy Drive during the construction process. Before, the roadway had multiple, deep potholes that were dangerous for drivers. They also plan to switch to concrete instead of asphalt, which would lessen maintenance roles.

Mercy Drive Closed Until Spring For Repaving Project

By Haley Weideman
Staff Writer

From Prairie Drive NE to the entrance of the pit closest to the Chapel, Mercy Drive is closed for construction until spring 2020. The small portion of Mercy Drive is under construction after the project has been pushed back since May due to weather and other complications.

“The long-term goal is to get rid of all asphalt on campus, including parking lots, and replace it with concrete,” explains Dave Dennis, head of facilities. “It’s easier to maintain and lasts 10 times longer.”

During the winter months, sliding vehicles can be a concern for students, bus drivers and faculty. Facilities has been

advised not to lay ice melt for an entire year following the pouring of concrete on Mercy Drive, which accounts, in part, for the delayed construction of the entire drive.

The road will not only be improving in quality; it will be improving in width. The new road will be as wide as the city code allows. This will make turns onto Prairie Drive NE much easier for drivers.

The next section uphill of Mercy Drive will be torn up and replaced with concrete during the 2020 spring semester. There won’t be any issues with accessing buildings, but places such as the convent might have to be accessed through other points of entry.

Mock Caucus: Small Turnout, Big Impact for College Students



Jada Veasey/Times

Event attendees participate in a mock caucus on Oct. 25 (above), which was hosted by the Law & Politics Club with help from NextGen Iowa. Law and Politics club president Emma Lantz works as an emcee for the event and gives a speech (left).

Betty Cherry Becomes Venue to Practice Politics

By Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

For one night only, Mount Mercy’s own Betty Cherry Hall was transformed into a polling place. The Law & Politics Club hosted a Mock Caucus on Friday, Oct. 25 with some help from NextGen Iowa, a political action committee that helps to promote progressive candidates and inform the public about political issues.

Law & Politics Club president Emma Lantz said that the goal of the event was

to “educate students on what the caucus is and what they can expect in February.” Despite Lantz’ high hopes and ambitious decision to budget the event for 100 people, only nine people participated in the mock caucus, and only two of the attendees were Mount Mercy students.

In addition to the nine participants, representatives from the Kamala Harris campaign and staff members from NextGen Iowa were also present.

Murphy Burke, press secretary of NextGen Iowa, said, “We have noticed

that when people vote early, they’re more likely to vote often,” then added, “We want people to feel ready come February to vote in their caucus and from there feel ready to vote in the 2020 general election.”

The event’s low turnout did not stop Lantz from being a charismatic host. The event was emceed by Lantz and an organizer from NextGen Iowa. The two xs initially spoke about how the caucus process works – how to choose a candidate, how it differs from other types of elections, and what to expect in February when the real caucus is held.

Participants in the mock caucus were enthusiastic and receptive to the event, playing along with the guidelines set by the event’s organizers. They began their night by siding with their first choice of candidate, but just like in real life, participants were forced to side with other candidates if their initial choices were declared “nonviable.” This just means that

a candidate doesn’t have a large enough percentage of the vote in the caucus to be counted as a choice.

In addition to learning a lot about how the caucus process works, attendees were also offered complimentary root beer floats and lots of NextGen merchandise, including buttons, ponchos, and even reusable straws.

“Overall I think the event was still successful,” Lantz said afterwards. “Not as many people showed up as we expected, but the ones that did learned something. If we hold another event like this in the future, I hope more Mount Mercy students show up. College students should take an active role in politics.”

The actual Iowa caucus will be held on Monday, Feb. 3, 2020. Mount Mercy is in precinct 17, which has six delegates. Mustangs should keep their eyes peeled for more caucus news and updates as February creeps closer.

“We want people to feel ready come February to vote in their caucus and from there feel ready to vote in the 2020 general election.”

Murphy Burke, press secretary of NextGen Iowa

MMUANS Make the Cut to Florida at the IANS Convention

By Nicole Carl
Club & Organizations Editor

The MMU Association of Nursing Students (MMUANS) had a very successful day at the Iowa Association of Nursing Students (IANS) Convention on Oct. 14 with both of its proposed resolutions being passed at the meeting.

IANS, which serves as the Iowa chapter of the National Student Nurses’ Association, is a pre-professional organization created to help nursing students prepare to finish their degrees and become licensed RNs.

Two separate Mount Mercy resolution groups—teams of student writers that collaborate to propose healthcare policy guide-

lines—attended the conference.

Resolutions that are “passed” are accepted by IANS and sent off to various organizations throughout Iowa and the country with the hope that they will eventually influence real healthcare policy.

The first resolution group, “Increased Support for Continued Competency in Physical Assessment Skills for Practicing Nurses,” was led by junior Marshall Muehlbauer. The second resolution group, “In Support of Implementing Postpartum Emergency Carts to Decrease Maternal Morbidity,” was led by senior Mikaela Rans.

The conference also included tables that were

each ran by different schools and agencies such as the Army and Mayo Clinic. Tyler Poldervaart, director of graduate recruitment and admissions, also came and ran his own table for Mount Mercy.

In addition to this, there were panels that attendees were able to go to with topics like traveling nursing, life post-NCLEX (a nationwide nursing exam) and more.

Out of 10 resolutions from various schools, Mount Mercy student groups proposed two.

They are now moving on to the National Student Nurses Association convention in Orlando, Florida, this spring.

