

Mount Mercy TIMES

A student run publication

mountmercymtimes.home.blog

Issue 3, Oct. 10, 2019

Mustangs Come Home 2019



Taylor Petersen/Times

Barry Doe and Payton Bruner were crowned Mount Mercy homecoming king and queen between soccer games Sept. 28.

King, Queen Donate Prizes to Softball, MMU BSU

By Nicole Carl
Club & Organizations Editor

On Sept. 28, Mount Mercy crowned its 2019 Homecoming royalty. All the nominees got to mingle, dress up in their sashes and wait for the announcement.

The announcement was made between the women's and men's soccer games. During the wait, corn hole and a photo booth were set up, and lots of food and snacks like popcorn, snow cones, fruit and nachos were available. Tons of families, alumni, staff, and many others from around the community came to partake.

This year, the process was done a bit differently than in previous years, with staff voting on the nominees first and then the students voting for the king

and queen. The queen and king this year were awarded \$250 each for the on-campus team, club, or organization they are most passionate about.

The nominees for queen this year were seniors Payton Bruner, Annie Ertz, Elizabeth Haugen, Kasey Kaimann, Cassie Noel, Madelyn Orton and Makenzie Recker.

The nominees for king were seniors Jaime Araiza, Connor Christophersen, Orlando Clark, Barry Doe, Marlon Flores, Tyler Follet and Matthew Trueblood.

Payton Bruner won Queen, and she donated her winnings to the softball team. King went to Barry Doe, who donated his winnings to the Black Student Union.



Josh Harmon/Times

Justin Schulte, former baseball coach; Mwale Kapande, former track jumper; and Amanda Frost were named to the MMU Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2019.

Three Enter MMU Hall of Fame

Courey, Weldon, Alonso Are Scholar-Athletes; Vander Poel, Lindstrom Named Athletes of the Year

By Josh Harmon
Video Editor

Mount Mercy University inducted former athletes and coaches into the Hall of Fame on Friday, Sept. 27, at the Rinderknecht Athletic Center. The induction ceremony was a key part of this year's Alumni Weekend.

Paul Gavin, director of Mount Mercy athletics, began the ceremony with a few words and introduced chaplain Father Tony Adawu to recite a welcoming prayer. Gavin approached the podium once again to introduce the 2019 Dale Harrison Scholar-Athletes of the Year.

The first recipient of the award was junior marketing and psychology major and women's bowler Cassidy Courey. As a freshman, Courey was the first individual to qualify for the ISC Nationals. Senior nursing major Alyssa Weldon also received the award. She had a .963 service reception percentage. Graduate men's soccer player Mathews Alonso also won the prestigious athletic award.

The next honor awarded was the Don McCormick Athletes of the Year. Track & field and cross-country coaches Derek Stephens and Tad Hulst spoke briefly and introduced Kathryn

Vander Poel, women's track & field; and James Lindstrom, men's cross country. Vander Poel and Lindstrom, did their fair share of damage on the track. Vander Poel holds the school records in the indoor 800m (2:16) and 1,000m (3:00) races. Lindstrom also holds the school's best in the indoor mile (4:22) and outdoor 1,500m (4:00).

After Mount Mercy's own athletes were acknowledged, the ceremony moved on to the Hall of Fame inductees. The first inductee, Amanda Frost, was a women's basketball player who graduated in 2015. She is currently ranked 12th in points scored at Mount Mercy, with 1,578 points. Mwale Kapande, a women's track & field long jumper, was the second Hall of Fame inductee. In her two-year career as a Mustang, Kapande was a 5 time NAIA All-American. The final inductee didn't actually compete as a Mustang, instead he coached them. Justin Schulte was the head baseball coach from 1998-2005. In six of his seven seasons as head coach, the Stangs qualified for the NAIA Region VII tournament. He also coached five of Mount Mercy's own Hall of Famers.

President Laurie Hamen closed the ceremony with a few remarks and encouraged attendees of the Hall of Fame ceremony to mingle and finish off the night enjoying one another's company.

Heads up:

M2AP Board Scavenger Hunt Starts in UC at 6 p.m.

Join M2AP Board Thursday for a scavenger hunt. The hunt will begin in the University Center, and will last from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Other upcoming M2AP Board activities include:

Pumpkin Painting: Stop by the plaza between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Oct. 14 to paint a pumpkin.

Halloween Trivia: Visit Betty Cherry Heritage Hall on Thursday, Oct. 24 to play some spooky trivia. Winners will receive prizes.

Local Prints Displayed

The work of local printmaking artists Lauren Tucci, Mackie Garrett and Emily Jalinsky will be on display in the Janalyn Hanson White Gallery from now until Oct. 27.

Concert Supports Fresh Start Ministries

Head to McAuley Hall on Sunday Oct. 13 to listen to Mount Mercy music ensembles perform in a concert to benefit Fresh Start Ministries. Vocal and band groups are included.



Caroline Groesbeck/Times

Crafts (left), refreshments and laser tag were among the many activities held Sept. 28 in the Sisters of Mercy University Center and Rohde Family Plaza as Mount Mercy University celebrated Homecoming 2019.

Pep Rally, Movie Night Draw Crowds During Homecoming

By Umut Akkepenek
Staff Writer

Mount Mercy celebrated Homecoming week Sept. 22 to Sept. 28 with games, crafts and contests.

"Homecoming went very well this year," said Veronica Jons, the student organizer of homecoming. Jons is also editor-in-chief of the Mount Mercy Times.

"I couldn't be happier. We actually had more people attending the pep rally and movie night than the previous year! We had cool new activities this year and some pretty sweet merchandise."

The festivities began on Sunday with a dorm decoration contest. Students could win prizes by tagging Mount Mercy University in pictures of their decked-out rooms on social media.

On Monday, a T-shirt swap was held where students could trade in T-shirts from another school for the 2019 MMU homecoming shirt. On Tuesday, a banner competition took place from noon to 9 p.m. with \$500 on the line for first place as teams, floors, and clubs competed to take home the prize.

Wednesday gave a chance for students to take a break from all

the excitement and relax with a movie in the auditorium. There was popcorn and candy, with the first 80 attendees receiving a free MMU blanket.

Thursday was another late-night celebration of a pep rally. The pep band played while students dug into breakfast food, the homecoming court was announced, and the winner of the banner competition was revealed to be the Black Student Union club (BSU).

Friday was the day of the Homecoming Takeover. With laser tag in Betty Cherry Hall, a mobile video game station and crafts

throughout the campus. It was packed with entertainment for the ultimate homecoming celebration.

To close out the week, the dance team performed at the half time of the women's soccer game on Saturday and the homecoming king and queen was announced at the men's soccer game.

Barry Doe, the homecoming king said, "It's a great feeling to get recognition from faculty and my peers."

After the sporting events, shuttles took students to three special events- Bass farms, ice-skating and Skyzone.



Brianna Ostwinkle/ Times

Joseph Hendryx, assistant professor English, lectures over the realities of dumpster diving and freeganism in today's society.



Trash Talk

Fall Faculty Series Dives into the Logic of Freeganism and Dumpster Diving

By Brianna Ostwinkle
Staff Writer

Dumpster diving is often seen as a disgusting habit, but on Sept. 3, Joseph Hendryx, assistant professor of English, spoke about some of the positive impacts dumpster diving has on the environment.

Hendryx opened his presentation by explaining what dumpster diving was. He defined it as, “people scavenging through

discarded food or anything useable.”

There are three basic principles of dumpster diving. The first is evaluating the condition of what you found, the second, knowing the area and visiting the same dumpster regularly, and the third is to always ask ‘Why was this discarded?’

If one were to start dumpster diving, there are a few things to remember while adjusting. Disgust and self-loathing are the largest adjustment to this lifestyle, along with the ability to recognize the

valuable finds. Someone who wants to dumpster dive has to adapt to the lifestyle with growing confidence and not get swept into hoarding tendencies.

There are a couple of different political stances when it comes to dumpster diving. The first is freeganism. Freeganism was described as dumpster diving in order to not participate in the economy.

Another is anarchism. Anarchists believe that the point of society is to provide individuals with the widest possible

range of choices.

Hendryx spoke to the fact that dumpster divers are still consumers, just in a different way. They take things that someone paid for and get it for free.

He compared dumpster divers to regular consumers finding things on sale by saying, “this reminds me of the feeling you get when you buy something on sale and you feel like you hoodwinked the store out of getting it.”

Career Services Office Holds Mock Interviews for Professionals

By Emilio Ramos
Staff Writer

Kalindi Garvin, the director of career services, provided students with tools ranging from job interview prep to understanding how to conduct yourself while in an interview in a presentation titled Interview Secrets on Sept. 26.

The presentation's main focus was the introduction and use of mtmercy.biginterview.com, an online program designed to help its users prepare and practice for interviews.

It is free to use for Mount Mercy students and alumni when used with a Mount Mercy email account.

While using the program, you will conduct mock interviews specific to your major or field of industry. It can be utilized to ask easy and difficult interview questions, record and review your responses, as well as share those responses with others for further assessment.

Garvin made it a point that each students' tuition package covers things they may not be aware of.

This includes resume critiques, cover letter writing, help

with LinkedIn profiles, graduate school applications, guidance on salary negotiations, and many other things.

Career Services can also assist each student with their inevitable search for employment on a one-on-one basis. All the Career Services tools are offered to Mount Mercy Alumni as well.

