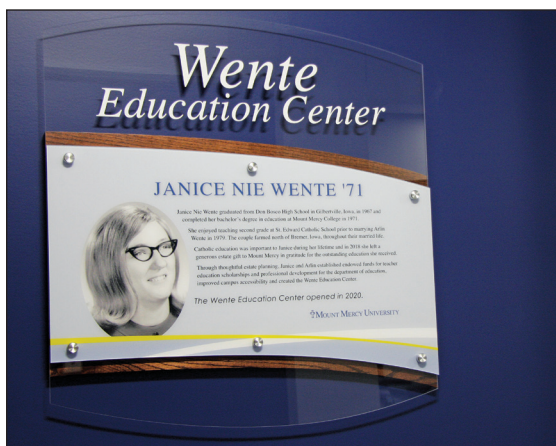


# Mount Mercy TIMES

A student run publication

[mountmercytimes.home.blog](http://mountmercytimes.home.blog)

Issue 7, Jan. 23, 2020



Caroline Groesbeck/ Times

## Class is in Session

The new Wenté Education Center (above) consists of four classrooms, two of which have capabilities to become computer labs, 10 offices, workspace and a break area for faculty. This new education center was made possible with a generous estate gift from Mount Mercy alumna Janice Nie Wenté (above left).

## Construction on New Wenté Education Center Draws Close to Completion for Spring 2020

By **Caroline Groesbeck**  
Managing Editor

In December 2018, Mount Mercy's education department received a generous donation to create the Wenté Education Center. Since then, the department has been making progress towards this goal and are now very close to achieving it.

"The Wenté Center will bring together resources that have been available in a way that is more efficient and effective for students," said Jennifer Rasmussen, professor of education and department chair.

The center was made possible from an estate gift from the late Janice Nie Wenté, an alumna from 1971, and her husband, Arlin. The gift was partly motivated by a wish to have an accessible learning center on campus. Since Busse Library is one of the few zero grade entrances on campus,

it was the natural choice.

The Wenté gift also establishes endowed funds for teacher education scholarships and professional development for the department of education.

"We are in the process of selecting the recipients for three scholarships," said Rasmussen. "We are also planning professional development activities for the education faculty which will be funded by the Wenté gift."

The education center contains ten faculty offices and four classrooms, along with the added bonus of having storage space for materials the faculty need. As of now, it's harder for the faculty to have all materials at hand because they're unable to leave them in the classroom.

The center has also been equipped with updated technology, allowing them to cre-

ate different learning situations. This all helps because of the how the education department works together.

"The benefit to having offices in Wenté is that we will be close to our classrooms and students," said Rasmussen. "The education department works very collaboratively, and it is important for faculty to be close together to do this work."

Currently, the education department is based on the fourth and fifth floors of Warde Hall. While most of their classes are held in classrooms on those floors, they do have to shuffle sometimes.

Another issue with their current setup is that they are unable to leave their materials in their classrooms. Education professors often need a lot of materials on hand, so it is much more convenient and stable for the professors to now be able to keep

their materials in their rooms.

The center is almost complete with the goal to move in to the center permanently over the summer. The faculty will be teaching some classes in the education center this spring.

While the space is in Busse Library, they do not foresee it interfering with the day-to-day operations of the library. The construction crew has been integrating the updates in the space without compromising the functionality. Once classes are held in the center, adjustments will likely need to be made, but it won't negatively impact the library.

"We have always encouraged our students to utilize the wonderful resources available to them, now there is literally no excuse for not going to the library!"

## Mount Mercy Tuition to Rise Again Due to Campus-Wide Improvements

By **Aaron Golding**  
Business Manager

It's no surprise Mount Mercy University's prices are on the rise for the 2020-2021 school year again.

A traditional full-time student's tuition next year will be \$1,644 more than the 2019-2020 school year. This will cause the tuition next school year to be \$34,506.

The main issue is that Mount Mercy's actual operating expenses are always on the rise, outpacing the national average, which will drive up Mount Mercy's tuition.

Mount Mercy's endowment is relatively small, which makes expenses hard to cover if they do not have adequate tuition prices. It is extremely hard to compete with state schools because private colleges and universities don't receive state funding.

Mount Mercy is experiencing a huge decline in traditional students due to the rise in prices.

"More students are taking online courses and are deciding

to live off-campus," said Anne Gillespie, vice-president of business and finance.

This causes revenue to be down, which is unsatisfactory for current and prospective first-year students.

Gillespie said that after each year her team reviews Mount Mercy's operating costs that are associated with offering quality academic programs and services to support both online programs and physical classrooms.

Next, her team determines the total revenue needed to ensure they cover the difference of cost to operate the university versus their expected income.

Senior Sayed Opeyany said that, "With the increase of tuition for next year, Mount Mercy should at least allow for people to opt-out of the meal plan if they choose to."

Since Opeyany lives in a Hazel house, it isn't as convenient to go up to the cafeteria to eat when he can cook in his own house.

The reason Gillespie's team had to increase tuition this year was because over the summer

they had to pay for numerous roof repairs, new HV/AC's electrical panel upgrades, sprinkler systems, and fixed roadway potholes.

She went on to say that Mount Mercy helped to update the technology for faculty and students with new computers and faster Wi-Fi services, along with increasing financial aid for incoming freshmen to supplement the rise in tuition.

"If they can't find a way to cut spending, then individuals will most likely just enter into a trade of some kind," said junior Chase Kress.

Kress went on to say, "This is everywhere, not just at Mount Mercy, but they should really focus their spending on the things they need. This will help them keep tuition relatively low for students that attend the school. This also will eventually help save the retention rate for Mount Mercy and they will begin to have people wanting to study throughout their four years of college."

## Iowa Caucuses Mark Start of 2020 Election

By **Derek Hamilton**  
News Editor

The 2020 election is looming, and Iowa plays a crucial role in determining the next president through caucusing. Caucusing is one method of determining party candidates. Since 1976, the Iowa caucuses have been the first step to determine who will be the presidential candidates. Caucusing means physically being present to cast your vote on Feb. 3.

There are several online resources to help you find your precinct and where that precinct's caucus is being held. One site is the Iowa ACLU website. You'll need to be registered to vote, and registered with the affiliated party, in this case the Democrats, in order to participate. You can do this at the caucus site if you haven't already.

Here is what you can expect at the Democratic caucus:

Upon arriving, you will sign in. Then you will have an opportunity to meet and discuss candidate selection with other individuals there to caucus. This is a great place to network, as there

will likely be lots of like-minded, results-oriented people about.

Eventually, the caucusing will begin, and the areas distinguishing each candidate will be laid out. There is also a space for undecided voters who want to see who is viable. You will be given some time to get arranged in your candidate's caucus before counting begins.

As it becomes clear which candidates are trailing, as a certain percentage is needed to be considered viable, people are given a chance to re-select their next choice for candidate, and the numbers are counted again. It is determined how many delegates each group represents and eventually, there is one winner.

The Republican caucus is a little different, and may include secret ballots, but this election the choice for Republicans is fairly clear.

The precinct caucuses will elect delegates to the county convention, eventually leading to distract, state and national conventions.