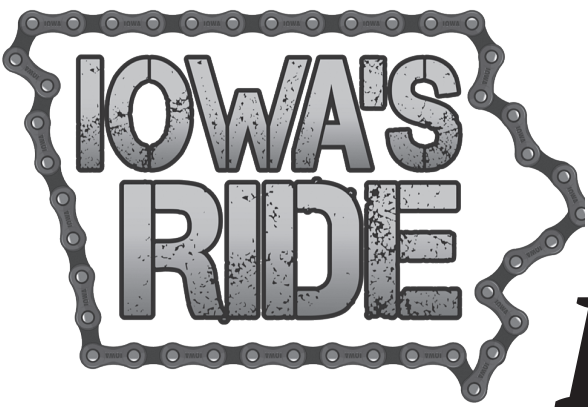


Mikaela Rans/Contributed

Mount Mercy nursing majors pose for a group photo after attending the annual Iowa Association of Nursing Students Convention in Des Moines on Oct. 14.

www.iowasride.com, ragbrai.com

After the Carson King controversy, RAGBRAI is in jeopardy, with Iowa's Ride, a new organization, splitting off. Logo for the new "Iowa Ride" left, and a recent RAGBRAI logo, right. Both rides are currently set for the final full week of July next year.



Goodbye to RAGBRAI?

King Controversy Creates Royal Mess for the Des Moines Register

Recently, the RAGBRAI director for the past 16 years and his entire staff stepped down in response to the Des Moines Register's handling of the media storm that surrounded the Carson King blowup.

Now a household name in Iowa, Carson King held up a beer money sign at the Iowa/Iowa State game, which resulted in \$3 million being donated to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

In covering this story, the Des Moines Register found racist tweets on King's twitter feed

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The opinion of Times editors

originating from his high school years. Iowans were quick to respond, unsubscribing from the Register, leaving comments on its social media in support of King, and labeling King's tweets as a "thing of the past" and "irrelevant to the great deed he did." To make matters more complicated, the reporter who covered this story was also found to have tweeted racist and misogynist thoughts.

It was no secret the Des Moines Register was in crisis mode and acted quickly to stop the bleeding. Carol Hunter, executive editor for the Des Moines Register, released a statement saying, "Reasonable people can look at the same set of facts

and disagree on what merits publication. But rest assured such decisions are not made lightly and are rooted in what we perceive as the public good."

So, how does RAGBRAI fit in to this? Well, RAGBRAI, an acronym that stands for Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, is sponsored by the Des Moines Register.

In a statement released by former director of RAGBRAI, T.J. Juskiewicz says, "RAGBRAI's

We feel like this situation has been blown out of proportion and might cause the state of Iowa the loss of a long-standing tradition.

parent companies claim 'we will uphold First Amendment principles,' but they refused to offer me that same opportunity to openly speak to the RAGBRAI Nation and answer the hundreds of passionate questions."

As a student run publication that is dedicated to serving the students of Mount Mercy University, we value our first Amendment rights, and do not take the First Amendment lightly.

However, we feel like this situation has been blown out of proportion and might cause the state of Iowa to lose a long-standing tradition. And it's sad to see this ride endangered by a newfound hatred of news media that is becoming an unpleasant and tiresome aspect of our culture.

It is certainly not unusual for a corporation to issue statements and ask their employees to keep quiet during a time of crisis. Even at Mount Mercy, during times of turmoil, this protocol has been implemented.

One of our editors rode a day of RAGBRAI in 2019, and loved it so much she planned to ride the entire week in 2020. We hope her plans aren't in vain.

Caucuses Necessary in Elections

It's the most wonderful time of the year—Iowa Caucus season! The lovely time of year where political advertisements flood televisions, canvassing is in full swing and yard signs are everywhere.

There are less than a hundred days left until the caucus, and as an out-of-stater, I assumed that Iowans would be into the whole caucus spectacle.

It seems awesome to me—candidates, all 20-something of them, only ever seem to be a road trip away! Iowa finally gets the attention it deserves! What a thrill it is to pile into a car with your friends and drive a few miles down the road to see political change in action.

Most Iowans aren't so enthusiastic. In fact, most of them seem to be more annoyed with the caucus than anything else. Even those who aren't annoyed seem to be somewhat indifferent about the whole process.

I've dedicated several of my Saturdays over the past couple of months to canvassing for a candidate that I really believe in.

Every weekend, I begin my canvassing packet with a spring in my step and a smile on my face. But I lose steam pretty quickly sometimes, when I meet voter after voter who tells me

Opinion



Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

they don't know who they're voting for yet, because there are "too many people in the field," or it's "too early!"

It's not too early, Iowa! You caucus in less than four months!

Now is the time to buckle down and do some research, and then throw your support behind the candidate that excites you.

And the argument that there are "too many people in the field" for voters to make a decision should be swiftly tossed out the window. Sure, between now and the caucus a few candidates will likely drop out. But a few more may join the race between now and then.

Having a lot of options isn't even a bad thing. It should be exciting for voters to have a lot of candidates to choose from; it gives people a chance to find a candidate that they strongly identify with.

Voters in states that hold their primary elections later in the cycle won't have the same unique opportunity, as the states that vote early often determine who stays on the ticket long enough to get to the states that vote late. Plus, as the old saying goes, "Iowa picks presidents!" (Well, sometimes, anyway. But that's a whole different article).

So, lose the apathetic attitudes, Iowans. It's caucus season, whether you like it or not. Embrace it!

Invest in Missionary Calling

This month, Pope Francis called for the "whole Church to live an extraordinary time of missionary activity." But what does that mean?