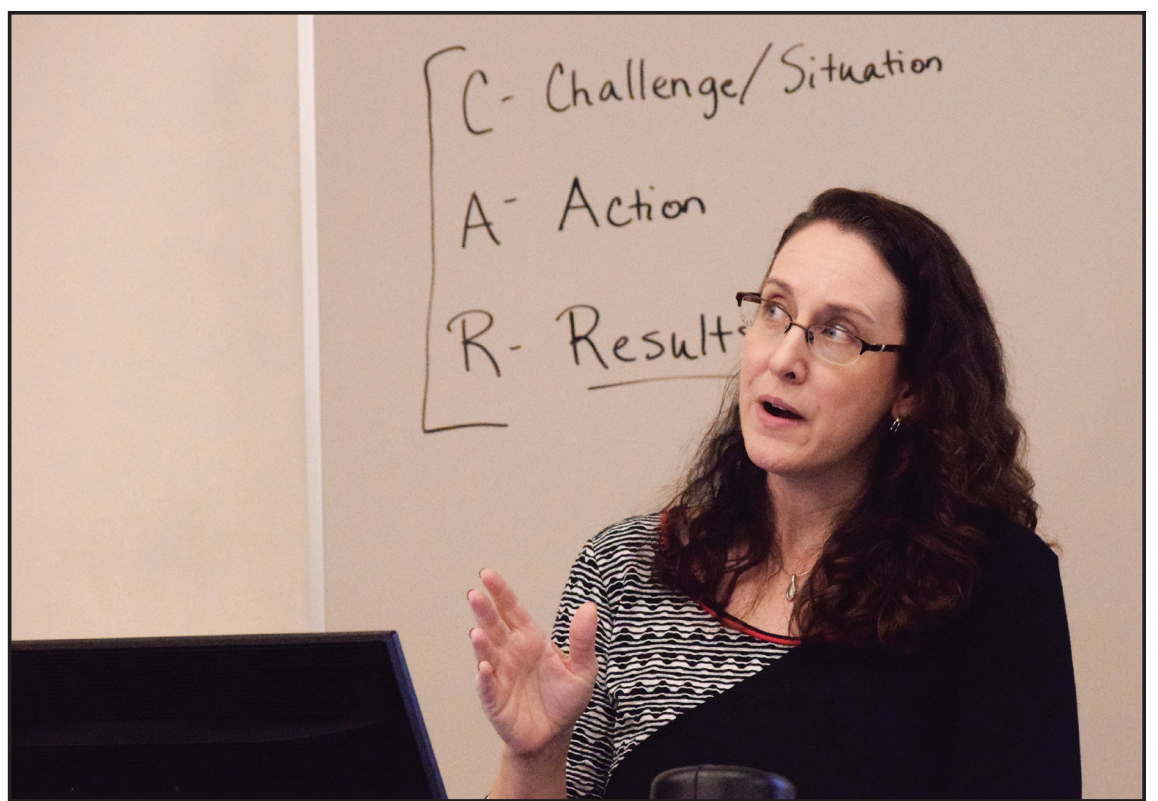
“Those are things that I can help with,” Garvin said.

“It's a lot easier than going to Google and figuring out there's 600 hundred hits on how to write a cover letter, or what do I do with my resume. You can get some advice and trust that advice at least comes from a background of somebody with some expertise in that area.”

Though Garvin is in her first year at Mount Mercy, she is dedicated to setting every student up for success.

“I don't want students walking out of Mount Mercy feeling like, ‘Oh I didn't even know we had Career Services. I could have learned about interviewing,’” she said to close her instructional period.

For students who are interested in speaking with Career Services, their new office is in Student Services room 240 J.



Emilio Ramos/ Times

Kalindi Garvin, director of career services, gives tips during a mock interview workshop on Sept. 26. The focus on how to use mtmercy.biginterview.com.

Some upcoming events for Career Services are References and Recommendations: The Right (and wrong) Way to

Ask for Recommendations on Thursday, Oct. 24 in UC 110 at 6:30 p.m. and the Martin-Herold College of Nursing and

Health Career Fair being held on Monday, Oct. 29 at 9 a.m. in the University Center.

Criminal Justice Professionals Bring Their Expertise to the Hill

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 2 Mount Mercy University had panelists from the Iowa Criminal Justice System visit for a forum to give insights on students' potential future could be after college.

The forum had a variety of career departments in the Criminal Justice System in attendance.

A former Mount Mercy University student, Dawn Schott, attended to discuss her role as the Director of the Juvenile Detention Center in Linn County.

Also attending were those from the Linn County Sheriff's department, the 6th judicial system, a probation officer, the Captain of the Cedar Rapids Police Department, a state patrol trooper, and a deputy with the Marshall services.

There was over 200 years of combined experience sitting in Flaherty Hall, eager to share their experiences with students.

Sophomore Emma Lantz, a criminal justice and psychology major said, “With so much experience in one room, it led to interesting conversations of what they do day-to-day. I learned a lot

from this forum.”

The panel went over what their daily duties are and what the workplace environment is like. Due to there always being a need for more criminal justice staff, they were intent on informing the students about all the opportunities in their departments.

Society's view on the police have tainted the criminal justice departments, causing them to be understaffed and eager for more people to join. Two main groups in society they are always looking for to hire are women and those with racial diversity.

Students then received information on job shadow and internship opportunities and finished the forum with any questions students may have.

Internships are not required to graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice at Mount Mercy, however, it can be extremely helpful to know what department one may want to go into after college.

Criminal Justice professors and students hope that this learning experience can happen twice a year with rotating different departments each semester.

“With so much experience in one room, it led to interesting conversations of what they do day-to-day. I learned a lot from this forum.”

Emma Lantz

Don't Take the World for Granted: Be Responsible and Recycle

Save the planet. “We must recycle that,” “We must save the turtles.” We have heard it all!

I mean, it is something that needs to be addressed, but how many of us have actually taken extraordinary measures to save the planet? I believe if we each took a few minutes every day to achieve something related to saving the planet, we could really improve the atmosphere.

To begin, let's talk about how we, as a society, can help our environment improve. Sometimes it is the smallest things that we must change in our lives to make the biggest difference.

One of the easiest and most important habits we must address immediately is what we throw away and recycle.

I believe recycling is one of the main issues in our world.

Every day I always see something in the trash that was supposed to be put into the recycling bin. Some items that are supposed to be recycled include junk mail, cards, paper, plastic, cardboard, batteries and even old TVs!

If we each made a little effort to think about what we are throwing away or recycling, we could help build our world again! Simple tasks like recycling are easy and something we all can achieve.

Another way we can improve the planet is waiting until we are near a trash

can to throw items away instead of being impatient and throwing it out the car window.

This is a habit that frustrates me because I will never understand why people can not throw it away in a trash can! It may not seem like the biggest deal, but to our world it is. Those little pieces of trash are destroying the planet in front of our own eyes.

However, not only is our planet being affected, but we are also destroying our animals.

Every day, the ocean is filling up with loads of trash and it is destroying the lives of many animals. One of the main issues I see are the plastic rings that go around bottled pop.

A while ago, I saw a goose with its head stuck in the plastic holes. I saw a friend one time cut up a plastic ring after they were done with their 6 pack of pop before they recycled it. I thought that was the best idea!

This extra step in our daily lives can help save the animals from getting their head stuck in the plastic rings.

Although some people are already partaking in good recycling and environmental practices, we must make it global across the entire world. Saving the planet is a team effort and must be done by everyone or it will continue to decline.

We must not take Earth for granted because it is something beautiful. It is scary to think that our habits could be the cause of our world ending someday.

Opinion



Madison Knight
Staff Writer

Young Advocates Take Up Responsibility Adults Leave Behind

Teenage revolutionary figures are commonplace in young adult fiction.

Though we see them in bestselling novels and blockbuster films, we recognize it’s an unrealistic trope. But how unrealistic is it, really?

16-year-old Greta Thunberg has been making national headlines in the past two weeks following her impassioned speech at the U.N.’s Climate Action Summit.

With charged lines like “you have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words,” and “You are failing us, but young people are starting to

Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

understand your betrayal,” it’s easy to see how she’s captured everyone’s attention.

In addition to this, she’s responsible for the organization of several strikes for climate change in multiple countries, including an Iowa City strike Oct. 4 to push for 100 percent renewable energy in Iowa City and at the University of Iowa.

Despite her age, Thunberg has been received numerous awards and honors, nomination as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019.

But she isn’t the only young activist who has created a massive platform for themselves in recent years. Some of the most recognizable figures include Emma Gonzales and other teen-

aged survivors of the Parkland shooting, who organized the nationwide March For Our Lives in 2018, as well as Malala Yousafzai, who became a prominent human rights advocate after an attempted assassination when she was 13.

Aided by the Internet and viral videos, we see a trend of young people giving brutally honest, passionate speeches and organizing movements.

New generations seem to be less and less complacent with the problems they’re inheriting, contributing to the growing pool of youth activists.

It’s unfortunate and a little disturbing that people as young as teenagers feel personally burdened with the responsibility of

spearheading these movements, but the issues they address are important.

Despite their youth, they’re influential figures who can bring change. Their strongest tool is their ability to bring people together. This is why we think it’s so important to remind you of the steps you can be taking as well.

Stay informed. Try to keep up with world news and global trends. Find hope and don’t let yourself get overwhelmed by the world’s problems.

Understand the individual power you have. Movements don’t happen in small groups. If you feel strongly about something, use your voice and speak up. Hope is the most powerful

tool you have. Stand for what you believe. Find ways to support causes that are important to you, whether it’s through protest, volunteer work, donations, or spreading the word.

Change isn’t dependent on age, race, gender or sexuality. Every moment we live, we’re making history. This is why it’s important to band together, let your voice be heard and fight for what you believe.

If you’re loud enough, you can’t be ignored. If you’re smart about it, you can bring change.

If there’s anything we can learn from Greta and the others, it’s that you can do amazing things if you take that first step and keep moving toward the future you want to see.

Give the Rosary a Try This Month

Pope Leo XIII says, “The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying.”

That’s a pretty bold statement. Am I right? This quote gives a lot of credit to the most holy rosary, which is a devotion in honor of the Virgin Mary.

But why would we pray to Mary if we can just go to God ourselves and pray to Him?

Well, have you ever asked your friend to pray for you? It’s like that. However, it’s also different because Mother Mary is as close to Jesus as you can get. I’m sorry to say this, but Mother Mary has way more power to her prayer than any friend of yours.

So, if we can rely on our friends to pray for us, why not rely on our mother as well? I mean, Jesus grew up listening to His mom His entire life. Even His first miracle is due to Mary telling Him to do it.

Jesus loves His mother and likes to listen to her, which is why there are great benefits to asking Mary to intercede for you. And the best way to do that is through praying the rosary.

Most people assume the rosary is reciting the same prayers over and

Faith on the Hill



Kasey Kaimann
Columnist

over, but, it’s much deeper than that. While praying, you meditate on the mysteries of Jesus’ life in the Gospels which brings you to an intense encounter with our Lord.

I once heard the mysteries of the rosary described as Mary’s Instagram account, because if she had one, her account would be full of snapshots of Jesus’ life. This shows us that her only concern is of her son and bringing us closer to Him.

The rosary not only brings us to Jesus, but it’s known to be one of the most powerful prayers. Countless miracles are due to the praying of the rosary.

I can attest for the rosary being so powerful, which is the very reason why I never let go of one. Mary is constantly interceding for me, helping me in times of temptation, protecting me, and turning my face to Jesus.

Pope Leo XIII wasn’t kidding when he said it is the root of all our blessings. I have witnessed time and time again the power of praying the rosary, which only leads me to encourage you to never give up on it.

If you have never prayed it before, give it a try. If you have, keep praying. Since October is the month of the rosary, there are several events throughout this month providing opportunities to pray it.

I encourage you to give your Mother a shot at answering your prayers and leading you to the one whom saved you.

Commercial Hits Home

Emotional Video Reminds Me of School Drill

On Sept. 27, 2019, Sandy Hook Promise released a video titled “Back-To-School Essentials.” Within 24 hours this video caused a lot controversy, and was reported on by CBS, CNN, The New York Times, and many other news outlets.