**Note:** Profiles of the Democrats running are on page 4.

### Click It:

#### Times Website Revisions

Check out [mountmercytimes.home.blog](http://mountmercytimes.home.blog) to see a digital edition of the Times with even more content you won't see in the newsstands. You can also follow us on Twitter @mtmercytimes for updates. For more information, see page 2.

### Heads up:

#### Spring Student Involvement Fair

Students interested in getting involved in Mount Mercy clubs and organizations will have a chance to learn about their options from members of those organizations on Thursday, Jan. 30 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the University Center.

#### Cedar Rapids Roughriders

Come join Student Engagement as they cheer on the Cedar Rapids Roughriders hockey team on Friday Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. at the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena. They will also be featuring the second annual College Cornhole Tournament, where Mount Mercy will defend its title.

#### UC Takeover: Sports Edition

The University Center will host a fun night of sports-themed fun featuring games, food and prizes. The takeover is Feb. 1 from 7-9 p.m.

#### Super Bowl Watch Party

Student Engagement will be showing the Super Bowl in the University Center starting at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2. Food and beverages will be provided.

#### Mount Mercy Scholarship Day

Mount Mercy students will have an opportunity to get extra scholarship money Saturday, Feb. 8, starting at 9 a.m. Students will have an opportunity to submit work to be considered for extra scholarships prior to the event. For more information contact [admissions@mtmercy.edu](mailto:admissions@mtmercy.edu).

# MMU Senior: Fires in Australia Have Devastating Impact

By Courtney Hoffman  
Campus Editor

Australia is currently experiencing one of their worst brushfire seasons on record with estimates that nearly 72 thousand square miles have been burned since the season started. Conservative estimates say that one billion animals have been killed.

Oscar Anderson, a senior actuarial science major from Melbourne, Victoria, has been staying home in Australia over J-Term. In Victoria, which has been greatly affected by this years' brushfires, he says it's been difficult to watch the places he's visited and made memories in go up in flames.

And though the flames themselves have caused a devastating amount of destruction, the smoke in otherwise unaffected areas is so thick that the air is dangerous to breathe in.

"In the city, while we are far away from the heart of the fires, the smoke levels in the air of the city have been toxic," he said. "There have been numerous hospitalizations from reactions to smoke inhalation as well. Visibility in the city was only about 100 yards one day, the smoke was so bad."

The situation has escalated dramatically since November when a 'catastrophic fire danger' warning was issued in Sydney. This is the second time the highest warning level has been issued since the scale was created in 2009.

Both have been issued this year. The fire season is marked by



Oscar Anderson/Contributed

Smoke blankets an Australian town called Trentham, showing the local pub at about 6 p.m. (it's summer, in Australia). The wildfire smoke looked like a thick fog, reports MMU student Oscar Anderson.

hot, dry weather that makes it very easy for fires to start and spread. These fires are a common occurrence, but this year is marked by particular conditions that allow the flames to thrive.

Australia is currently experiencing a long drought with the last spring recorded as the driest they've seen. They also set a record this December for the highest average temperature on the continent, leading the New South Wales government to declare a state of emergency.

Firefighters have been called in from all over Australia in an attempt to stop the spread of the flames while volunteers, donations and relief assistance have been sent from Canada, the United States, New Zealand, and many other countries.

Anderson said he wants people from other countries to know how grateful Australians are for the help they've received during this crisis. "I saw the U.S. sent over a

large amount of firefighters to help our own firefighters," he said. "This is awesome! We don't take help like that for granted, especially during a crisis."

Despite the outpouring of resources and support since news of the fires broke, over 2,000 homes have been lost with at least 28 lives taken since October. In addition to this, experts are concerned that entire species of plants and animals may have been wiped out entirely.

For the native Australians who are surrounded by this, there's a feeling of hopelessness and loss.

"There is a large feeling of helplessness," Anderson said. "The fires are so large and caused so much damage, it is hard to feel like you can help or

even know where to begin helping."

"Of course our wildlife has been hit hard, in particular koalas," he continued. "You grow up proud of animals native to your country. To see such a large percentage of their population decrease is devastating."

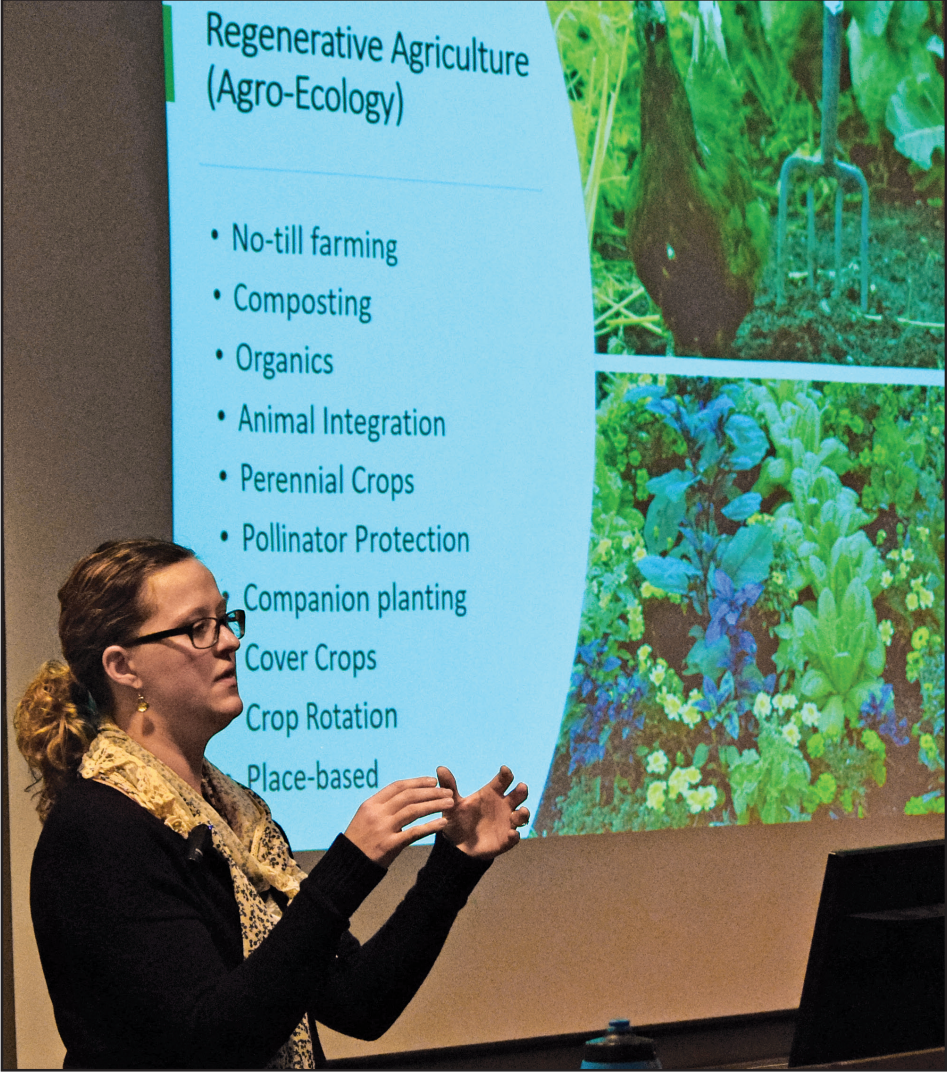
In addition to his home in Melbourne, Anderson's family owns a farm northwest of the city. On Jan. 18, the family watched as the flames became visible from their front porch. Luckily, the winds pushed it away from their property.