It means this month in particular, we are called to invest in truly living out our missionary call. You might think to yourself, 'but not me, I'm not a missionary.' But indeed, you are. By your baptism, you are called to go and bring the gospel to people.

This might sound scary, however, being a missionary isn't all that complicated. It all boils down to love. If you can love the person in front of you, you are doing great!

In our crazy busy days of college life, it is so easy to ignore the person in front of you, let alone even look at them. However, if we want to impact this world, this is the place to start.

Mother Teresa once said, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." How different our world would be if we all did just that. Living in dorms, our family becomes our roommates, neighbors, and others on campus. Just imagine what our campus would look like if everyone loved the person right in front of them all the time.

There are times where you are called to speak about Jesus, but no one will listen to you if you don't let them encounter the Jesus that's living inside of you. How

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Kasey Kaimann
Columnist

awesome would it be if after someone gets to know you, they walk away thinking, "Wow, if Jesus is anything like them, I want to meet Him." This is our goal.

Now I get it, we all have bad days and can't be at 100 percent all the time, but the least we can do is try.

Something that I like to say to myself when I don't have the energy to love is 'earn your pillow.' This gives me encouragement, thinking that this might just be the only encounter or chance of that person encountering love today, and I am not going to let my excuses outweigh it. And after a day of loving with all I have, I will always have my pillow to rest my head on.

Also, you never know the impact of what one small encounter could have on a person's life! Never underestimate what God can and wants to do through you.

All right Kasey, we get it, spread the love and bring Jesus to people, but do you have any other tips other than to love? Yes!

Try some of these: see Jesus in every person you meet, be an 'Easter' person (aka bring the joy), follow the inclinations of where the Holy Spirit is leading you, get out of your comfort zone and say hi to strangers, don't be afraid of awkwardness, love with everything you have (earn your pillow), smile, only talk positively about others, and don't be afraid to speak about Jesus and what He means to you.

So now get out there and love!

Paying Student Athletes has Underlying Problems for Teams

There is an ongoing debate about whether or not student athletes that bring revenue to their universities by playing sports should be paid with money. Some of these major universities bring in millions of dollars because of sports. Without their athletes they would not have this amount of money.

These young people put in hours of work a day, and sometimes so much work throughout the week that it is hard for them to get a job. Even

Opinion



Christian Mosely
Staff Writer

so, paying these student athletes could create many issues for both the students and the universities.

One of the issues that could arise would be the athletes lack of work ethic after they see the amount of money they will receive. From personal experience, I can tell you that players who are granted large scholarships sometimes have a hard time making themselves outwork others because they know their position is "safe."

This is not true for all players, but could you imagine if athletes were getting actual money paid to them directly? What if one of your teammates is getting paid more and you think it is unfair? Are you going to have a holdout until they give you equal pay?

Right now, there are athletes on this campus who think the scholarship distribution is unfair. If payments to certain players were larger than others, that would create even more conflict.

Another problem that is going to come about from paying student athletes is the fact that some universities can afford it, while others cannot. Think of a school like Mount Mercy. The amount of revenue from the athletic programs is nowhere near the amount brought in by Texas A&M, who makes \$192.6 million.

In a better comparison, if an athlete is being recruited by the University of Iowa, to play baseball, their payment is going to be much lower for a high-level player than it would be if they were to go to the

University of Texas at Austin.

Paying student athletes would make it hard for lower level schools to compete with the higher ups. This is already something that is an issue due to the amount of scholarships that programs are given in a year, paying money to players would make it that much harder to compete.

The overall idea of paying college athletes seems like a fair thing to do because they bring in large amounts of money to their universities. But, by paying them, I believe it will just raise more issues than there are right now.

Changing existing rules will hinder the places that are on a lower budget making them less competitive than they already are.



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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.

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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.

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Derek Hamilton/Times

Cherrie Spurlin (left), the new masters of strategic leadership coordinator and assistant professor, started as a faculty member this year after receiving her masters degree in strategic leadership with human resources from Mount Mercy in 2017.

At Home on the Hill

New MSL Coordinator Makes it Her Goal to Build and Maintain University Relations

By Derek Hamilton
News Editor

The new masters of strategic leadership coordinator has a unique perspective on the program. With an MSL degree earned from Mount Mercy University, Cherrie Spurlin says the process “completely changed my life.” Spurlin, who is also

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an assistant professor at Mount Mercy, says the MSL program contributed to her decision to become a professor. “I learned a lot about myself during the program. I learned that I could teach,” Spurlin said. “I developed wonderful relationships here with people that work for Mount Mercy and other alumni going through the program.”

After graduating, she became an adjunct professor, and once an opportunity opened to be full-time faculty, she pounced on it. She says it was a mixture of experiences that prepared her for her role at the Mount Mercy Graduate Center, her business experience, and her leadership experience. Spurlin had been in charge of large teams before, and previously worked in human resources. She says she also understands what her students are going through,

being working adults who are also in school. “We really want program outcomes to be applicable to their work,” she said. Spurlin believes she’s a good fit for Mount Mercy because she’s an “enthusiastic, positive, driven person.” She wants to see the

university “grow and be innovative in the community.” And she’d like to use her position here build new relationships for the university, as well as strengthen the ones the university already has. “The program did so much for me,” she said. “I

want to be able to replicate that, and give that back to every business leader in the community.” Aside from her role at Mount Mercy, Spurlin is a wife and a mother to a daughter and two dogs. She also started the Business and Leadership Book Club, because she loves not only to read and learn, but also to share her knowledge with other people.