The video begins the way most other back-to-school commercials do, with kids showing off school supplies. However, it soon changes when the viewer realizes the students in this video are using their newly purchased supplies to survive a school shooting.

One girl uses her new jacket to tie the gym doors together to prevent the shooter from entering, another boy uses a skateboard, which his parents just got him, to break the windows of his classroom so his classmates can escape, and another girl, with blood all around her, uses her sock and ties it around another student’s leg that had been shot. Lastly, one last girl is trapped in the bathroom, rolled in on herself on top of the toilet, trying to hide, she has her phone out, and one last text is sent, “I love you mom.”

This may have been a filmed video, but many kids in school nowadays have sent that same text, thinking it would be the last. As someone who has been a similar

Opinion



Nicole Carl
Club Editor

situation before, it makes me think, how long will students going to school and have to face this constant fear?

When our school went into lockdown after a potential threat occurred, my classmates and I were crowded into the corner of our classroom for over three hours.

I tried contacting my family to let them know what was going on, and my classmates tried to see if the news could give us any information. We were sitting ducks, just waiting. Five police officers eventually entered to make sure we were all right. Our potential shooter was intercepted before anyone got hurt. In my case, it was only a lockdown, not a shooting. We were lucky.

My younger brother now goes to that same school. They had an active shooter drill, but the students were not aware it would be happening. My brother helped a classmate who was on crutches get to a safe classroom. I was so proud and scared at the same time.

Sandy Hook Promise is a nonprofit organization founded by parents of the children killed in the Sandy Hook shooting. These parents don’t want others to have to go through the losses they’ve had. They are trying to make others step up and do something as well before yet another tragedy strikes.

Sandy Hook should have been enough. Sandy Hook shouldn’t have happened. This “commercial” should be fiction, not reality.

‘God Land’ Touches on Intersect of Faith and American Politics

When I decided to read Lyz Lenz’s book “God Land,” I anticipated that I would like it. I knew it was about faith, politics and the Midwest, three things I care deeply about. Sure, I thought I would enjoy it, but I did not expect to love it, or for its words to hit so close to home.

God Land is in equal parts memoir and history lesson. It combines a conversation about the conflicts between Christianity and politics in a time when many churches are closing their doors.

It also explores the complex unraveling of Lenz’s marriage. It touches on ideas of race, sexuality, political ideology, and most prominently, gender. For me, God Land was more than a book; it was an experience.

In the introduction, Lenz writes briefly about how her marriage crumbled in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election. Despite a shared faith, she and her husband could not stay together. His religion drove his political beliefs much further to the right, all in the name of the Christian God.

“It was a personal break that mirrored a national one,” she writes. “I had supported Hillary Clinton. He had voted for Donald Trump. And once we realized that,

Opinion



Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

our marriage was so broken there was no fixing it.”

That passage is from only the second page, and immediately after reading those words, something in me clicked. I knew that the rest of the book would resonate with me. Lenz had spoken to a truth that many Americans experienced after Trump was elected — there are times when political beliefs completely ruin relationships. There are times when divides can no longer be bridged. There are times when the conflict is too deep, too important, too crushing.

Lenz’s relationship with gender roles in her faith was another highlight for me. Lenz talks about how she often disagrees with the role of women in Christianity.

She helped start a church with her husband and a few of their friends, and Lenz argued that women should be allowed to be elders and preachers. People in the group disagreed, often loudly and aggressively. Women were relegated to teaching Sunday school, or preaching only at children’s services. The men in the group did not believe that women should become church elders, either.

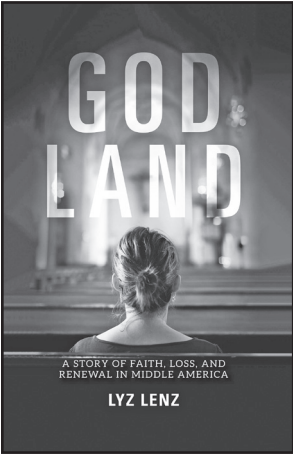
I have felt a similar spark of discontent with the role of women in my own religion. I am Catholic. In Catholicism, women can not be priests. I understand the church’s justification, Jesus was a man, but I have never truly agreed with it. It is extremely off-putting to belong to a religion where you know you do not have the

option to climb to its highest ranks. If women cannot become priests, it also means we’ll never have a female pope. It just doesn’t sit well with me that the Vatican, which is controlled almost completely by men, has so many opinions on what women should do.

Lenz touches on why women are forced into lesser roles in Christian religions. She says, “the rage of good women in the Bible is all in the subtext,” and then continues, “the women allowed to have feelings in the Bible are always the villains.”

It seems to me that truer words have never been written. The world, and Christianity by extension, fears women with feelings. Women with anger, women with opinions, women who are unafraid to speak up. Lenz was ostracized from her religion, from her friendships, and from her marriage. It is the sort of universal otherness that every outspoken woman has felt at some point in her life.

And not only are we silenced when we speak, sometimes we’re also not even spoken to. Lenz’s story made me think of one of my favorite musicals, Children of Eden. In the show, Noah is explaining to his wife, simply named Mama Noah, why he must build his arc. In her confusion,



Mama Noah simply says, “I don’t know about God. He never said anything to me anyway.” I feel that many Christian women feel the same, and Lenz’s book is a cathartic reminder of what happens when we’re overlooked.

Lenz’s story is admittedly a controversial one. It is uncomfortable to look at how politics have entered the pulpit in this country. It is not easy to admit that many faiths undervalue and ignore the wishes and contributions of women. It is painful to think of the pain some faiths cause people of color and those who identify as LGBTQ+.

Lenz embraces the awkward nature of these issues and confronts them head on.

Every person should read this book, because it’s that good. I want to emphasize that anyone who identifies as Christian should most definitely read God Land, especially if you disagree with some of the highlighted points in this review. I understand wanting to keep politics out of religion, but as Lenz herself says, “Everything is political. The only people who can pretend otherwise are people who can hide from it.”

So, stop hiding, and start reading. God Land will change your life.



Editorial Staff

Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

Caroline Groeschbeck
Managing Editor

Courtney Hoffman
Campus Editor

Madelyn Orton
Multimedia Editor

Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

Brianna Ostwinkle
Web Editor

Josh Harmon
Video Editor

Nicole Carl
Club Editor

Josh Harmon
Video Editor

Ekaterina Rangelova
Editorial Editor

Derek Hamilton
News Editor

Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

Aaron Golding
Business Manager

Joe Sheller
Faculty Advisor

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

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

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

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

Staff Writers are listed by name on the stories they write, photographers are credited on photos.

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

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

The Times reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. Letters and other submissions may be sent to the Times via email, campus mail or brought to the Times office in the lower level of the Busse Library.

The Times sells advertising space.

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

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

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

Mailing address:
Mount Mercy Times
Busse Library, Lower Level
1330 Elmhurst Drive NE
Cedar Rapids IA 52402

Web: mountmercytimes.home.blog

Email: times@mtmercy.edu



New academic technology specialist Greg Ennis in his office.

Brooklyn Native Brings Video Skills

By Ekaterina Rangelova
Editorial Editor

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Gregory Ennis is a new academic technology specialist at Mount Mercy University. Ennis graduated from NYU in New York. He completed his master’s degree in Dubuque, Iowa and his first career was in film and video production. “My first love was really music, playing and writing music, but my

parents convinced me to go a different route,” said Ennis. Ennis came to MMU because he liked the combination of what the mission and values are here, and the position was of great interest to him. Ennis says he has a strong creative interest, and teaches guitar

privately. “I just really enjoy helping people grow,” said Ennis. Ennis enjoys the relational impact of working with students and faculty at MMU. Before he came to Mount Mercy, he worked as a producer for

an educational documentary company and likes to incorporate that background into the learning and teaching aspects of his job at MMU. Aside from his job, Ennis enjoys gardening, photography, and combining visuals with music. Ennis describes himself as creative, relational, and a life-long learner. “I enjoy learning different things and I guess that’s why I have so many different interests,” said Ennis.

“My first love was really music, playing and writing music, but my parents convinced me to go a different route.”

Greg Ennis

New Faces on The Hill

Introducing faculty

By Madelyn Orton
Multimedia Editor

The Mercy critical concerns drew a new business professor to Mount Mercy. Melissa Fiacco joins the Mount Mercy community as an assistant professor of business.

“I was drawn to the five critical concerns as I found they aligned very well with my own personal values,” said Fiacco. “When I interviewed, I was impressed with the business department faculty, and MMU truly felt like a place I could call home.”

Fiacco will also serve as faculty co-chair of the Mount Mercy Students in Human Resource Management Club, where she looks forward to working with the stu-

dents and volunteering for various service projects. “I hope to learn as much from the students as I hope they learn from me,” said Fiacco. In the classroom, Fiacco was previously a faculty member at Upper Iowa University and she has over 10 years of professional experience. Fiacco will be teaching organizational behavior, human resource management, and compensation, benefits, and evaluations. Her classes at Mount Mercy will emphasize applying classroom knowledge to real life scenarios.

“I hope to learn as much from the students as I hope they learn from me,”

Melissa Fiacco

“I enjoy bringing in real life examples and case studies to help my students think beyond the textbook,” said Fiacco.

Martin-Herold College of Nursing Welcomes New Dean

By Derek Hamilton
News Editor

If you live on campus you might have seen the new dean of the Martin-Herold College of Nursing, Chandice Covington. That’s because she has chosen to live in Andreas Hall. She notes how in previous years, she has lived in all sorts of homes, in many different places, while enjoying those diverse experiences. “I don’t need the burden right now of a home, and a lawn, a long drive to work... I need a way to build exercise into my life without having to struggle too much,” says Covington. Covington is happy liv-

ing in a middle state like Iowa, which is between her four children and seven grandchildren. A positive factor to choosing Mount Mercy University was the vegan options at the cafeteria and being able to take short, non-stop flights to see any of her family in the Midwest. Mount Mercy also linked up with her values. Basic human values, including, she notes, freedom of religion. After careful deliberation, she went with Mount Mercy. Covington comes from a diverse and prestigious background where she rubbed elbows with big donors and celebrities at UCLA. She worked on a

Native American reservation as a nurse practitioner. She has been a tenured professor at several top ten nursing universities, and says she became a star wherever she went. She is bringing her passion for getting grants to Mount Mercy. When discussing Martin-A Herold College’s greatest strengths, Covington said among the top is the “fantastic, dedicated, experienced and engaged faculty.” She also noted that being a now endowed college, the nursing school cannot afford to rest on its laurels, and Covington says it will not cease to strive.



New Martin Herold College of Nursing’s dean Chandice Covington signs certificates for students.