His family, offering help to others who have been affected by the fires, were extremely grateful that the wind was on their side that night.

"Our family are familiar with some families from the affected area and we are offering shelter for other farms' cattle and horses in our spare paddocks," Anderson said. "My family and I could not imagine our farm, belongings and livestock being hit like those not far from us."

"We are trying to offer help where we can."

For those outside of the country, the best way to help is to donate. People can donate directly to Victoria fire departments at [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au). The government of Victoria has also set up a fund for affected families and communities, which can be found at [vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal](http://vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal). The Australian Red Cross, which has set up evacuation centers, can be found at [redcross.org.au](http://redcross.org.au), and WIRES, Australia's largest wildlife rescue organization, can be found at [wires.org.au](http://wires.org.au).



Matthew Mumm/Times

Director of Sustainability Rachael Murtaugh gives her presentation on farm food production practices as the last Fall Faculty Series on Dec. 4 in Flaherty Community Room.

## Sustainable Farming

### Speaker Promotes Ag Centered on Food Rather Than Fuel

By Matthew Mumm  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, students and faculty were joined in the Flaherty Community Room in Basile Hall for the last Fall Faculty Series lecture of 2019. Director of Sustainability Rachael Murtaugh spoke about climate change and the sustainability of our agriculture and food sources.

Murtaugh opened her speech by showing graphs of population growth, including world population growth over the past decades. One big question that she opened with was, "When world growth increases, how do we feed everyone?"

As Murtaugh continued her speech, she had answered that previous question—with sustainable agriculture.

Murtaugh went more in depth about farming and how it affects the greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Our current agriculture system is stripping our

soil away; in the Midwest, we currently have lost 5-7 tons of soil per acre every year due to deep-till farming.

When farmers do deep tilling, the soil gets loose and broken up, and when hard rainfalls occur, the water carries very small chunks of soil into the closest river. If farmers were supported to make a switch to other farming techniques like regenerative agriculture (Agro-ecology), greenhouse gas emissions, erosion and water pollution would decline.

Murtaugh stated for her final thoughts, "I want to see farms farming for food that is going to feed hungry people instead of it being wasted such as feeding their livestock and going to ethanol."

"I would like to see the Midwest encourage legislation to support our farmers who want to transition to regenerative practices," she said.

The next Fall Faculty Series theme has not been released yet, but will be set in spring.

**"I would like to see the Midwest encourage legislation to support our farmers who want to transition to regenerative practices."**

Rachael Murtaugh,  
director of sustainability



## Spring Faith Lectures Starts Feb. 18 With Aquinas Lecture

By Veronica Jons  
Editor-in-Chief

The annual Spring Lecture Series will continue for another year with the theme: The Good Life. The first lecture of the series will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Mercy.

The series will focus on 'The Good Life' based on the Catholic intellectual tradition, bringing back philosophical concepts from Plato and Aristotle. It focuses on how to live a balanced life to be happy and satisfied, yet ethical.

The Aquinas Lecture, an annual feature of this series, was first brought to Mount Mercy in 1959 by the Sisters of Mercy, who wanted to teach how philosophy and religion can be connected.

Along with the Aquinas Lecture, there will be the President's Lecture, established as a part of the series by President Laurie Hamen in 2009. The Presidential Lecture focuses on key developments in society that relate to the mission and values of Mount Mercy.

The Hesburgh Lecture is the last lecture given in the series, created in memory of Father Ted Hesburgh, who was a president at the University of Notre Dame.

This Hesburgh Lecture would not be made pos-

**"Our lectures have something for everyone: the wider community, students, faculty and staff. They give us an opportunity ... to hear academic speakers of national renown."**

Mary Ducey, professor of philosophy

sible without the co-sponsorship of a local alumnae and alumni groups from the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Phil Drey, a University of Notre Dame alumnus and assistant professor of religious studies at Mount Mercy, felt this was a good place to host one of the series lectures. The Notre Dame group hosts these speeches all over the country at no cost to the place in which it is held.

Mary Ducey, professor of philosophy at Mount Mercy, helps host the lecture series every year.

"Our lectures have something for everyone: the wider community, students, faculty, and staff," she said. "They give us an opportunity that we may not often get in Cedar

Rapids, a chance to hear academic speakers of national renown. The lecture shows us how faith and reason can intertwine in Catholicism."

The first lecture of the series will be given by Dr. Lawrence Feingold, an associate professor of



Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Web Image

Dr. Lawrence Feingold will speak Feb. 18 as part of the Spring Lecture Series.

theology and philosophy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. He is also the author of four books about philosophy and religion.

His speech will talk about the beauty, mission, and importance in life.

The three lectures will be spaced out over a three-month span, with the President's Lecture being held on March 10 and the Hesburgh Lecture on April 23.

## 'Times' Website Adds Features

By Bri Ostwinkle  
Web Editor

The Mount Mercy Times has gone online! While the paper has had a website for many years, this year it is revamping the site and has added new features and a sleeker look—just as the University is set to launch it's new site.

The Times website is located at [mountmercytime.home.blog](http://mountmercytime.home.blog). This year, the Times has designed its site using a WordPress template.

As many are aware, the Mount Mercy Times has newspaper stands located all around on campus with a printed copy of the newspaper. What many people don't know is that there is a website with the same stories, and new videos and photos of Mount Mercy events!

The Mount Mercy Times website will have a lot of exciting features. The website includes a PDF of each issue of the Times plus some stories that are exclusive to

online. It also contains a gallery that will include multiple images from sporting events and activities on campus, as well as some video stories for viewers to watch.

Along with the Mount Mercy Times expanding from print to website, there is also a new Twitter page. The Times staff have been working to get a Twitter page up for those who are Twitter users so they can get direct notifications about stories or events and updates on the Times in general. The Mount Mercy Times Twitter page will include direct links to the website when stories are updated and give readers of the Times direct access to stories that will peak the readers interest.

After a lot of hard work from members of the Mount Mercy Times staff; students, faculty, family, and friends can visit [mountmercytimes.home.blog](http://mountmercytimes.home.blog) to see updated stories and photo galleries and follow Mount Mercy Times @mtmercytimes on Twitter for updates and more.

# World War III Is No Laughing Matter in America

**On January 3, the United States assassinated Qasem Soleimani, a high-ranking Iranian military official. Since Soleimani’s assassination, Americans have let their imaginations run wild with ideas about a third World War.**

While some people, like political analysts, historians, and nuclear war experts, seem to be genuinely concerned about the possibility of another global war, it’s clear that many people talking about ‘World War III’ are treating the whole thing like a

**Staff Editorial**

The opinion of Times editors

big joke.