“The program did so much for me. I want to be able to replicate that, and give that back to every business leader in the community.”

Cherrie Spurlin

Former Education Adjunct Instructor Becomes a Full-Time Faculty Member

By Taylor Petersen and Ekaterina Rangelova
Sports Editor and Editorial Editor

In 2018, Amanda Klinkenberg moved to Cedar Rapids from Burlington, Iowa and joined the Mount Mercy staff as an adjunct instructor. At the beginning of this school year, she started as a lecturer in education, teaching for some of the secondary education principles classes. What pulled her towards working at Mount Mercy was the beautiful campus and most importantly the fact that everybody here loves their job. “I haven’t met any

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grumbly employee, everyone genuinely likes to be here, and that says a lot about the culture and the environment of the University,” says Klinkenberg, “And the students are great, I need to make sure I say I love all of my students.” Before joining Mount Mercy, she had several K-12 experiences, mostly focusing in Spanish. She also worked as an adjunct instructor for the Iowa Connection Academy, Kirkwood Community College’s Continuing Education as a Spanish instructor, and a Spanish teacher for Burlington Notre Dame high school. Other places she

has worked for include Webster City Community Schools, Northeast Iowa Community College and Hawkeye Community College. Aside from her job at Mount Mercy, Klinkenberg continues to teach Spanish in an online K-12 school. What she values most in her life is kindness, teaching, and her belief in God. Amanda describes herself as a kind, loyal, and hard-working individual. She has had a wide variety of teaching jobs, in different communities and schools but she says she really loves teaching here. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hanging out with her children, playing tennis, hiking, and going on family vacations.



Ekaterina Rangelova/Times

Amanda Klinkenberg, a new education lecturer, dedicates herself to her craft by teaching college education classes at Mount Mercy and online K-12 classes in her spare time.

Senior Night



Taylor Petersen (above and right); Josh Harmon (top, right)/Times

Mount Mercy athletics celebrated senior night this weekend. Women’s volleyball (upper right), women’s soccer (above), and men’s soccer (right) recognized the seniors’ hard work and dedication to the teams for the past four years.



Mustangs Recognize Seniors as Fall Seasons Come to a Close



Women’s VB Celebrates Win Over Ravens During Senior Night



Kayla Dagget setting up the ball for fellow Mustangs during senior day at the Oct. 26 match.

By Josh Harmon
Video Editor

On a big night for seniors, the women’s volleyball team showed poise and dominance in their Heart of America Conference (HOC) win against Benedictine College. The Mustangs, now 8-7 in conference play, honored three seniors before the opening serve against the opposing Benedictine Ravens: Madelyn Orton (West Point, IA), Abby Dennis (Cedar Rapids, IA) and Alyssa Weldon (Oxford, IA). Starters Kayla Daggett, Madelyn Orton, Abby Tunis, Olivia Makinen, Maddie Bell, Laila Sain and Haley Stecklein, came out aggressive in the opening set and scored off of the first three serves from Kayla Daggett (junior, Madison, WI), who led the overall game in aces (4).

After a first set win for the Mustangs, the Ravens fought back hard in the second set and out scored the Mustangs 21-25. The rest of the game was owned by the Mustangs, who outplayed the Raven’s statistically in kills (57-45), and total attacks (199-182). The teams tied, however, in hitting percentage (0.121%). Maddie Bell (junior, Ely, IA) and Abby Tunis (junior, Davenport, IA) led the Mustangs in kills (13). Bell also led the Mustangs with blocks (5). Olivia Makinen (sophomore, Beloit, WI) also contributed to the Mustang victory with 25 digs. Mount Mercy’s women’s volleyball finished off Benedictine College three sets to one. The women’s team currently has an overall record of 18 victories and 10 losses (18-10), and await the to-be-determined HOC women’s volleyball tournament.

Men’s Soccer Lose 1-0 in Overtime Against Wildcats

By Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

After 90 minutes with no goals made, the Mount Mercy men’s soccer team lost 1-0 to the Baker University Wildcats (Kan.) in overtime on senior day and the last home game of the season on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Plaster Athletic Complex. During the match, neither team could put up any goals. Mustang goalkeeper Dane Lee, senior, saved 7 shots when the Wildcats had 8 shots on goal. Mount Mercy had 2 shots on goal and almost scored a goal in the 93rd minute after sophomore Duarte Leite’s header bounced off of the post after senior Kevin Kastl’s free kick. However, in the 95th minute, Wildcat Jordan Alonge, sophomore, managed to take a deflected ball over Lee’s head and score the goal after Lee tried to grab senior Jordan Lake’s free kick, making the final score 1-0. Before the match, 14 Mustang seniors

were honored for their achievements, hard work and dedication to the team. Among them were seniors Nolan Armstrong, a marketing, management, and human resource management major, Orlando Clark, an English major, and Ramzi Faraj, a management major. Seniors Colin Heeren, a criminal justice major, Din Hrvat, computer science major, Srdjan Jankovic, marketing major, Kevin Kastl, international management major, Dane Lee, computer science and mathematics major, and Joao Lima, sports management major were also honored. Finally, seniors Rojay Ottey, an accounting major, Nikola Petrovic, sports management and human resource management major, Philipp Reiser, international management major, Sarriive Rukakiza, criminal justice major, and Jonathan Scholes, sports management and marketing major were recognized. “For the past 3 years I’ve played for MMU. I have always felt a rush of liberation playing on the field. When I’m away

“When I’m away from home, the field becomes my home.”
Philipp Reiser



Mustang Ado Turanovic tries to pass the Wildcats during senior day at the men’s Oct. 26 soccer game. The men lost 1-0 in overtime.

from home, the field becomes my home,” said Reiser. “We fought hard tonight on the field I will never play on again. I hope we finish our season strong; I never thought my days playing soccer as a Mustang would be numbered until now.” Baker improved to 9-5-3 overall and

6-3-1 in the Heart of America Conference, where as Mount Mercy dropped to 7-7-2 overall and 4-5-1 in the conference. The Mustangs will finish their regular season Wednesday, Oct. 30 at Grand View University before competing in the post-season Heart tournament.