New Professor Delivers Wealth of Experience to Students

By Aaron Golding
Business Editor

Tim O’Connor is a new addition to the Mount Mercy business department this year. He said he mainly focuses in the marketing realm, but he is teaching management courses this year, too. O’Connor hopes to broaden his scope to the other business courses that Mount Mercy offers. O’Connor received his undergraduate degree in finance from the University of Northern Iowa.

He then attended the University of Iowa to pursue a masters degree in business administration. Before coming to Mount Mercy, he was an adjunct professor at the University of Iowa where he taught marketing. He had many other job opportunities that he could have pursued, but ultimately chose to pursue a career in higher education. He has worked as a lawyer, has been in the banking industry, and has worked at Collins Aerospace, which also happens to be the largest employer in Cedar Rapids. O’Connor has a very diverse background which allows

him to teach a wide variety of classes. This could be helpful for O’Connor’s students, as it can be great for professors to have diverse experiences so they can offer lots of advice. O’Connor said, “the thought of teaching full time at an institution was the main reason I wanted to come to Mount Mercy University.” He also said that while he was looking for openings, he felt like this position was the one that would best suit his family and

himself. He has a young son who is in sports, which makes it easier for him to enjoy his son’s life now that he has a full-time teaching job. When he isn’t teaching, O’Connor enjoys coaching his son’s flag football team. It is clear to see that O’Connor loves teaching, whether it’s on the field or in the classroom.

“...teaching full time at an institution was the main reason I wanted to come to Mount Mercy University.”

Tim O’Connor

Get In On the Competition With Fantasy Football

Quick Tips For Getting the Most Out of Your Fantasy Sports Experience

By Mahlon Steepleton
Staff Writer

What is fantasy football? Fantasy football is a game that people can participate in online. The competitors in the league choose team rosters by participating in a “draft” in which all real life football players of that specific league are available. The great thing about fantasy football is that anyone can play it. There are adult, college, middle and high school, or even family-only leagues. The drafts usually occur at someone’s house or at a fun event center. People sometimes wear their jerseys or they will bring their devices, so they can draft their players on the fantasy football websites like ESPN and Fleaflicker.

“It’s some friendly competition and something to discuss. It gives me more watch value to every football game and keeps me intrigued.”

Hunter Filloon,

The game typically involves the National Football League (NFL) or the Canadian Football League (CFL). The points in Fantasy Football are based on the actual performances of the players in the real games. There are two ways to play fantasy football: The traditional way, is when the competition can run either the entire season or for many seasons after in a friends or family league. The second way to play is through the “Daily”. The “Daily” is an accelerated version of fantasy football. The competitions are conducted over a shorter version of time, such as a week or a single day. Daily fantasy football is managed by commercial internet companies. In this you can win thousands or even millions of dollars if you win. In the U.S., the two biggest firms

are DraftKings and FanDuel. The reason why people play it is because it’s entertaining, you also have something to talk about with your friends or family. If you win, you also get bragging rights if someone’s team is unsuccessful because they over thought things. A lot of people at Mount Mercy play fantasy football. I am actually in three Mount Mercy fantasy football leagues of my own right now. The boys cross country team is in one this year as well. Senior Hunter Filloon is in the cross country fantasy football league and he really seems to enjoy it. “It’s some friendly competition and something to discuss. It gives me more watch value to every football game and keeps me intrigued,” Filloon said. Fantasy football can be for anyone who is interested in friendly competition. It’s a fun thing to do and you can make a lot of friends while playing it.



Taylor Petersen/ Times
A defender (left) attempts to get the ball back from a Central Methodist University player during the women's Sept. 28 game. The women lost 4-0.

Eagles Defeat Women's Soccer Team

By Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy women's soccer team suffered a tough loss against the Central Methodist University Eagles (Mo.) during the Homecoming match on Sept. 28 at the Plaster Athletic Complex with a final score of 4-0.

The undefeated Eagles did not let the Mustangs have a single shot on goal during the match.

In this first half, Eagle Anika Kallash, junior, scored the first goal at the 30th minute, assisted by junior, Elly Boothe. 8 minutes later in the

38th minute, Eagle senior Judith Sainz, found the back of the net, making the score 2-0 by the end of the first half.

After a half-time performance from the Mount Mercy cheerleading squad and the nationally ranked Mount Mercy dance team, the Mustangs remained scoreless in the second half.

The Eagles third goal of the evening was scored when Kallash set up Sainz in the 78th minute of the game. In the 81st minute the Eagles score their final goal with a shot made by junior Joana Villanova, assisted by

Sainz, making the final score 4-0.

During the match, despite Central Methodist's 14 shots on goal, Mustang freshman Grace Byers had 9 saves.

The Mustangs have now dropped to 1-8-1 overall and 0-4-0 in the Heart of America Athletic Conference after this conference match. The Eagles remain undefeated with a record of 11-0-0 overall and 4-0-0 in the conference.

The next home game will be against Graceland University at the Plaster Athletic Complex on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 1:00 p.m.



Taylor Petersen/ Times
The men (below) defend the ball from Central Methodist University. The men lost 2-0.

Mustangs Lose to #1 Ranked Eagles

By Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy men's soccer team put up a good fight against the NAIA Champions and number one ranked Central Methodist University Eagles, but fell 2-0 during the Homecoming game on Sept. 28 at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

During the first half of the game, the Eagles scored the only 2 goals of the match. The first goal was made

when Eagle Daniel Hernandez, sophomore, found the back of the net in the 23rd minute of the match.

Four minutes later, in the 27th minute, Eagle sophomore Victor Luengo set up a goal for Andre de Simone, senior, making the score 2-0.

After the crowning of Mount Mercy Homecoming King, Barry Doe and Queen, Payton Bruner during half time, the Mustangs were able to hold off the Eagles during the second half of the game, making the final score 2-0 Eagles.

While the Mustangs were only able to put one shot on goal, the Eagles were able to get 6 shots on goal out of 14 shots.

The Mustangs fell to 6-3-1 overall after a four-game winning streak, and 3-1-0 in the Heart of America Athletic Conference after this match. The Eagles raised their record to 10-1-0 overall and 4-0-0 in the conference.

The next home game will be on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 3:30 at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Muddy Showdown in Windy City for Cross Country Team

By Aaron Golding and Morgan Ingwersen
Business Manager and Staff Writer

Conditions were horrible for onlookers during the Sept. 28 meet in Loyola, Illinois.

The course was a muddy disaster. It had rained days leading up to the weekend, making conditions great for runners but awful for parents and onlookers.

It was a very tough field of teams, but the Mustangs had a great showing on both sides. The women finished 10th and the men placed 12th out of 31 teams.

The women's team was led by Vanessa Cortes, senior, who placed fourth out of 281 runners with a time of 19:02.

"I really surprised myself especially since the race was slippery and I was closer to breaking 19 than I thought," said Cortes.

Senior Andrea Ertz crossed the line 50th with a time of 20:08. Kelsi Huhndorf, sophomore, crossed at 65th (20:19), Emily

Erickson, sophomore, crossed at 73rd (20:30), and McKenna Johnson, junior, at 105th (21:18) to round out the top five.

Mady Roth, senior, was next who came in 121st with a time of 21:42 and freshman Hallie Kephart, rounded out the top seven in 149th with a time of 22:09.

"The teams ran strong through the conditions," said Coach Tad Hulst. "They showed grit and mental toughness throughout the races."

The men were led by senior Jacob Blackmon, who finished 27th out of 274 runners with a time of 26:50. He was closely shadowed by senior, Aaron Golding, who finished in 45th place (27:16), Cameron Steffens finished 83rd (27:57), Sayed Opeyany, junior, finished in 92nd (28:08), and freshman, Jasper Severn placed 173rd (29:46).

The top seven was rounded out by Oscar Lopez, freshman, placing 176th with a time of 29:51 and Chase Kress, junior, placing 182nd with a time of 30:01.



Contributed by Tad Hulst
The men's and women's cross country team poses in Loyola, Illinois after their meet on Sept. 28. The women finished 10th and the men finished 12th out of 31 teams.

Women's Volleyball Team Wins Big Against Peru State

By Dennis Mckinney
Staff Writer

On September 28, the Mount Mercy Mustangs came to play against the Peru State College Bobcats, who are last in the Heart of Conference in overall record play. The Mustangs get back on track after dropping both games this weekend.

The Mustangs jump out on the Bobcats and took the first set 25-13. During this set the offense of the Mustangs stood out and they were able to make plays as the Bobcats made mistakes.

During the second set the Mustangs lead the Bobcats 20-14 before the Bobcats called a time out to try to slow the momentum. The Mustangs would take the set in the end 25-21.

Head Coach Deb Marlin describes the first two sets saying, "We came out and controlled the match early, sets 1 and 2. We had control. Our ball control was outstanding. Our passing was great, our hitters were good."

The energy they came

out with caused the Bobcats to force themselves to have to regroup.

The third set was a lot closer than the first two as the Bobcats showed more fight than they did in the 2nd set. That set came down to the last two points as it went beyond the 25-point match points.

The Mustangs in the end took the set and game 25-27.

Middle blocker, Maddie Bell, junior, says, "We play our best when we're having fun."

The Mustangs were led by Bell in kills with 16, while the Bobcats were led by senior, Claire Cudney with 10 kills. The Bobcats were led in digs by senior, Darlene Quinonez Holguin and sophomore, Alyssa Childers with 12. The Mustangs were led by freshman, Mackenzie Murphy in digs with 15 digs alongside junior, Gabi Delsing.

The Mustangs will continue their conference play against Missouri Valley College on Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec Center

Women's Volleyball Falls to Graceland in Five Set Battle

By Haley Weideman
Staff Writer

The Mount Mercy Women's volleyball team played an exciting match against the Graceland Yellowjackets in Hennesey Recreation Center on Sept. 29, barely falling in five sets.

The teams appeared to be evenly matched. Mount Mercy led the first set 21-16 before Graceland went on a five-point run to stay in the game. After a long rally, the Mustangs only lead by one point, at 23-22. After a crucial Graceland-block straight down, tying the game at 23 all, Mount Mercy took a timeout. Graceland scored the final two points off of Mustang errors to win the set.

Freshman Mackenzie Murphy started the second set with back-to-back aces, keeping the score close at 4-3. The Mustangs kept up with the Yellowjackets until halfway through the set, when Graceland went on another long run, making it the Yellowjackets' lead 17-11. Mount Mercy fought back, scoring seven more points in the set, but lost the game 18-25.

The third set went dif-

ferently. Mount Mercy came out stronger, leading 12-4. At this point, Graceland had used both of their timeouts in an attempt to slow the Mustang momentum. It was no use. The Mustangs took the third set surprisingly quickly, winning 25-15.