There is no shortage of World War III joke memes on the internet. Americans have been laughing about this situation since Soleimani’s death was first reported.

It is not a joke. For a lot of reasons.

First off, Americans should realize that this assassination is being treated by Iran as an act of war. Not an act of pretend war, but real war. That is no laughing matter, especially considering that Trump ordered Soleimani’s assassination without congressional approval.

The people we’ve elected to congress to represent the beliefs

and desires of the common people were ignored as Trump acted alone. This fact should not go unnoticed.

Second, if another World War does break out, it is largely our generation – young, college-aged people, who will have to deal with the consequences.

It will be our friends and family members getting shipped off to fight overseas. It will be our economy crashing. It will eventually be our mess to help clean up.

War is not a game, it is a reality that we may all have to grapple with soon. And that would be on top of the war the U.S. is already fighting in Afghanistan. So, pay attention, because this

new Iranian conflict could help determine what sort of future we might end up living in.

And lastly, Americans should remember that even though our country may fight in this war, it is incredibly unlikely that the actual fight will be fought domestically. It is far more likely that the true warfare will occur entirely in Iran and in the surrounding nations.

Our day-to-day lives will largely remain unaffected by this hypothetical war, we will continue business as usual. But Iranians, who will live in the actual war zone, will suffer harrowing consequences. Americans need to recognize the immense

amount of privilege in that statement.

We urge Americans as a whole and college students specifically to pay attention to the Iran situation. Even though Cedar Rapids feels pretty far removed from a conflict happening in Iran, Mustangs should remember that U.S. military action affects us, too.

It is important to keep our government accountable, and to stay current on what is going on in the world at large. Even if this conflict with Iran doesn’t result in full-fledged war, one thing is for certain – this isn’t over yet.

# Mustang Movie Reviews

## Star-Studded Cast Makes ‘Little Women’ a Huge Hit

**All I wanted for Christmas this year was for the new movie adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women” to be halfway decent. And let me tell you, I got that and then some.**

“Little Women” tells the story of the March sisters, a lively bunch of siblings living in Civil War era Massachusetts. It spins stories about their youth and sees them through to womanhood. The audience experiences their highs, lows, and everything in between. Alcott’s novel was originally published in 1868, and it’s considered to be semi-autobiographical, as many of the March sisters’ adventures are based on Alcott’s own life.

I wasted no time getting to the movie theater to see “Little Women.” The film came out on Christmas, and I was in a screening the very next day. I had high hopes for “Little Women,” as I’m a big fan of the musical version of the story, and a big fan of the film’s director, Greta Gerwig. Gerwig is perhaps best known for directing the 2017 hit “Lady Bird.”

Gerwig took a page out of “Lady Bird’s” book with her coming of age approach to “Little Women.” The two films even feature the same lead actress – Golden Globe winner Saoirse Ronan, who plays aspiring writer Jo March in “Little Women.” Joining Ronan as the rest of the March sisters are Emma Watson (of Harry Potter Fame) as Meg, Florence Pugh (recently featured in the horror phenomenon Midsommar) as Amy, and Eliza Scanlen (featured in HBO’s Sharp Objects) as Beth. Laura Dern stars as the matriarch as the March family, Meryl Streep plays a stately great aunt, and Timothée Chalamet (another Lady

**Opinion**



**Jada Veasey**  
Opinion Editor

Bird alum) stars as Theodore ‘Laurie’ Laurence, the love interest of not one but two of the March sisters.

The film does a wonderful job of revamping a classic American tale for a more modern audience. Chalamet’s Laurie character is notably present much more in the film than he ever was in the original novel, likely to explain some of the plot’s romantic elements in a more realistic way.

Gerwig took some creative license with the timeline of the story, the film goes between the past and the present, which helps to keep the otherwise relatively simple plot incredibly interesting. The time jumps are seamless and yet obvious to the audience because of Gerwig’s impressive command over the film’s color scheme – Jo’s memories of her younger years are warmer, with softer edges, while things occurring in the present day are in darker tones and appear harsher on the screen.

Gerwig’s choice to tell the classic tale in a decidedly non-linear way makes her version stand out from previous film adaptations of the novel. Despite Gerwig’s wonderful effort, she didn’t earn a nomination for the Oscar for best director, though the film did manage to pick up six other nominations, including one for best picture.

Saoirse Ronan’s performance as Jo March is probably the highlight of the film. Ronan was able to truly become the character, and she delivered a very heart-felt and entertaining performance. The chemistry she has with her on-screen sisters is absolutely undeniable, they really feel like a real family.

“Little Women” is a fantastic film. It features a star-studded cast, a wonderful soundtrack, picture-perfect costume design, and interesting directorial choices. I’d recommend this movie to anyone who appreciates a well-made film.

## The Force is Not Legendary With ‘The Rise of Skywalker’

**After waiting nearly two excruciating years to find out what would happen to the beloved characters after “Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” the ninth and final installment of the Skywalker saga, “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” has finally arrived to give us the answers.**

In my opinion, the movie was... well... all right? Not great, not mind-blowing, but all right.

Without giving any spoilers to those who have not seen it yet, in “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,” Rey’s journey continues with the remaining members of the resistance to fight and finally bring an end to the First Order.

After watching this movie in theaters, I felt as though the movie wasn’t terrible, but it did not live up to the expectations that the regular Star War movies have. In my opinion, this movie is not

**Opinion**



**Taylor Petersen**  
Sports Editor

legendary like the others (except the ones with Natalie Portman in them; those are just bad).

I think that J.J. Abrams tried his best to live up to the Star Wars name and story, as well as work of George Lucas, but it just wasn’t enough for me.

I felt as though the movie tried too hard to tie up loose-ends and to satisfy the fans. The storytelling suffered because of this and even created more questions but left others unanswered. I felt that this took away from the film; the movie didn’t feel like the end of a saga or chapter. It was just like any Star Wars film.

However, even though the movie was fine, it did have some fun and hilarious moments. The visuals were entertaining, the plot twists that occurred were decent and the ending was somber yet satisfying. But this movie will not stick with you as the years go on like the classic George Lucas films do.

I rate this movie 6/10.



Walt Disney Publicity Image

# Choose to Live in the Moment God Gives You Before It Passes

**Spring semester is approaching quickly.**

The word ‘spring’ might fool us since we still have a couple of cold months yet to come. I think by now we all might be wishing for this cold to be over with and looking forward to the green grass and the sun beating down on our skin. But this is exactly what I want to focus on- wishing away.

**Faith on the Hill**



**Kasey Kaimann**  
Columnist

I’m sure each of us is guilty for wishing it to be warm or wishing for class to get canceled, or even wishing for time to go by faster. But does wishing time away do any good? Probably not. So, what could we do instead? Well, I want to propose a solution. Why not try choosing the moment?

I challenge you and myself to choose to live in the present—to choose this moment. Whether you are freezing in the cold, bored in class or drowning in homework and everyday tasks, I challenge you to choose that moment.

What I mean by that is to

fully embrace what the Lord is giving you in this very second. Try to see everything as a gift from God. Don’t be sitting there wishing it to be over, but instead, choose to embrace what you are learning and accept it as God’s gift to you.