Senior Day Loss for Women’s Soccer

By Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy women’s soccer team lost their 10th game in a row after losing 3-0 to the Baker University Wildcats (Kan.) on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Plaster Athletic Complex in their last home game of the season and senior day. A majority of the match was spent on the Mustang side of the field as the Mustangs’ defense tried hard to fend off the Wildcats. However, Baker was able to put up 3 goals, one in the first half and two in the second. During the 14th minute of the first half, The Wildcats found the back of the net with a goal made by Georgia Vernardakis, junior, assisted by Victoria Aceves-Power, junior, giving them a 1-0 lead by the end of the first half. In the second half of the match, Baker made two more goals. In the 55th minute, Wildcat senior, Jenna Lattimer was set up by freshman Anna Chieu, and in the 72nd minute, Aceves-Power assisted Lattimer, making the final score 3-0. Baker took 25 shots at the Mustang goal. Twelve were made on goal, but Mustang goalkeeper Grace Byers, freshman, saved 9 shots. After the match, Mustang seniors Adelaide Bayne, a psychology major, Makayla Duff, criminal justice and psychology major, Holli Jones, criminal justice major, Kasey Kaimann, marketing and religious studies major, Cassie Noel, biology and outdoor conservation: natural resources

major, Melany Roggow, psychology major, Allissa Schwarting, biology major, and Carly Walker, nursing major, were honored for their hard work, achievements, and dedication to the team. The Mustangs are now 1-14-1 overall and 0-10-0 in the Heart of America Conference. Baker improved to 9-6-1 overall and 4-5-1 Heart. The Mustangs will finish their season Wednesday, Oct. 30 at Grand View University.

Mustang defender Katie Gannon (right) attempts to defend the Mustang goal from a Baker Wildcat on senior day during the Oct. 26 game. The women lost 3-0



Sports in Short

Men’s Golf finishes 8th in NAIA Midwest Invitational

The Mount Mercy men’s golf team competed in the NAIA Midwest Invitational Monday, Oct. 14 and Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the TPC Deere Run course in Silvis, Ill. The Mustangs finished the invitational in 8th place out of 19 teams with a score of 607 (+39). Mustang senior, Philip Nelson was a top finisher after placing 11th with a score of 148. Another top finisher was fellow Mustang Roger Lianto, freshman, who placed 13th with a score of 149. Other Mustang finishers include Kaleb Hagg, sophomore (152/20th), Jan Zupancic, sophomore (158/48th) and Nile Happel, junior (165/68th). Playing individually for the Mustangs, junior Matt Caulfield placed 24th with a score of 153.

Women’s Golf Finishes in Second Place; Stammer Finishes as Fifth Individual

The Mount Mercy women’s golf team competed in the NAIA Midwest Invitational Saturday, Oct. 12 and Sunday Oct. 13 at the TPC Deere Run course in Silvis, Ill. Out of 12 teams, the Mustangs finished Day 1 third place. By the end of day and shaving off seven strokes the Mustangs finished second with a score of 717 (+141), falling short to William Penn who scored 701 (+125). Senior Mustang, Kayla Stammer finished in 5th place with a score of 175 and sophomore, Casey Noble placed 7th with a 178. Fellow mustangs Allyson Wertz, senior, and Natalea Cook, sophomore, tied for 11th place with a 182. Senior Valarie Davidson finished 29th for the Mustangs with a 195.

Cross Country Runners Battle Winds at Successful Senior Day Seminole Run

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

Mount Mercy Mustang cross country teams placed top 10 at Seminole Valley for senior day. Mustang runners battled the cold and frigid wind while racing for the win against some of the best teams in NAIA in the early morning of Oct. 26, 2019. For the Mount Mercy women, senior Vanessa Cortes ended the meet winning the women’s 5K for the second time in a row with a time of 18:41. Not far behind was sophomore Kelsi Huhndorf placing 12th, with senior Andrea Ertz on her heels placing 16th, 8 seconds behind Huhndorf. Also, placing in the top 50, was sophomore, Emily Erickson in 19th and junior, McKenna Johnson crossing the finish line in 50th place. The Mustangs finished 2nd overall at the NAIA Seminole Valley Stampede. The Mount Mercy men finished 7th overall with three runners placing in the top 50. Senior Jacob Blackmon placed 28th in the 8K with a time of 26:19. Junior Cameron Steffens placed next with a finish of 26:34. Senior Aaron Golding placed 48th, with freshman Oscar Lopez and senior Sayed Opeyany finishing less than a minute behind. After the race, the seniors were



Mount Mercy Mustangs run the 8K on Saturday, Oct. 26 during senior day at Seminole Valley. Jacob Blackmon, senior, was the first Mustang to cross the line.

honored for their years and accomplishments in cross country as a Mustang. The women’s cross country seniors include, Cortes, Andrea Ertz, Jessica Ertz, Taylor Grell, McKenzie Mellecker, Mady Roth, and Allison Woods, followed by the men’s cross country seniors, who include Blackmon, Golding, Opeyany, Cody Mathis and Jasper Severn.