Off the high of the third set, the Mustangs stayed in the groove, leading 16-7 after an ace from Kayla Daggett and two aces from Mackenzie Murphy. Mount Mercy finally put a stop to a Graceland five-point run and took it away from there. The Mustangs won the fourth set 25-16.

In the fifth set, Grand View came out of the gate running, earning the first five points of the game. The Mustangs never lead after that, struggling to earn a kill. Their lack of offense lead to their fall in the final set 15-11, losing the match.

Maddie Bell lead Mount Mercy in kills with 14. Libero, Gabi Delsing, lead the defense with 27 digs. Daggett and Murphy each had 4 service aces in the match. The Mustangs will have another chance to top Graceland on Nov. 1.



Family Affair



Caroline Groesbeck/Times (left); Dave Dennis/Contributed

Katie Dennis (left) hits during a match Oct. 4 in the Hennessy Rec Center. Dave Dennis, MMU facility director, took the picture (above) of his daughters Abby, Katie and Dani, with their mother Wendy Dennis Sept. 10 when all three daughters had been on the court together.

Sisters Set Each Other Up for Success on Volleyball Court

By Caroline Groesbeck
Managing Editor

After playing on different teams all throughout school, Abby, Katie, and Dani Dennis finally get to play for the same team—the Mount Mercy Mustangs.

“I think we have a such a healthy and competitive relationship with each other that I don’t see a disadvantage playing on the same team,” said the eldest sister Abby Dennis, a nursing major.

Katie Dennis, the middle sister, who plans to transfer to a radiology program in Colorado, holds similar views.

“I cannot think of any cons, being on the same team as them definitely pushes me to do better because everything is a competition,” said Katie.

The three actually quit volleyball in high school to swim but returned to it so that they all could attend Mount Mercy

and play on the same team. Another factor that spurred their interest in Mount Mercy was their father’s work on campus. Dave Dennis, director of facilities, has worked on the Hill since the sisters were little.

“I actually had a few scholarships to go swim out of state, which was pretty cool,” said Katie, “but with my dad working here when I was younger, my sisters and I were kind of the mascots for the men’s soccer team, and we were the ball-rollers for the women’s team. Growing up here and already knowing what it was like, it was really easy to take classes here and be comfortable while creating new memories.”

Besides the benefit of being able to play with each other, the sisters have seen

other benefits from participating in Mount Mercy’s volleyball program.

“I have been given the opportunity to stay in great shape the last 4 years, juggle more than I thought possible (2 jobs, 15-17 credits in addition to clinical experiences, while being in season with practices, lifting, games, etc.) as well as meet some amazing teammates and friends along the way,” said Abby Dennis.

“I love my team and having my sisters here helped my transition into college,” said youngest sister Dani Dennis, an athletic science and athletic training major.

Each “Dennis Daughter” has a favorite position on the team. Abby plays defensive specialist but loves playing hitter as well since she’s then involved in all

aspects of play. Katie loves to set but is more effective on her current team as a front-row hitter. Dani likes to play either right side hitter or defense.

All three sisters plan on keeping volleyball in their lives after college, whether it’s through intramurals, sand or grass leagues, or something more. Volleyball has meant a lot to the siblings throughout their lives.

“I am forever thankful for the sport, all of the lessons it has taught me and all of the people it has introduced me to,” said Abby.

Volleyball to Dani simply means, “Family.” Volleyball has also strengthened the sisters bonds to each other as well.

“Whatever happens, I have their back and they have mine, which really cool to be able to say about siblings,” said Katie. “Not many people get the chance to say that.”

SNAPSHOT

Meet the people
on The Hill

Abby, Katie
& Dani Dennis

On MMU Team, Friends From Across the Globe

By Srdjan Jankovic
Staff Writer

Their homes are 5,750 miles apart from each other, however, on the pitch they are only few yards away. Coming from completely different cultures and having different perspectives on life and its purpose, MMU student athletes, Nikola Petrovic from Serbia, and Dane Lee from Jamaica, are best friends thanks to soccer.

They met each other in Waterloo, Iowa during the Hawkeye community college soccer pre-season in 2016. Since then, they’ve spent a lot of time together in class, at work and on the field.

“Moving to live on my own far away from my family was a hard challenge for me,” Petrovic said. “I was lucky enough that I came to a welcoming environment where I met many great people and one of them was Dane. He was in a same position as me, moving far away from home to a completely different and new community.”

“In the early ages, when

people were exposed to danger, they tried to face it together in order to survive,” Lee said. “The same happened to me and Niko, we knew that both of us were new here, so we started hanging out and became friends.”

He added that their friendship started on the soccer field and later on in classes and out of them too.

Now they even work together on campus. During their free time, which is hard to find especially during the soccer season, they love to play the video game FIFA on PlayStation.

“Dane is one of my best friends, but I have no mercy when I beat him in FIFA,” Petrovic said, laughing. Lee denied this.

Before coming to the United States, Petrovic spent his early school years in his hometown of Belgrade, never leaving Europe. His only friends were Serbian, who come from the same culture and have the same mentality as him.

On the other side, Lee was born and raised in Calernndon,



Contributed images

Dane Lee, left, from Jamaica, and Nikola Petrovic, right, from Serbia, have become friends from across the world at MMU.

Jamaica; he had never been in Europe in his life. Both of them decided to come to U.S., and later on to Mount Mercy to pursue soccer and a college education.

“Soccer is my biggest passion, but I couldn’t ever imagine to meet someone from another part of the world playing it with me and becoming one of my best friends,” Lee said.

The Mount Mercy men’s soccer team has players from 17 different countries. Petrovic, who is also the captain of the team, says that his teammates all come from different cultures, but on the field, they all play as one.

“I feel like soccer connected us, even though we are so different, we became a family,” he said.

Poet Promotes Equality

By K’Asia Parks
Staff Writer

Donney Rose, a poet from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, came to campus on Oct. 4 to lead a poetry workshop with a focus on equality.

The departments of multicultural affairs and diversity and inclusion partnered up to bring the Beyond the Margins workshop series to Mount Mercy.

The workshop series began with the question, “How do we talk about social issues?” The goal of the workshop series was for students to be more inclusive in what they’re doing and thinking. This introduced participants to the core ideas of Beyond the Margins.

Keesha Burke-Henderson, director of diversity and international success, discussed how she discovered Rose on Instagram and was touched by his comments on injustice in the community and his poetry.

Shortly after Rose provided his own background, he began to recite a poem. Afterwards, Rose got to know each participant by asking them to state their name and a principle they believe in. Then Rose proceeded to talk about the topic of privilege.

Rose opened up the floor to discuss the concept of privilege. One of three handouts Rose provided

included definitions and descriptions of different types of privilege. These handouts helped Rose to create a dialogue with the audience about what types of privilege people possessed.

Students then discussed how it can seem like one doesn’t benefit from any privilege until it’s gone. Some spoke about how education is a privilege that many people overlook. Other students also touched on how some gender identities carry more privilege than others.

Rose then moved to a second handout that came from the Michael Brown case in Ferguson, Missouri. The handout consisted of lines of poetry written as a movement from local poets right after Michael Brown was shot and killed by a Ferguson police officer. The lines dealt with global equality and the concept of equality in general. After reviewing the handout, students picked lines that stood out for them.

Rose then showed participants a video of a visual poem titled Black Enough. Lastly, Rose moved to the final handout, which was titled Timeline Trauma. Rose asked students to read alone and opened the floor for discussion afterwards. Rose proceeded to give students their own prompt and to take 7 minutes to write their own poetry.

Heard on The Hill

By Donovan Grubaugh
What people are saying on topics of interest

With plenty of buzz about climate change following Greta Thunberg’s U.N. speech, appearance in Iowa City and national protests, the MMU Times asked students: What should be done about climate change?



Caleb Baker, junior, graphics design major.

“We should adopt solar and wind energy in order to reduce the amount of carbon emissions in the air.”



Cassie Gillmore, sophomore, secondary education major.

“Majorly reduce plastic use and switch to more sustainable energy.”



Kerrigan Johnson, freshman, nursing major.

“Manage energy usage and don’t waste food.”



Margaret Peterson, senior, political science and psychology major.

“Action needs to be taken and we need to stop playing politics and treat climate change like the crisis it is.”



Tiara Soeder, freshman, nursing major.

“Reduce transportation using gas and use more eco-friendly options.”



Noah Williams-Davis, sophomore, biology major.

“Bring awareness and research on the biological effects of plastics and micro plastics. Also, accumulating debris has potential long term effects we aren’t doing enough about.”

Young Advocates Take Up Responsibility Adults Leave Behind

Teenage revolutionary figures are commonplace in young adult fiction.

Though we see them in bestselling novels and blockbuster films, we recognize it’s an unrealistic trope. But how unrealistic is it, really?

16-year-old Greta Thunberg has been making national headlines in the past two weeks following her impassioned speech at the U.N.’s Climate Action Summit.

With charged lines like “you have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words,” and “You are failing us, but young people are starting to

Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

understand your betrayal,” it’s easy to see how she’s captured everyone’s attention.

In addition to this, she’s responsible for the organization of several strikes for climate change in multiple countries, including an Iowa City strike Oct. 4 to push for 100 percent renewable energy in Iowa City and at the University of Iowa.

Despite her age, Thunberg has been received numerous awards and honors, nomination as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019.

But she isn’t the only young activist who has created a massive platform for themselves in recent years. Some of the most recognizable figures include Emma Gonzales and other teen-

aged survivors of the Parkland shooting, who organized the nationwide March For Our Lives in 2018, as well as Malala Yousafzai, who became a prominent human rights advocate after an attempted assassination when she was 13.

Aided by the Internet and viral videos, we see a trend of young people giving brutally honest, passionate speeches and organizing movements.

New generations seem to be less and less complacent with the problems they’re inheriting, contributing to the growing pool of youth activists.

It’s unfortunate and a little disturbing that people as young as teenagers feel personally burdened with the responsibility of

spearheading these movements, but the issues they address are important.

Despite their youth, they’re influential figures who can bring change. Their strongest tool is their ability to bring people together. This is why we think it’s so important to remind you of the steps you can be taking as well.

Stay informed. Try to keep up with world news and global trends. Find hope and don’t let yourself get overwhelmed by the world’s problems.

Understand the individual power you have. Movements don’t happen in small groups. If you feel strongly about something, use your voice and speak up. Hope is the most powerful

tool you have. Stand for what you believe. Find ways to support causes that are important to you, whether it’s through protest, volunteer work, donations, or spreading the word.

Change isn’t dependent on age, race, gender or sexuality. Every moment we live, we’re making history. This is why it’s important to band together, let your voice be heard and fight for what you believe.

If you’re loud enough, you can’t be ignored. If you’re smart about it, you can bring change.