When you choose to do this, joy will start to enter your heart rather than discontent.

This is obviously going to be hard. It’s much easier to watch the clock than to pay attention to what’s going on in front of you. However, if we want to live a life full of joy, excitement, and love, then this is exactly what we have to stop doing.

So, in this time of the cold, instead of wishing to be warm or wishing for the ice to melt away, instead tell yourself, “I choose for this ice to be here and make it hard to walk.” It sounds a little ridiculous, I know, but trust me, it works.

When you change your mind frame from being negative to forcing yourself to try to see the good in whatever situation you are in, it naturally brings you joy.

Some of the greatest saints talk about the secret to happiness—it’s figuring out how to live in the present moment. Fully embrace that second you are in and give all of your attention to

whatever is in front of you.

St. Therese was one of these saints that had figured this whole ‘living in the present’ thing out. When asked how she was able to find joy amid so much suffering, she answered, “I only suffer for one moment. It is because people think about the past and the future that they become discouraged and despair.”

So, no matter what you are going through, whether it be small or big, I challenge you to choose the moment. We are only given the present, so let’s live it.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Times sells advertising space.

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

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

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

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# Guide to Iowa Caucus Candidates

By Derek Hamilton  
News Editor

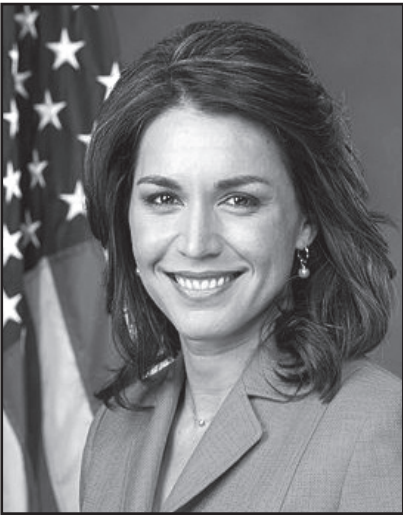


**Note:**  
Candidate profiles based on their web sites and media reports. Images from Wikimedia Commons, most are official portraits. Images of Tom Steyer and Andrew Yang by Gage Skidmore, professional photographer. Because Donald Trump has no viable Republican opponent, we focus here on the Democrats.

## Tulsi Gabbard, 38

Gabbard has been a Congresswoman for Hawaii since 2013. She is the first Samoan-American, and the first Hindu elected to Congress. She is a major in the Hawaii National Guard, with whom she served a year in Iraq, and recently has been off the campaign trail on a deployment to Antarctica. She serves as military police. At the age of 21, she got her start as the youngest woman ever elected to state legislature in Hawaii. She later served as a city council member in Honolulu. In 2012, Nancy Pelosi called Gabbard “an emerging star.”

Gabbard is against US military intervention in foreign affairs. She has called the crisis in Syria one of these “regime-change wars.” She wants to end what she calls wasteful spending on

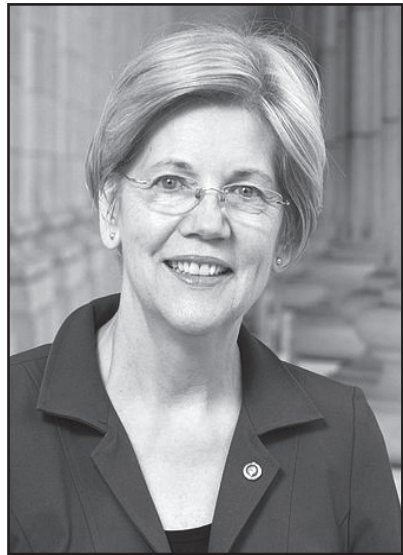


military, and invest trillions more back into the country via education, healthcare, infrastructure and the environment. She wants to reverse what she sees as the damage caused by the Supreme Court’s Citizens United case, and get both dark money and big corporate dollars out of elections. She supports certain measures of gun control, including banning military-style assault weapons and extended ammo magazines. She also has been active in trying to keep weapons out of the hands of terrorists.

## Elizabeth Warren, 70

Elizabeth Warren has been a United States senator representing Massachusetts since 2013. Warren dropped out of college at the age of 19 to marry her high school sweetheart, but slowly continued her education thereafter, slowly working her way along. She became a teacher, as she always wanted to be, and got started working with special needs students before going on to earn her law degree and later worked at universities as a professor and dean. Warren used to be a staunch conservative but changed her perspective around 1995.

Warren’s main agenda is addressing corruption in politics and put economic and political power in the hands of the people, not the wealthiest elite. She also wants to get rid of student loan debt. She would

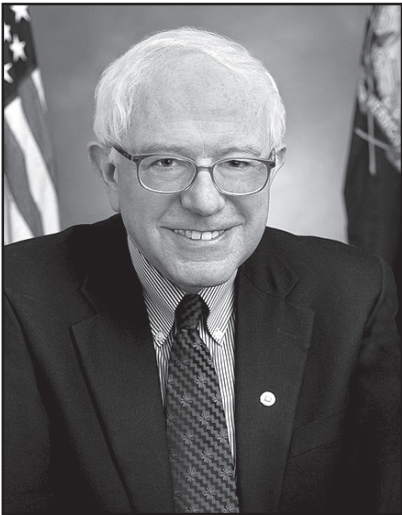


start by using available powers to slowly implement necessary change starting on day one of her presidency. She would get rid of federal funding to for-profit colleges, try to end racial disparity in the education system and get rid of up to \$50,000 in debt for 42 million Americans just as a start. Warren also wants to dramatically improve the lives of the disabled, starting when they’re children and getting them meaningful education and interventions. She is also a supporter of the Green New Deal.

## Bernie Sanders, 78

Sanders is back in the presidential race after losing the primary election to Hillary Clinton in 2016. He is a United States senator from Vermont, and he previously served in the US House of Representatives. He has been politically active his whole life, sometimes running and winning as an independent. He is the longest serving independent congressperson. Sanders comes from a strong Jewish cultural identity, and would be the first Jewish president, though he describes himself as “not particularly religious.” In 2015, Sanders won a readers’ poll for Time magazine’s “Person of the Year.”

Sanders is a supporter of “Medicare for All,” which would create a government health-insurance plan that provides free health care for



all Americans. This would also cap prescription costs to customers, to end what is being called price gouging by pharmaceutical companies. Sanders, like many of the candidates, is also a supporter of the Green New Deal. Sanders wants to fund much of his proposed changes by taxing the wealthiest elite at higher rates. He wants to legalize marijuana by executive order in his first 100 days as president, restore justice to those negatively impacted by the War on Drugs, and keep cannabis companies from becoming massive conglomerates that betray the public interest.

## Pete Buttigieg, 38

Mayor Pete is the former mayor of a small Indiana town of South Bend. Buttigieg served in the Navy Reserve from 2009 to 2017, overlapping with his time as mayor. During this time, he served a tour in Afghanistan, where he worked to disrupt terrorist finance networks, and participated in convoys from Bagram Air Force Base to Kabul. In his time as mayor of South Bend, he took important issues head-on, including policing, urban development, improving housing and infrastructure, and opposing discrimination. If elected, Buttigieg would be the first openly gay president of the United States.