Something different this year for the Mustang cross country team, is how the coaches are choosing to approach the team. This year, they want all the runners to feel the best they can about their performances and to be motivated for greatness. In doing so, they created a small ‘team motto’ that they want every runner to remember when they are out on the course, the simple word: fearless. In the previous 2018 season, at Nationals, former runner James Lindstrom finished 6th. Spectators at the meet would later describe his race as him having no fear as he ran with everything he had. The coaches this year want their athletes to have that same mindset of being fearless when running. Opeyany said, “They want us to not feel discouraged or feel like we’re inadequate compared to others competing. We should want to be fearless in facing our goals, opposition, and ourselves. As an athlete or a human being, we have a habit of holding ourselves in the back of our minds from what we want to achieve because of fear.” Next on the list of meets for the Mustangs is the Heart Cross Country Championships in early November before the NAIA National Championships.

Halloween on the Hill Brings Kids to MMU for Festive Fun

By Caroline Groesbeck
Managing Editor

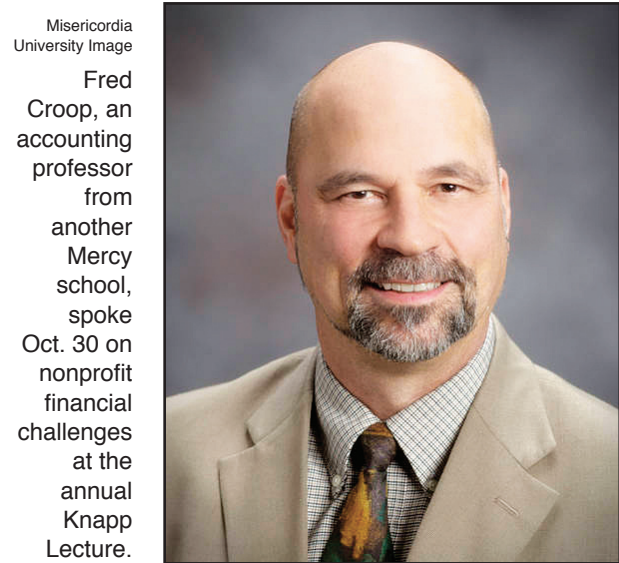
Halloween officially returns to the Hill this year on Nov. 1. “Halloween on the Hill is a campus-based trick-or-treating event for members of the Cedar Rapids community,” said senior psychology and political science major Maggie Peterson, who is

helping to put the event together. “It’s a way for community members and their children to visit the Hill and participate in a variety of Halloween activities: crafts, games, food, and, of course, trick-or-treating!” The A Cappella club, led by Peterson, will host the annual Halloween on the Hill event again this year. The club took over the event last year, after the

event was almost dropped due to lack of a host organization. The event, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., will be followed by a dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. “It’s such a great event for the community that I knew I couldn’t sit back and just watch it not happen,” said Peterson. “Halloween was always my favorite holiday growing up, and now to be able to help make

Halloween a fun experience for other children in the community is like a dream come true,” said Peterson. The event consists of different clubs, organizations, and residence floors who dress up in costume and stand at decorated tables, handing out candy to community children who visit the Hill. Other activities for community members includes crafts,

games, food, and more. Organizations that participate will be able to enter into a table decorating contest, with a prize of a Walmart gift card. The table sign-up has ended, but students can still participate by contacting Peterson at mpeterson8013@mtmercy.edu.



Misericordia University Image
Fred Croop, an accounting professor from another Mercy school, spoke Oct. 30 on nonprofit financial challenges at the annual Knapp Lecture.

Expert on Nonprofit Finances Delivers Knapp Lecture

By Courtney Hoffman
Campus Editor

Mount Mercy welcomed Fred J. Croop, professor of accounting from Misericordia University Wednesday, Oct. 30 to speak on the common issue of poor financial management and fraud in nonprofit organizations. This lecture was the 2019 addition to the Barbara A. Knapp Business Speaker Series, which is held annually in honor of Barbara Knapp, a Mount Mercy Board of Trustees member and retired chair and CEO of her family-founded business, Securities Corporation of Iowa. The series, which invites speakers to share on business-related topics, invited Croop to speak after Tracy Tunwall, business department chair at Mount Mercy, heard him present at a conference in

Dublin, Ireland. Tunwall says she is “thrilled we were able to secure him as this year’s distinguished Barbara Knapp speaker.” Research finds that non-profits annually lose an average of 5 percent of their revenue to embezzlement, totaling to an average of \$425,000 per entity. Croop, Tunwall says, has done research on the topic and has plenty of experience, making him a very important informant on the common financial problems that such organizations face. She also added that this topic is important because of the students that will go on to work for non-profit and volunteer organizations. Croop’s research and work to combat the issue are important to keep non-profits afloat and to spread information on how to spot and reduce theft and mismanagement.