If there’s anything we can learn from Greta and the others, it’s that you can do amazing things if you take that first step and keep moving toward the future you want to see.

Give the Rosary a Try This Month

Pope Leo XIII says, “The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying.”

That’s a pretty bold statement. Am I right? This quote gives a lot of credit to the most holy rosary, which is a devotion in honor of the Virgin Mary.

But why would we pray to Mary if we can just go to God ourselves and pray to Him?

Well, have you ever asked your friend to pray for you? It’s like that. However, it’s also different because Mother Mary is as close to Jesus as you can get. I’m sorry to say this, but Mother Mary has way more power to her prayer than any friend of yours.

So, if we can rely on our friends to pray for us, why not rely on our mother as well? I mean, Jesus grew up listening to His mom His entire life. Even His first miracle is due to Mary telling Him to do it.

Jesus loves His mother and likes to listen to her, which is why there are great benefits to asking Mary to intercede for you. And the best way to do that is through praying the rosary.

Most people assume the rosary is reciting the same prayers over and

Faith on the Hill



Kasey Kaimann
Columnist

over, but, it’s much deeper than that. While praying, you meditate on the mysteries of Jesus’ life in the Gospels which brings you to an intense encounter with our Lord.

I once heard the mysteries of the rosary described as Mary’s Instagram account, because if she had one, her account would be full of snapshots of Jesus’ life. This shows us that her only concern is of her son and bringing us closer to Him.

The rosary not only brings us to Jesus, but it’s known to be one of the most powerful prayers. Countless miracles are due to the praying of the rosary.

I can attest for the rosary being so powerful, which is the very reason why I never let go of one. Mary is constantly interceding for me, helping me in times of temptation, protecting me, and turning my face to Jesus.

Pope Leo XIII wasn’t kidding when he said it is the root of all our blessings. I have witnessed time and time again the power of praying the rosary, which only leads me to encourage you to never give up on it.

If you have never prayed it before, give it a try. If you have, keep praying. Since October is the month of the rosary, there are several events throughout this month providing opportunities to pray it.

I encourage you to give your Mother a shot at answering your prayers and leading you to the one whom saved you.

Commercial Hits Home

Emotional Video Reminds Me of School Drill

On Sept. 27, 2019, Sandy Hook Promise released a video titled “Back-To-School Essentials.” Within 24 hours this video caused a lot controversy, and was reported on by CBS, CNN, The New York Times, and many other news outlets.

The video begins the way most other back-to-school commercials do, with kids showing off school supplies. However, it soon changes when the viewer realizes the students in this video are using their newly purchased supplies to survive a school shooting.

One girl uses her new jacket to tie the gym doors together to prevent the shooter from entering, another boy uses a skateboard, which his parents just got him, to break the windows of his classroom so his classmates can escape, and another girl, with blood all around her, uses her sock and ties it around another student’s leg that had been shot. Lastly, one last girl is trapped in the bathroom, rolled in on herself on top of the toilet, trying to hide, she has her phone out, and one last text is sent, “I love you mom.”

This may have been a filmed video, but many kids in school nowadays have sent that same text, thinking it would be the last. As someone who has been a similar

Opinion



Nicole Carl
Club Editor

situation before, it makes me think, how long will students going to school and have to face this constant fear?

When our school went into lockdown after a potential threat occurred, my classmates and I were crowded into the corner of our classroom for over three hours.

I tried contacting my family to let them know what was going on, and my classmates tried to see if the news could give us any information. We were sitting ducks, just waiting. Five police officers eventually entered to make sure we were all right. Our potential shooter was intercepted before anyone got hurt. In my case, it was only a lockdown, not a shooting. We were lucky.

My younger brother now goes to that same school. They had an active shooter drill, but the students were not aware it would be happening. My brother helped a classmate who was on crutches get to a safe classroom. I was so proud and scared at the same time.

Sandy Hook Promise is a nonprofit organization founded by parents of the children killed in the Sandy Hook shooting. These parents don’t want others to have to go through the losses they’ve had. They are trying to make others step up and do something as well before yet another tragedy strikes.

Sandy Hook should have been enough. Sandy Hook shouldn’t have happened. This “commercial” should be fiction, not reality.

‘God Land’ Touches on Intersect of Faith and American Politics

When I decided to read Lyz Lenz’s book “God Land,” I anticipated that I would like it. I knew it was about faith, politics and the Midwest, three things I care deeply about. Sure, I thought I would enjoy it, but I did not expect to love it, or for its words to hit so close to home.

God Land is in equal parts memoir and history lesson. It combines a conversation about the conflicts between Christianity and politics in a time when many churches are closing their doors.

It also explores the complex unraveling of Lenz’s marriage. It touches on ideas of race, sexuality, political ideology, and most prominently, gender. For me, God Land was more than a book; it was an experience.

In the introduction, Lenz writes briefly about how her marriage crumbled in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election. Despite a shared faith, she and her husband could not stay together. His religion drove his political beliefs much further to the right, all in the name of the Christian God.

“It was a personal break that mirrored a national one,” she writes. “I had supported Hillary Clinton. He had voted for Donald Trump. And once we realized that,

Opinion



Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

our marriage was so broken there was no fixing it.”

That passage is from only the second page, and immediately after reading those words, something in me clicked. I knew that the rest of the book would resonate with me. Lenz had spoken to a truth that many Americans experienced after Trump was elected — there are times when political beliefs completely ruin relationships. There are times when divides can no longer be bridged. There are times when the conflict is too deep, too important, too crushing.

Lenz’s relationship with gender roles in her faith was another highlight for me. Lenz talks about how she often disagrees with the role of women in Christianity.

She helped start a church with her husband and a few of their friends, and Lenz argued that women should be allowed to be elders and preachers. People in the group disagreed, often loudly and aggressively. Women were relegated to teaching Sunday school, or preaching only at children’s services. The men in the group did not believe that women should become church elders, either.

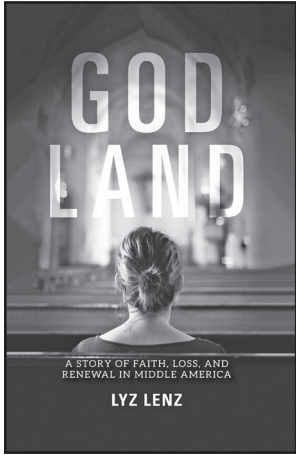
I have felt a similar spark of discontent with the role of women in my own religion. I am Catholic. In Catholicism, women can not be priests. I understand the church’s justification, Jesus was a man, but I have never truly agreed with it. It is extremely off-putting to belong to a religion where you know you do not have the

option to climb to its highest ranks. If women cannot become priests, it also means we’ll never have a female pope. It just doesn’t sit well with me that the Vatican, which is controlled almost completely by men, has so many opinions on what women should do.

Lenz touches on why women are forced into lesser roles in Christian religions. She says, “the rage of good women in the Bible is all in the subtext,” and then continues, “the women allowed to have feelings in the Bible are always the villains.”

It seems to me that truer words have never been written. The world, and Christianity by extension, fears women with feelings. Women with anger, women with opinions, women who are unafraid to speak up. Lenz was ostracized from her religion, from her friendships, and from her marriage. It is the sort of universal otherness that every outspoken woman has felt at some point in her life.

And not only are we silenced when we speak, sometimes we’re also not even spoken to. Lenz’s story made me think of one of my favorite musicals, Children of Eden. In the show, Noah is explaining to his wife, simply named Mama Noah, why he must build his arc. In her confusion,



Mama Noah simply says, “I don’t know about God. He never said anything to me anyway.” I feel that many Christian women feel the same, and Lenz’s book is a cathartic reminder of what happens when we’re overlooked.

Lenz’s story is admittedly a controversial one. It is uncomfortable to look at how politics have entered the pulpit in this country. It is not easy to admit that many faiths undervalue and ignore the wishes and contributions of women. It is painful to think of the pain some faiths cause people of color and those who identify as LGBTQ+.

Lenz embraces the awkward nature of these issues and confronts them head on.

Every person should read this book, because it’s that good. I want to emphasize that anyone who identifies as Christian should most definitely read God Land, especially if you disagree with some of the highlighted points in this review. I understand wanting to keep politics out of religion, but as Lenz herself says, “Everything is political. The only people who can pretend otherwise are people who can hide from it.”

So, stop hiding, and start reading. God Land will change your life.

Editorial Staff

Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

Caroline Groeschbeck
Managing Editor

Courtney Hoffman
Campus Editor

Madelyn Orton
Multimedia Editor

Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

Brianna Ostwinkle
Web Editor

Josh Harmon
Video Editor

Nicole Carl
Club Editor

Josh Harmon
Video Editor

Ekaterina Rangelova
Editorial Editor

Derek Hamilton
News Editor

Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

Aaron Golding
Business Manager

Joe Sheller
Faculty Advisor

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

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

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

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

Staff Writers are listed by name on the stories they write, photographers are credited on photos.

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

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

The Times reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. Letters and other submissions may be sent to the Times via email, campus mail or brought to the Times office in the lower level of the Busse Library.

The Times sells advertising space.

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

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

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

Mailing address:
Mount Mercy Times
Busse Library, Lower Level
1330 Elmhurst Drive NE
Cedar Rapids IA 52402

Web: mountmercytimes.home.blog

Email: times@mtmercy.edu



New academic technology specialist Greg Ennis in his office.

Brooklyn Native Brings Video Skills

By Ekaterina Rangelova
Editorial Editor

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Gregory Ennis is a new academic technology specialist at Mount Mercy University. Ennis graduated from NYU in New York. He completed his master’s degree in Dubuque, Iowa and his first career was in film and video production. “My first love was really music, playing and writing music, but my

parents convinced me to go a different route,” said Ennis. Ennis came to MMU because he liked the combination of what the mission and values are here, and the position was of great interest to him. Ennis says he has a strong creative interest, and teaches guitar

privately. “I just really enjoy helping people grow,” said Ennis. Ennis enjoys the relational impact of working with students and faculty at MMU. Before he came to Mount Mercy, he worked as a producer for

an educational documentary company and likes to incorporate that background into the learning and teaching aspects of his job at MMU. Aside from his job, Ennis enjoys gardening, photography, and combining visuals with music. Ennis describes himself as creative, relational, and a life-long learner. “I enjoy learning different things and I guess that’s why I have so many different interests,” said Ennis.

“My first love was really music, playing and writing music, but my parents convinced me to go a different route.”

Greg Ennis

New Faces on The Hill

Introducing faculty

By Madelyn Orton
Multimedia Editor

The Mercy critical concerns drew a new business professor to Mount Mercy. Melissa Fiacco joins the Mount Mercy community as an assistant professor of business.

“I was drawn to the five critical concerns as I found they aligned very well with my own personal values,” said Fiacco. “When I interviewed, I was impressed with the business department faculty, and MMU truly felt like a place I could call home.”