Buttigieg supports democratic capitalism and sees himself as a progressive. He supports abortion rights, and wants to end a federal policy that prohibits its funding for abortions



in all but the most extreme cases. Buttigieg wants to address climate change by creating green jobs, improving our nation’s resilience against disasters, and elevate the country’s position in the world as a fighter of climate change. He wants to decrease the number of people incarcerated for mental illness or addiction by 75 percent his first term as president. Buttigieg also wants to restore voting rights to felons who have served their time, and eliminate the electoral college. He is committed to improving the lives of veterans.

## Amy Klobuchar, 59

Klobuchar has been a US Senator representing Minnesota since 2007. Before that, she was a corporate lawyer. While being in the senate, she has served on a laundry list of committees, including economic, judiciary and agricultural committees. In late 2016, she had passed more legislature than any other senator of the time.

She is the first woman in Minnesota to be elected senator. After being discharged from the hospital after twenty-four hours with a very sick baby, she spearheaded a movement, which became national policy under Clinton, which guaranteed new mothers at least forty-eight-hour hospital stays.

Klobuchar promotes what she calls “shared prosperity.” That is to say that all Americans deserve a piece of the American



dream, not just a minority who reaps all the rewards. This includes plans to increase the quality and availability of child care, paid family leave, supporting small businesses and helping more Americans save for retirement. Klobuchar also wants to vastly improve education by creating tuition-free programs for some, assistance for those who want a four-year degree, and investing in public schools. She wants to improve rural communities and help farmers partially by creating safety nets.

## Andrew Yang, 45

Andrew Yang was initially a corporate lawyer, but left this field after finding it dissatisfactory and unfulfilling. He said it was like a pie eating contest, where the prize is more pie. He called his brief time as a corporate lawyer, “the five worst months of my life.” After working with a friend at company preparing scholastic tests, he eventually became the CEO of the company, Manhattan Prep, which was eventually purchased by Kaplan. This is how he became a millionaire. He then went to work for a venture capital firm, where he was recognized as a force for good in securing the future for entrepreneurs.

Some call Yang an “issues candidate,” meaning they believe he is more concerned about raising awareness for social justice issues than actually secur-

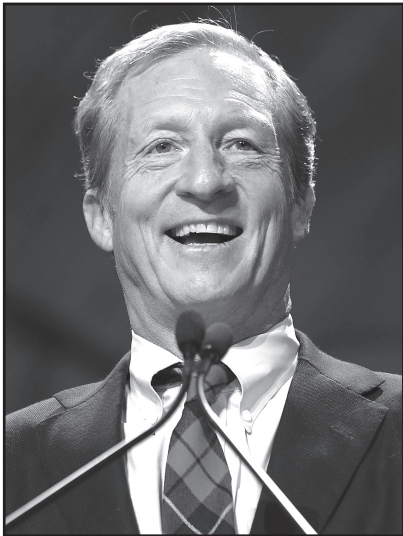


ing the presidency for himself. Among these issues include universal basic income as a right for all Americans over 18, called the “Freedom Dividend,” it would be above any federal assistance currently offered. It would be illegal to lend or borrow against the Dividend. He believes this would expand the economy by approximately 12-13%. He also wants to address climate change, supporting the Green New Deal. In addition, Yang supports Medicare for All, and wants to end veteran suicide and the opioid crisis.

## Tom Steyer, 62

Tom Steyer is a hedge fund manager, philanthropist, activist, and fundraiser. The company he started to manage funds grew to dealing with over \$20 billion before he left the company to pursue activism. He was one of Obama’s biggest fundraisers. He and his wife signed the Giving Pledge in 2010, promising half their fortune to charity over the course of their lives. Steyer’s father was of Jewish descent, although non-practicing, and served on the Nuremberg Trials after World War II.

Steyer’s focus is the economy. He wants to end what he calls the “corporate stranglehold” on America. He would do this by minimizing special interest and lobbyist influence on politics. Another piece of that puzzle for him is to pro-

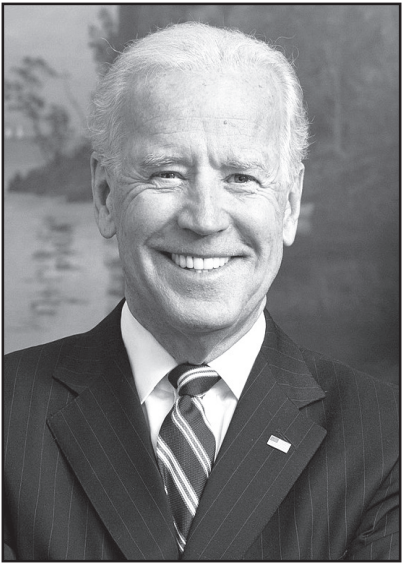


mote labor unions, raising the minimum wage, and better retirement benefits. Steyer touts securing what he calls the “5 Rights,” which include the right to health, an equal vote by ending gerrymandering, voter suppression and special interest money flooding politics, clean air and water, education and a living wage. Steyer also wants to improve the environment and will partially do so by supporting communities most effected by climate change and pollution.

## Joe Biden, 77

Biden is most famously noted for being former President Barack Obama’s Vice President. Before that, Biden got his start as a city council member and eventually ended up in the Senate at the age of 29, one of the youngest to be elected. He served as a high-ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for twelve years, where he played an important role in shaping the country’s foreign policy. In a ceremony at the White House, Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction, the highest honor a civilian can receive.

Biden has a rich history of taking on issues that are still relevant today. Included in his deep platform is expanding and

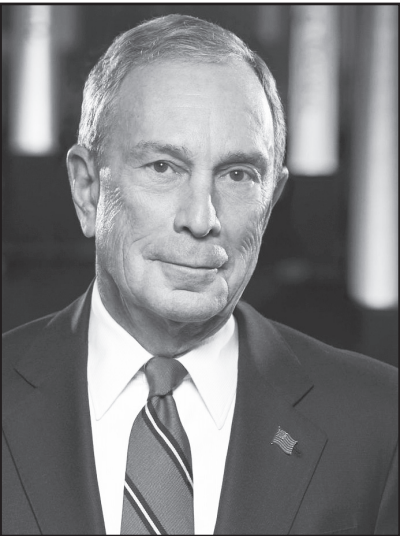


improving the Affordable Care Act, to insure medical coverage as a basic right for all Americans. Biden is one of many Democratic candidates to support the Green New Deal, to reverse climate change as a top priority. He believes our environment and economy are inexorably linked. With this plan, he hopes to create the foundation for a 100% clean energy economy by 2050. He also intends to improve America’s image abroad.

## Michael Bloomberg, 77

Bloomberg served as mayor of New York City from 2002-2013. He made his first big payday as an investment banker, money he used to create a computer terminal for Wall Street firms, which provided and organized all kinds of data. This made him billions. In order to cutback expenses during his time as mayor, he took only one dollar a year as a salary. Bloomberg entered the presidential race in Nov. 2019. He says he inherited his sense of social justice from his father, who despite making meager earnings, would send checks to the NAACP, saying discrimination against some is a threat to all.