Active Sophomore Serves in National Guard

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

Jon Kastantin seems like any other average sophomore, majoring in elementary education. He, like other students at Mount Mercy University, is highly involved on campus by being a student ambassador, running track, participating in show choir, and being a Bible study leader in the NAVIGATORS (NAVS). However, what many don’t know is that with all his student responsibilities he has on campus, he also has a big responsibility off campus- the National Guard. While many high school students were college planning, his mind was on how he could help America. “It wasn’t a hard decision. For me, I knew what I wanted to, it was just a matter of getting there,” said Kastantin. Come this December, Kastantin will have been in the National Guard for three years, but that is nothing compared to his family members. The Kastantin family has a tradition of people joining the military. From his great grandpa retiring in the National Guard and his grandpa serving 26 years, to his grandma being an army nurse and his mother being in the Marines, and his younger brother attempting to join. He spends one weekend a month at drill, usually located in Clinton, Iowa, but does travel to other states from time to time. “My dream in the



Veronica Jons/Times

Jon Kastantin, sophomore, says he always tries to stay positive and hopes that he acts in a way so that others will look up to him.

National Guard is to do over 20 years and retire,” said Kastantin. This summer he will be headed to California for a month to a desert drill base, making it all too real that deployment could come any given time now. “Despite being focused on the National Guard, school has become important to me,” he said. His favorite part of school has been meeting new people. “Being so involved allows me to meet people everywhere I go, it also is easier to do at a smaller school.” The hardest dilemma he has faced while juggling school activities, drill,

and classes, has been time management and communication with his professors or coaches. “In order to be responsible, I have to constantly be checking my schedule and sending out emails or texts.” He loves Mount Mercy, but couldn’t he go anywhere for college since he is in the National Guard? His answer was easy, “I wouldn’t have chosen anywhere else. Small campus, lots of friends, and the chance to be in track? What’s not to love! I couldn’t get that type of experience anywhere else.” As a track runner, Kastantin has loved being

a mid-distance sprinter along with learning a new talent with the javelin throw. Track and bonding time with friends are his favorite moments at Mount Mercy University. Despite how busy he is with everything, he still has time to strive for greatness outside of the classroom. “I strive for a lot of positive things. One big one for me since coming here is to be a positive influence on others. When people think of me, I want them to look up to me and have good memories.” So, what does this influential student have for advice to others? He wants everyone to never give up on their dreams, to know that if you work hard enough it all will pay off in the end.

SNAPSHOT

Meet the people on The Hill

Jon Kastantin

MMU Helps Host Inter-Faith Climate Change Conference



By Elaina Kinser
Staff Writer

Though a politically controversial topic, the importance of open discussion about climate change can’t be understated. Mount Mercy students and community members were welcomed to discuss the best way to reach a solution at the Faith and Climate Change Conference held by the Interfaith Alliance and Mount Mercy University on Saturday, Oct. 26. The first speaker, Katherine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist and professor

Elaina Kinser Times

Texas Tech atmospheric scientist Katherine Hayhoe speaks to an Interfaith Climate Conference at St. Elizabeth Anne Seaton Church. The morning session was follow by an afternoon workshop at the Mount Mercy CRST Graduate Center.

at Texas Tech University, addressed the main problems of the climate change movement. Two main problems that she identified were the division of people by the polarized political climate who feel they can’t support their opposition’s causes and the common belief that climate change won’t affect them. “This is a task that must go across cultures, races, religions to everyone in humanity,” Hayhoe said, no matter the opinion of political opposition. She explained that the best way to open lines of communication is making it personal. This may involve talking about local effects or personal hobbies that will be impacted. Either way, speakers agreed that people must break past the division lines and connect everyone together to save the planet. Mount Mercy started these steps by holding an environmental workshop after the conference, coordi-

nated by Mount Mercy alumni Ricardo Etienne. Before the workshop began, lunch was held where students from many universities were asked about the first presentation. “I want this inspiration for myself and to bring back to my campus university in order to make an impact,” said a student from Drake University. Attendees also said that they found hope in the fact that so many young people showed up to the event and the fact that there is still time to reverse the damage that has been done. Overall, the interfaith conference seemed to inspire students to prepare to affect their campuses and interact with people outside of single-perspective groups.

Heard on The Hill

By Taylor Petersen

What people are saying on topics of interest

Students have many Halloween memories. More are listed online in a “web extra” feature on the Times web site: mountmercytimes.home.blog. Here, with Halloween this week, the Mount Mercy Times asked students: “What is your favorite Halloween tradition?”



Adam Kowski, freshman, undecided major
“Getting candy for sure. You get to walk around and get free candy. You can’t do that any other time.”



Ashley Bys, junior, secondary education and biology major
“Probably going to a pumpkin patch and going through the corn maze with friends.”



Brooke Donald, freshman, medical laboratory science major
“Going to haunted houses.”



Paige Toomer, sophomore, English and psychology major
“Well I can’t Trick-or-Treat anymore, so probably handing out candy and carving pumpkins.”



PJ Murray, freshman, undecided major
“Dressing up in costumes.”



Taylor Dearborn, sophomore, English major
“Carving pumpkins with my family. We always went out and picked up pumpkins at a farm near our house. And also baking those Pillsbury cookies with the pumpkins on them.”

Caroline Groesbeck/Times

The Cedar Rapids Climate Strikers led by student Ayla Boylen (right) advocate for Cedar Rapids to declare a climate emergency outside of City Hall.

Climate Crisis on City Hall Steps



Junior Works to Start Green New Deal with Sanders Campaign

By Caroline Groesbeck
Managing Editor

Junior Ayla Boylen recently partnered with the Bernie Sanders Campaign to push for Cedar Rapids to declare a climate crisis and work on a Green New Deal.