Fiacco will also serve as faculty co-chair of the Mount Mercy Students in Human Resource Management Club, where she looks forward to working with the stu-

dents and volunteering for various service projects. “I hope to learn as much from the students as I hope they learn from me,” said Fiacco. In the classroom, Fiacco was previously a faculty member at Upper Iowa University and she has over 10 years of professional experience. Fiacco will be teaching organizational behavior, human resource management, and compensation, benefits, and evaluations. Her classes at Mount Mercy will emphasize applying classroom knowledge to real life scenarios.

“I hope to learn as much from the students as I hope they learn from me,”

Melissa Fiacco

“I enjoy bringing in real life examples and case studies to help my students think beyond the textbook,” said Fiacco.

Martin-Herold College of Nursing Welcomes New Dean

By Derek Hamilton
News Editor

If you live on campus you might have seen the new dean of the Martin-Herold College of Nursing, Chandice Covington. That’s because she has chosen to live in Andreas Hall. She notes how in previous years, she has lived in all sorts of homes, in many different places, while enjoying those diverse experiences. “I don’t need the burden right now of a home, and a lawn, a long drive to work... I need a way to build exercise into my life without having to struggle too much,” says Covington. Covington is happy liv-

ing in a middle state like Iowa, which is between her four children and seven grandchildren. A positive factor to choosing Mount Mercy University was the vegan options at the cafeteria and being able to take short, non-stop flights to see any of her family in the Midwest. Mount Mercy also linked up with her values. Basic human values, including, she notes, freedom of religion. After careful deliberation, she went with Mount Mercy. Covington comes from a diverse and prestigious background where she rubbed elbows with big donors and celebrities at UCLA. She worked on a

Native American reservation as a nurse practitioner. She has been a tenured professor at several top ten nursing universities, and says she became a star wherever she went. She is bringing her passion for getting grants to Mount Mercy. When discussing Martin-A Herold College’s greatest strengths, Covington said among the top is the “fantastic, dedicated, experienced and engaged faculty.” She also noted that being a now endowed college, the nursing school cannot afford to rest on its laurels, and Covington says it will not cease to strive.



New Martin Herold College of Nursing’s dean Chandice Covington signs certificates for students.

New Professor Delivers Wealth of Experience to Students

By Aaron Golding
Business Editor

Tim O’Connor is a new addition to the Mount Mercy business department this year. He said he mainly focuses in the marketing realm, but he is teaching management courses this year, too. O’Connor hopes to broaden his scope to the other business courses that Mount Mercy offers. O’Connor received his undergraduate degree in finance from the University of Northern Iowa.

He then attended the University of Iowa to pursue a masters degree in business administration. Before coming to Mount Mercy, he was an adjunct professor at the University of Iowa where he taught marketing. He had many other job opportunities that he could have pursued, but ultimately chose to pursue a career in higher education. He has worked as a lawyer, has been in the banking industry, and has worked at Collins Aerospace, which also happens to be the largest employer in Cedar Rapids. O’Connor has a very diverse background which allows

him to teach a wide variety of classes. This could be helpful for O’Connor’s students, as it can be great for professors to have diverse experiences so they can offer lots of advice. O’Connor said, “the thought of teaching full time at an institution was the main reason I wanted to come to Mount Mercy University.” He also said that while he was looking for openings, he felt like this position was the one that would best suit his family and

himself. He has a young son who is in sports, which makes it easier for him to enjoy his son’s life now that he has a full-time teaching job. When he isn’t teaching, O’Connor enjoys coaching his son’s flag football team. It is clear to see that O’Connor loves teaching, whether it’s on the field or in the classroom.

“...teaching full time at an institution was the main reason I wanted to come to Mount Mercy University.”

Tim O’Connor

O’Connor has a very diverse background which allows

Get In On the Competition With Fantasy Football

Quick Tips For Getting the Most Out of Your Fantasy Sports Experience

By Mahlon Steepleton
Staff Writer

What is fantasy football? Fantasy football is a game that people can participate in online. The competitors in the league choose team rosters by participating in a “draft” in which all real life football players of that specific league are available. The great thing about fantasy football is that anyone can play it. There are adult, college, middle and high school, or even family-only leagues. The drafts usually occur at someone’s house or at a fun event center. People sometimes wear their jerseys or they will bring their devices, so they can draft their players on the fantasy football websites like ESPN and Fleaflicker.

“It’s some friendly competition and something to discuss. It gives me more watch value to every football game and keeps me intrigued.”

Hunter Filloon,

The game typically involves the National Football League (NFL) or the Canadian Football League (CFL). The points in Fantasy Football are based on the actual performances of the players in the real games. There are two ways to play fantasy football: The traditional way, is when the competition can run either the entire season or for many seasons after in a friends or family league. The second way to play is through the “Daily”. The “Daily” is an accelerated version of fantasy football. The competitions are conducted over a shorter version of time, such as a week or a single day. Daily fantasy football is managed by commercial internet companies. In this you can win thousands or even millions of dollars if you win. In the U.S., the two biggest firms

are DraftKings and FanDuel. The reason why people play it is because it’s entertaining, you also have something to talk about with your friends or family. If you win, you also get bragging rights if someone’s team is unsuccessful because they over thought things. A lot of people at Mount Mercy play fantasy football. I am actually in three Mount Mercy fantasy football leagues of my own right now. The boys cross country team is in one this year as well. Senior Hunter Filloon is in the cross country fantasy football league and he really seems to enjoy it. “It’s some friendly competition and something to discuss. It gives me more watch value to every football game and keeps me intrigued,” Filloon said. Fantasy football can be for anyone who is interested in friendly competition. It’s a fun thing to do and you can make a lot of friends while playing it.



Taylor Petersen/ Times
A defender (left) attempts to get the ball back from a Central Methodist University player during the women's Sept. 28 game. The women lost 4-0.

Eagles Defeat Women's Soccer Team

By Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy women's soccer team suffered a tough loss against the Central Methodist University Eagles (Mo.) during the Homecoming match on Sept. 28 at the Plaster Athletic Complex with a final score of 4-0.

The undefeated Eagles did not let the Mustangs have a single shot on goal during the match.

In this first half, Eagle Anika Kallash, junior, scored the first goal at the 30th minute, assisted by junior, Elly Boothe. 8 minutes later in the

38th minute, Eagle senior Judith Sainz, found the back of the net, making the score 2-0 by the end of the first half.

After a half-time performance from the Mount Mercy cheerleading squad and the nationally ranked Mount Mercy dance team, the Mustangs remained scoreless in the second half.

The Eagles third goal of the evening was scored when Kallash set up Sainz in the 78th minute of the game. In the 81st minute the Eagles score their final goal with a shot made by junior Joana Villanova, assisted by

Sainz, making the final score 4-0.

During the match, despite Central Methodist's 14 shots on goal, Mustang freshman Grace Byers had 9 saves.

The Mustangs have now dropped to 1-8-1 overall and 0-4-0 in the Heart of America Athletic Conference after this conference match. The Eagles remain undefeated with a record of 11-0-0 overall and 4-0-0 in the conference.

The next home game will be against Graceland University at the Plaster Athletic Complex on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 1:00 p.m.



Taylor Petersen/ Times
The men (below) defend the ball from Central Methodist University. The men lost 2-0.

Mustangs Lose to #1 Ranked Eagles

By Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy men's soccer team put up a good fight against the NAIA Champions and number one ranked Central Methodist University Eagles, but fell 2-0 during the Homecoming game on Sept. 28 at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

During the first half of the game, the Eagles scored the only 2 goals of the match. The first goal was made

when Eagle Daniel Hernandez, sophomore, found the back of the net in the 23rd minute of the match.

Four minutes later, in the 27th minute, Eagle sophomore Victor Luengo set up a goal for Andre de Simone, senior, making the score 2-0.

After the crowning of Mount Mercy Homecoming King, Barry Doe and Queen, Payton Bruner during half time, the Mustangs were able to hold off the Eagles during the second half of the game, making the final score 2-0 Eagles.

While the Mustangs were only able to put one shot on goal, the Eagles were able to get 6 shots on goal out of 14 shots.

The Mustangs fell to 6-3-1 overall after a four-game winning streak, and 3-1-0 in the Heart of America Athletic Conference after this match. The Eagles raised their record to 10-1-0 overall and 4-0-0 in the conference.

The next home game will be on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 3:30 at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Women's Volleyball Team Wins Big Against Peru State

By Dennis Mckinney
Staff Writer

On September 28, the Mount Mercy Mustangs came to play against the Peru State College Bobcats, who are last in the Heart of Conference in overall record play. The Mustangs get back on track after dropping both games this weekend.

The Mustangs jump out on the Bobcats and took the first set 25-13. During this set the offense of the Mustangs stood out and they were able to make plays as the Bobcats made mistakes.

During the second set the Mustangs lead the Bobcats 20-14 before the Bobcats called a time out to try to slow the momentum. The Mustangs would take the set in the end 25-21.

Head Coach Deb Marlin describes the first two sets saying, "We came out and controlled the match early, sets 1 and 2. We had control. Our ball control was outstanding. Our passing was great, our hitters were good."

The energy they came

out with caused the Bobcats to force themselves to have to regroup.

The third set was a lot closer than the first two as the Bobcats showed more fight than they did in the 2nd set. That set came down to the last two points as it went beyond the 25-point match points.

The Mustangs in the end took the set and game 25- 27.

Middle blocker, Maddie Bell, junior, says, "We play our best when we're having fun."

The Mustangs were led by Bell in kills with 16, while the Bobcats were led by senior, Claire Cudney with 10 kills. The Bobcats were led in digs by senior, Darlene Quinonez Holguin and sophomore, Alyssa Childers with 12. The Mustangs were led by freshman, Mackenzie Murphy in digs with 15 digs alongside junior, Gabi Delsing.

The Mustangs will continue their conference play against Missouri Valley College on Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec Center

Women's Volleyball Falls to Graceland in Five Set Battle

By Haley Weideman
Staff Writer

The Mount Mercy Women's volleyball team played an exciting match against the Graceland Yellowjackets in Hennesey Recreation Center on Sept. 29, barely falling in five sets.

The teams appeared to be evenly matched. Mount Mercy led the first set 21-16 before Graceland went on a five-point run to stay in the game. After a long rally, the Mustangs only lead by one point, at 23-22. After a crucial Graceland-block straight down, tying the game at 23 all, Mount Mercy took a timeout. Graceland scored the final two points off of Mustang errors to win the set.

Freshman Mackenzie Murphy started the second set with back-to-back aces, keeping the score close at 4-3. The Mustangs kept up with the Yellowjackets until halfway through the set, when Graceland went on another long run, making it the Yellowjackets' lead 17-11. Mount Mercy fought back, scoring seven more points in the set, but lost the game 18-25.