Bloomberg supports federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, calling the ban “insanity.” The National Organization



for the Reform of Marijuana Laws created a half million-dollar campaign using Bloomberg’s image and quotes after he admitted in 2001 to smoking cannabis in the past, and enjoying it. Despite this, Bloomberg has long supported the harsh anti-drug laws of New York. He was against even decriminalization of cannabis until just last month. One of his primary concerns as mayor, which has continued into his presidential campaign, is improving education.

# Number One

## Women’s Bowling Team Earns Top Rank in 13th Week of Season

By Taylor Petersen  
Sports Editor

As of Dec. 30, and week 13 of the college bowling season, the Mount Mercy women’s bowling team are now a nationally top-ranked team, seeding in first.

“It feels great, however, it does feel a little overwhelming especially as a freshman,” says Abigail Kay, freshman biology and medical laboratory science major. “I’m really proud of seeing how far the team has come and I’m looking forward to seeing

“I’ve seen this team from both perspectives, playing and being on the bench. I’ve seen the ups and downs with team, I’ve seen the team grow and decline, but I see us going towards the title.”

Cassy Forsythe, sophomore

where the rest of the season has in store.”

Fellow teammate, sophomore psychology major Cassy Forsythe, is optimistic for the team to win the title.

“I’ve seen this team from both perspectives, playing and being on the bench,” Forsythe said. “I’ve seen

the ups and downs with the team, I’ve seen the team grow and decline, but I see us going towards the title.”

Their next tournament will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8 and Sunday, Feb. 9 at the Cedar Valley open in Waterloo, Iowa.

# Mustangs Reach 100 as They Soar Over Eagles

## 50 First-Half Points Set Pace for MMU

By Taylor Petersen  
Sports Editor

The men’s basketball team won their eighth game of the season, dominating offensively and defensively against the Central Methodist University Eagles (Mo.), winning 100-86 on Wednesday, Jan. 8 in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

The Mustangs took control of the game right out of the gate scoring 50 points compared to the Eagles’ 34 by the end of the first half.

Leading the Mustangs in scoring in the first half was junior Dennis McKinney with 13 points and junior RoyShawn Webb with 12 points.

By the beginning of the second half, the Mustangs scored 16 more points against Central Methodist’s 2 points, causing the



Taylor Petersen/Times

Mustang junior #1 RoyShawn Webb (left) goes for a layup against Central Methodist University Eagles on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Fellow Mustang Davion Watson #10 (right) helps on offense. MMU won 100-86.

Eagles to call a time out at 14:26 to try and stop the Mustangs’ great momentum.

However, their momentum never faltered allowing them to score 34 more points by the end of the

half, resulting in a 100-86 win. The 100th point of the game was made by Mount Mercy junior DJ Johnson.

During the second half, McKinney added 26 more points, resulting in a career high for him at 39 points,

as well as contributing 11 rebounds.

Mustang Bailey Basala, junior, added 16 points to the board. Webb finished with 15 points, 9 rebounds and 5 assists. Johnson added 11 points.

The Eagles were led in scoring by James Byrd II, senior, with 35 points and 7 rebounds. Following was Josh Robinson, senior, with 22 points and Christian Soderholm, senior, helped Central Methodist by gain-

ing 7 rebounds.

Mount Mercy shot 47 percent overall, 40 percent in 3-pointers and 69 percent in free throws. The Eagles shot 44 percent overall, 30 percent in 3-pointers and 66 percent in free throws.

The Mustangs have now advanced to 8-7 overall and 3-6 in the Heart of America Conference, the Eagles have now fallen to 4-11 overall and 3-6 in the Heart of America Conference.

The next home game will be “suits and sneakers” night on Monday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. against Clarke University in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

# Comeback Try Falls Short; 10th Loss for MMU

By Taylor Petersen  
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy women’s basketball team suffered their tenth loss of the season, losing with a final score of 103-74 on Wednesday, Jan. 8 against the Central Methodist University Eagles (Mo.) at the Hennessey Rec. Center.

At tip-off, it looked promising for the Mustangs with freshman Sandra Mia scoring the first shot of the game, however, it took a turn when the Eagles ran into a 35-8 lead by the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Eagles doubled their lead over the Mustangs with a score of 57-29, but after half-time, the Mustangs came back strong and fighting.

The Mustangs’ fight was not enough, though, and the third quarter ended in a Central Methodist 33-point lead of 80-47. Mount Mercy was able to put more points on the board, but it wasn’t quite enough and the game ended in a 103-74 loss.

Central Methodist shot 54 percent overall, 50 percent in 3-pointers and 40 percent in free throws. Mount Mercy was able to shoot 40 percent overall and 67 percent in free throws, however, 33 Mount Mercy turnovers would aid in the Eagles’ win.

The lead scorer for the Mustangs



Taylor Petersen/Times

#3 Abbi Kinnaird, junior, races against the clock to make pass to fellow players against the Central Methodist University Eagles on Wednesday, Jan. 8. They lost 103-74

with 20 points was Mia, followed by Brianna Thomas who put up 11 points. Abbi Kinnaird, junior, and Chailey Cabalis, sophomore, added 10 points a piece. Cabalis also aided the Mustangs with 4 steals and 4 rebounds.

Mercedes Jefflo, senior, led the Eagles in scoring with 17 points. Eagle seniors Cheyenne Allen and Sam Caruth added 15 points a piece. Veronica Preciado, senior, chipped in 12 points and seniors

Gloria Mulumba and Lanay Rodney added 10 points to the board each.

After this game, Central Methodist advanced to 14-1 overall and 8-1 in the Heart of America Conference. Mount Mercy fell to 4-10 overall and 1-8 in the Heart of America Conference.

The next home game will be “suits and sneakers” night on Monday, Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. against Clarke University in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

## Sports In Short

### Women’s Bowling Win Storm Baker Challenge

The Mount Mercy women’s bowling team won the Storm Baker Challenge for the fifth time in seven years on Saturday, Jan. 11 and Sunday, Jan. 12. After 40 games, the Mustangs qualified for third with 7,208 total pin falls, following Grandview University with 7,229 pins and Saint Ambrose University with 7,384. In the semi-finals of the challenge, the Mustang women surpassed Grandview in four games and then went on to win the title with a three game sweep of Madonna in the finals.

### Men’s Bowling Fall to 3-Straight

The men’s bowling team qualified for third in the 40 Baker games at the Storm of Baker Challenge with 7,620 pins Saturday, Jan. 11 and Sunday, Jan. 12. However, the sixth-seeded Rock Valley eliminated the Mustangs in a 3-straight to advance in the opening round match

up. Saint Ambrose University then took down Rock Valley and McKendree to win the men’s championship.