Boylen came to Mount Mercy her freshman year because of the care each faculty and staff member has for each student. The Sisters of Mercy’s critical concerns also aligned with her values. Even though Boylen enjoyed these factors of Mount Mercy, she started to see faults within what the university as a whole was doing.

“Even here it seems that what is convenient often comes before what is best. I often see people with so much good in their hearts with the best intentions that attend one event, or join one club, but

don’t follow these actions through to see actual positive change,” said Boylen.

As an art major, Boylen hopes to incorporate her passion into her activism. She has always been appreciative of the earth because of the value and vital things it provides.

“It is extremely difficult to balance work, school, my personal life, and activism, but ultimately I believe we make time for what we need to. Ensuring the earth and the people in it have a livable future is the most important thing in my life.”

One contribution to the community Boylen has made is starting the Cedar Rapids Climate Strikers.

“I started the Cedar Rapids Climate Strikers because I felt the need to personally take greater action on the climate crisis. I am asking the City of Cedar Rapids to declare a climate emergency, and take

direct, radical action to combat climate change and its consequences, and implement a Green New Deal.”

It was through the Cedar Rapids Climate Strikers and the Sunrise Movement that Boylen became connected with the Bernie Sanders Campaign.

“I was thrilled to be able to meet Bernie Sanders, someone I have been a long-term supporter of,” said Boylen.

“I was extremely nervous to speak in front of so many people, but very honored to be able to address what I believe to be the most important problem facing our world, in front of people who also believed that Bernie Sanders is the best

candidate to address the critical issue of climate change and so much more.”

Boylen hopes that by voting for officials with aggressive climate policies in all forms of government, society will be able to start to mitigate the damage to the environment.

“Our society has an obsession with convenience and money,” said Boylen.

“If we can set aside our greed, bipartisan politics, and inclination to take the easiest way out we still have a chance, but action needs to be taken now. We are each individually responsible for what happens to the future of our entire world.”

SNAPSHOT
Meet the people on The Hill
Ayla Boylen

“I am asking the City of Cedar Rapids to declare a climate emergency, and take direct, radical action to combat climate change and its consequences, and implement a Green New Deal.”
Ayla Boylen

M2AP Board Build-A-Critter Event Stuffs U.C. with Students

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

M2AP Board’s wildly successful Build-A-Critter event was held on Nov. 5, from 8-10 p.m., bringing in over 190 participating students to stuff their own toy animals in the University Center.

With over 20 options of stuffed animals to choose from, the line started building up as early as 6:50 p.m.—over an hour before the event was set to begin.

Not only was the line long, but some of the animal choices ran out just a half hour into the event at 8:30 p.m. This is a

largely successful event by M2AP Board that many students eagerly await every year.

From bunnies and dogs, to elephants, cheetahs, and snakes, the possibilities were endless to stuff a new furry friend.

Students should be on the look out for the next M2AP Board event, the Winter Wonderland U.C. Takeover on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 7-9 p.m.

Free crewneck sweatshirts, caricatures, gingerbread house contest, holiday themed crafts, and chances to win prizes will all be available. In addition to this, attendees can expect a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Clause.

Heard on The Hill

By Chase Costa

What people are saying on topics of interest

With Iowa’s cold winter weather arriving early this November and the holiday season on the horizon, the MMU Times asked students: “What is the best way to stay healthy during winter?”



Brady Donohue, junior, operations management and marketing major.

“The best way to stay healthy during the winter you must workout, eat healthy, and wear enough layers outside when it’s cold.”



Brandon Secor, junior, sports management major.

“The best way to stay healthy during the winter are eating right, staying warm, and working out when you need to.”



Cami Foote, sophomore, nursing major.

“The best way I like to stay healthy during the winter is to not eat too much over the holidays and dance.”

Thanksgiving Events

Annual Dress Dinner Returns to Campus

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

Residence Life will host a Thanksgiving dress dinner for residential students in the University Center on Sunday, Nov. 24.

As in past years, students will sit with their floor at the dinner table

to enjoy a meal of turkey, stuffing, mash potatoes with gravy, rolls, vegetables, and your choice of apple or pumpkin pie from Dining Services and Events teams. Faculty and staff members will also be there to serve students and enjoy the festivities, as well.

The annual

Thanksgiving dress dinner always helps to give campus a nice Thanksgiving feel, especially for those students that do not get to go home for the holiday.

RSVP to the email link sent out by Amanda Ussery, assistant director of residence life, by Nov. 15.

The Mustang Market Calls for Donations for Thanksgiving-Themed Food Drive

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

The Mustang Market will be holding their Thanksgiving food drive from Nov. 5 through Nov. 27.

The hopes for having the Thanksgiving themed food drive is to

bring to light the food insecurities happening at Mount Mercy over the Thanksgiving holiday and over finals week.

Items wanted for donation are canned protein like chicken or fish, condiments like peanut butter, ketchup, or mayonnaise, shelf-stable milk and non-

dairy milk, pasta with sauce options, canned fruit and vegetables, soups and stews, along with any other food items that would benefit others in need.

Contact Helen Blevi for donation pick up on campus at hblevi@mtmercy.edu.



Collin Shrader, senior, business major.

“The best way to stay healthy during the winter is eating properly and wearing your coat outside so you don’t get sick.”



Gracie Herring, sophomore, nursing major.

“The best way I like to stay healthy during the winter is to dance and lift.”



Tanner Lohaus, senior, graphics design major.

“The best way to stay healthy during the winter is to make sure you get enough Vitamin C and Vitamin D since the sun is not out as much, and also to make sure you’re wearing a hat and coat when you go outside.”