The third set went dif-

ferently. Mount Mercy came out stronger, leading 12-4. At this point, Graceland had used both of their timeouts in an attempt to slow the Mustang momentum. It was no use. The Mustangs took the third set surprisingly quickly, winning 25-15.

Off the high of the third set, the Mustangs stayed in the groove, leading 16-7 after an ace from Kayla Daggett and two aces from Mackenzie Murphy. Mount Mercy finally put a stop to a Graceland five-point run and took it away from there. The Mustangs won the fourth set 25-16.

In the fifth set, Grand View came out of the gate running, earning the first five points of the game. The Mustangs never lead after that, struggling to earn a kill. Their lack of offense lead to their fall in the final set 15-11, losing the match.

Maddie Bell lead Mount Mercy in kills with 14. Libero, Gabi Delsing, lead the defense with 27 digs. Daggett and Murphy each had 4 service aces in the match. The Mustangs will have another chance to top Graceland on Nov. 1.

Muddy Showdown in Windy City for Cross Country Team

By Aaron Golding and Morgan Ingwersen
Business Manager and Staff Writer

Conditions were horrible for onlookers during the Sept. 28 meet in Loyola, Illinois.

The course was a muddy disaster. It had rained days leading up to the weekend, making conditions great for runners but awful for parents and onlookers.

It was a very tough field of teams, but the Mustangs had a great showing on both sides. The women finished 10th and the men placed 12th out of 31 teams.

The women's team was led by Vanessa Cortes, senior, who placed fourth out of 281 runners with a time of 19:02.

"I really surprised myself especially since the race was slippery and I was closer to breaking 19 than I thought," said Cortes.

Senior Andrea Ertz crossed the line 50th with a time of 20:08. Kelsi Huhndorf, sophomore, crossed at 65th (20:19), Emily

Erickson, sophomore, crossed at 73rd (20:30), and McKenna Johnson, junior, at 105th (21:18) to round out the top five.

Mady Roth, senior, was next who came in 121st with a time of 21:42 and freshman Hallie Kephart, rounded out the top seven in 149th with a time of 22:09.

"The teams ran strong through the conditions," said Coach Tad Hulst. "They showed grit and mental toughness throughout the races."

The men were led by senior Jacob Blackmon, who finished 27th out of 274 runners with a time of 26:50. He was closely shadowed by senior, Aaron Golding, who finished in 45th place (27:16), Cameron Steffens finished 83rd (27:57), Sayed Opeyany, junior, finished in 92nd (28:08), and freshman, Jasper Severn placed 173rd (29:46).

The top seven was rounded out by Oscar Lopez, freshman, placing 176th with a time of 29:51 and Chase Kress, junior, placing 182nd with a time of 30:01.



Contributed by Tad Hulst
The men's and women's cross country team poses in Loyola, Illinois after their meet on Sept. 28. The women finished 10th and the men finished 12th out of 31 teams.



Family Affair



Caroline Groesbeck/Times (left); Dave Dennis/Contributed

Katie Dennis (left) hits during a match Oct. 4 in the Hennessy Rec Center. Dave Dennis, MMU facility director, took the picture (above) of his daughters Abby, Katie and Dani, with their mother Wendy Dennis Sept. 10 when all three daughters had been on the court together.

Sisters Set Each Other Up for Success on Volleyball Court

By Caroline Groesbeck
Managing Editor

After playing on different teams all throughout school, Abby, Katie, and Dani Dennis finally get to play for the same team—the Mount Mercy Mustangs.

“I think we have a such a healthy and competitive relationship with each other that I don’t see a disadvantage playing on the same team,” said the eldest sister Abby Dennis, a nursing major.

Katie Dennis, the middle sister, who plans to transfer to a radiology program in Colorado, holds similar views.

“I cannot think of any cons, being on the same team as them definitely pushes me to do better because everything is a competition,” said Katie.

The three actually quit volleyball in high school to swim but returned to it so that they all could attend Mount Mercy

and play on the same team. Another factor that spurred their interest in Mount Mercy was their father’s work on campus. Dave Dennis, director of facilities, has worked on the Hill since the sisters were little.

“I actually had a few scholarships to go swim out of state, which was pretty cool,” said Katie, “but with my dad working here when I was younger, my sisters and I were kind of the mascots for the men’s soccer team, and we were the ball-rollers for the women’s team. Growing up here and already knowing what it was like, it was really easy to take classes here and be comfortable while creating new memories.”

Besides the benefit of being able to play with each other, the sisters have seen

other benefits from participating in Mount Mercy’s volleyball program.

“I have been given the opportunity to stay in great shape the last 4 years, juggle more than I thought possible (2 jobs, 15-17 credits in addition to clinical experiences, while being in season with practices, lifting, games, etc.) as well as meet some amazing teammates and friends along the way,” said Abby Dennis.

“I love my team and having my sisters here helped my transition into college,” said youngest sister Dani Dennis, an athletic science and athletic training major.

Each “Dennis Daughter” has a favorite position on the team. Abby plays defensive specialist but loves playing hitter as well since she’s then involved in all

aspects of play. Katie loves to set but is more effective on her current team as a front-row hitter. Dani likes to play either right side hitter or defense.

All three sisters plan on keeping volleyball in their lives after college, whether it’s through intramurals, sand or grass leagues, or something more. Volleyball has meant a lot to the siblings throughout their lives.

“I am forever thankful for the sport, all of the lessons it has taught me and all of the people it has introduced me to,” said Abby.

Volleyball to Dani simply means, “Family.” Volleyball has also strengthened the sisters bonds to each other as well.

“Whatever happens, I have their back and they have mine, which really cool to be able to say about siblings,” said Katie. “Not many people get the chance to say that.”

SNAPSHOT

Meet the people
on The Hill

Abby, Katie
& Dani Dennis

On MMU Team, Friends From Across the Globe

By Srdjan Jankovic
Staff Writer

Their homes are 5,750 miles apart from each other, however, on the pitch they are only few yards away. Coming from completely different cultures and having different perspectives on life and its purpose, MMU student athletes, Nikola Petrovic from Serbia, and Dane Lee from Jamaica, are best friends thanks to soccer.

They met each other in Waterloo, Iowa during the Hawkeye community college soccer pre-season in 2016. Since then, they’ve spent a lot of time together in class, at work and on the field.

“Moving to live on my own far away from my family was a hard challenge for me,” Petrovic said. “I was lucky enough that I came to a welcoming environment where I met many great people and one of them was Dane. He was in a same position as me, moving far away from home to a completely different and new community.”

“In the early ages, when

people were exposed to danger, they tried to face it together in order to survive,” Lee said. “The same happened to me and Niko, we knew that both of us were new here, so we started hanging out and became friends.”

He added that their friendship started on the soccer field and later on in classes and out of them too.

Now they even work together on campus. During their free time, which is hard to find especially during the soccer season, they love to play the video game FIFA on PlayStation.

“Dane is one of my best friends, but I have no mercy when I beat him in FIFA,” Petrovic said, laughing. Lee denied this.

Before coming to the United States, Petrovic spent his early school years in his hometown of Belgrade, never leaving Europe. His only friends were Serbian, who come from the same culture and have the same mentality as him.

On the other side, Lee was born and raised in Calerndon,



Contributed images

Dane Lee, left, from Jamaica, and Nikola Petrovic, right, from Serbia, have become friends from across the world at MMU.

Jamaica; he had never been in Europe in his life. Both of them decided to come to U.S., and later on to Mount Mercy to pursue soccer and a college education.

“Soccer is my biggest passion, but I couldn’t ever imagine to meet someone from another part of the world playing it with me and becoming one of my best friends,” Lee said.

The Mount Mercy men’s soccer team has players from 17 different countries. Petrovic, who is also the captain of the team, says that his teammates all come from different cultures, but on the field, they all play as one.

“I feel like soccer connected us, even though we are so different, we became a family,” he said.

Poet Promotes Equality

By K’Asia Parks
Staff Writer

Donney Rose, a poet from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, came to campus on Oct. 4 to lead a poetry workshop with a focus on equality.

The departments of multicultural affairs and diversity and inclusion partnered up to bring the Beyond the Margins workshop series to Mount Mercy.

The workshop series began with the question, “How do we talk about social issues?” The goal of the workshop series was for students to be more inclusive in what they’re doing and thinking. This introduced participants to the core ideas of Beyond the Margins.

Keesha Burke-Henderson, director of diversity and international success, discussed how she discovered Rose on Instagram and was touched by his comments on injustice in the community and his poetry.

Shortly after Rose provided his own background, he began to recite a poem. Afterwards, Rose got to know each participant by asking them to state their name and a principle they believe in. Then Rose proceeded to talk about the topic of privilege.

Rose opened up the floor to discuss the concept of privilege. One of three handouts Rose provided

included definitions and descriptions of different types of privilege. These handouts helped Rose to create a dialogue with the audience about what types of privilege people possessed.

Students then discussed how it can seem like one doesn’t benefit from any privilege until it’s gone. Some spoke about how education is a privilege that many people overlook. Other students also touched on how some gender identities carry more privilege than others.

Rose then moved to a second handout that came from the Michael Brown case in Ferguson, Missouri. The handout consisted of lines of poetry written as a movement from local poets right after Michael Brown was shot and killed by a Ferguson police officer. The lines dealt with global equality and the concept of equality in general. After reviewing the handout, students picked lines that stood out for them.

Rose then showed participants a video of a visual poem titled Black Enough. Lastly, Rose moved to the final handout, which was titled Timeline Trauma. Rose asked students to read alone and opened the floor for discussion afterwards. Rose proceeded to give students their own prompt and to take 7 minutes to write their own poetry.

Heard on The Hill

By Donovan Grubaugh

What people are saying on topics of interest

With plenty of buzz about climate change following Greta Thunberg’s U.N. speech, appearance in Iowa City and national protests, the MMU Times asked students: What should be done about climate change?



Caleb Baker, junior, graphics design major.

“We should adopt solar and wind energy in order to reduce the amount of carbon emissions in the air.”



Cassie Gillmore, sophomore, secondary education major.

“Majorly reduce plastic use and switch to more sustainable energy.”



Kerrigan Johnson, freshman, nursing major.

“Manage energy usage and don’t waste food.”



Margaret Peterson, senior, political science and psychology major.

“Action needs to be taken and we need to stop playing politics and treat climate change like the crisis it is.”



Tiara Soeder, freshman, nursing major.

“Reduce transportation using gas and use more eco-friendly options.”



Noah Williams-Davis, sophomore, biology major.

“Bring awareness and research on the biological effects of plastics and micro plastics. Also, accumulating debris has potential long term effects we aren’t doing enough about.”