### Wildcats Claw Mustangs

The Mustang women’s basketball team lost to the Culver-Stockton College Wildcats (Mo.) 71-55 on Wednesday, Jan.15 at the Hennessey Rec. Center. Sarah Moffett, junior, led the Mustangs in scoring with 22 points, and obtained 8 rebounds. Brianna Thomas, senior, followed by putting up 12 points. Also putting up double figures with 11 points was freshman Sandra Mia. MMU shot 43 percent overall, 44 percent in 3-pointers, and 58 percent in free throws. The Wildcats’ leaders were Ryan Dooley with 19 points and 4 steals, Taylor Green with 13 points and 7 rebounds and Payton Curley with 10 points. Wildcats shot 30 percent overall, 13 percent in 3-pointers and 75 percent in free throws. MMU is now 4-12 overall and 1-10 in the conference. The next home game will be on Monday, Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. in Hennessey Rec. Center against Clarke University.

### Mustang Win Over Wildcats

The men’s basketball team won against the Culver-Stockton College Wildcats (Mo.) 97-64 on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the Hennessey Rec. Center. Junior Dennis McKinney led the Mustangs in scoring with 26 points and obtaining 9 rebounds for the team. Following McKinney was RoyShawn Webb with 16 points with 4 rebounds and 5 assists. Bailey Balsa, junior, added 11 points, and juniors Streeter MvIlravy, DJ Johnson, and sophomore Tyler Kelley chipped in 10 a piece. Mount Mercy shot 49 percent overall, 49 percent in 3-pointers and 63 percent in free throws. The Wildcats were led in scoring by Michael Johnson with 19 points, Mason Vires with 15 points and Thaddeus Newby with 11 points and 9 rebounds. MMU is now 9-8 overall and 4-7 in the conference. The next home game will be on Monday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec. Center against Clarke University.

## Upcoming Home Games

### Saturday, Jan. 25

Competitive Dance  
Mustang Classic at 1 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center  
“Senior Night”

Competitive Cheer  
Mustang Classic at 2:30 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center  
“Senior Night”

### Monday, Jan. 27

Women’s Basketball v.  
Clarke University at 5:30 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center  
“Suits and Sneakers Night”

Men’s Basketball v.  
Clarke University at 7:30 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center  
“Suits and Sneakers Night”

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

Men’s Volleyball v.  
Grand View University at 7 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center

### Friday, Jan. 31

Men’s Volleyball v.  
Graceland University at 7 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center

### Saturday, Feb. 1

Women’s Basketball v.  
Missouri Valley College at noon  
in Hennessey Rec. Center

Men’s Basketball v.  
Missouri Valley College at 2 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center

Men’s Volleyball v.  
Missouri Valley College at 5:30 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center

### Tuesday, Feb. 4

Men’s Volleyball v.  
Culver-Stockton College  
at 7 p.m. in Hennessey  
Rec. Center  
Wednesday, Feb. 5

Women’s Basketball v.  
Graceland University at 5:30 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center  
“Think Pink Night”

Men’s Basketball v.  
Graceland University at 7:30 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center  
“Think Pink Night”

### Tuesday, Feb. 11

Men’s Volleyball v.  
William Penn University at 7 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center

### Saturday, Feb. 15

Men’s Volleyball v.  
Judson University at 1 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center

Men’s Volleyball v.  
Morningside College at 5 p.m.  
in Hennessey Rec. Center

# Mount Mercy Student Finds Success In and Out of the Water

## Water Skiing Champ Takes on the Nursing Program

By Caroline Groesbeck  
Managing Editor

Freshman nursing major Haley Cook is ready for her next challenge, whether it be in or out of the water.

Cook stumbled across water skiing at an early age. While vacationing at a cabin on Lake Delhi, she first saw her neighbors water ski and practice shows with their team. She knew right away that she wanted to join but had to wait until she was old enough to learn. Finally, she got her chance and has been skiing ever since.

“Seeing people up on a human pyramid on water was so cool. It made me think that it should be me,” said Cook.

When Cook turned 16 and got her license, she joined the water-skiing team. It was a good fit from the beginning.

“I made so many friends on that team that they’re like my family, it’s my second home,” said Cook.

Water skiing is a full-time sport and takes most of Cook’s time in the summer. The team’s competition season is from July

to August, but they’re already starting up pool practice now in January. Basically, the skiers have a brief break from October to December, but then it’s back in the water—which is where Cook would rather be anyway.

“I’m pretty much a water-summer person. I feel like with the winter right now and the snow, it’s just like, ‘Dang it,’” said Cook.

Cook’s team has to practice hard if they want to continue their winning streak. Her first year, her team not only went to regionals, but they also took home most of the awards. They also took home a Division II ranking at nationals that year.

This past year, things were a bit different. The team lost a few members and a lot of them were too busy to make it to some of the practices. While they won regionals again, they didn’t take home as many of the awards as they had the previous year. As a result, Cook was nervous going into nationals.

“We were competing against teams that were way higher than us, had better shows than us, and we still won,” said Cook. “We’re



Above image Contributed by Cook; Caroline Groesbeck/Times

Haley Cook (left) is part of a champion water skiing team (above). While her career might pull her away from her hobby, she plans to keep it in her life

SNAPSHOT

Meet the people on The Hill

Haley Cook

two-time national champs.”

Besides competitions, the team also participates in free shows held in Manchester where any team can come and perform.

“It’s so fun to see the free shows where anyone can show up. And it’s so cool to see different people from different states coming in and wanting to talk to us after,” said Cook. “It feels cool to have something unique.”

Of all of the different types of shows they do, Cook’s favorites are pyramid and land skits. For pyramid, she’s usually on the second or third tier. She likes land skits because they challenge her to do something different. Land skits are where the performers put on a show of their choosing. Cook’s team has done ‘Wonderful World of Talent,’

like ‘America’s Got Talent,’ and ‘Dukes of Hazzard.’

“It was kind of cool to have more speaking parts this year, but also being out on the water,” said Cook.

The team also does learn-to-ski events where anyone can come, and the team will help them learn to water ski.

“It’s nice because if you join the team and don’t know how to ski, it’s not going to be ‘Oh, we’re not going to help you,’” said Cook. “We are always there to help.”

While it’s harder to be a part of her team now that she’s in

college, Cook is nowhere near giving up.

“It’s going to be really hard, but I’m excited to try,” said Cook. “I’m not going to give up just because I’m in college.”

While water skiing isn’t Cook’s career goal, she does want to keep it in her life as a hobby.

However, this might be challenged later in life when she becomes a nurse.

“I’m going to keep doing it no matter what, but as I grow older and becoming a nurse, I might have to lose the interest of being on the team,” said Cook. “I will still be able to water ski and have fun.”

## Two Hazel Houses To Be Razed

By Nicole Carl  
Club & Organizations Editor

As many know, the more independent housing option is Hazel houses, where students can get the feel of living in their own house without having the luxury of paying for utilities, property taxes, homeowner’s insurance, and a mortgage. However, two of the Hazel houses are being condemned.

There are currently 11 houses, excluding the two that are condemned, with

nine of them currently occupied by juniors and seniors for this school year.

Dave Dennis, head of facilities, explained how these two houses are not livable. They have, “foundation and roof issues and many more reasons why it could not be brought up to code,” he said. “It would cost too much to fix and to make them habitable for students.”

As soon as it was determined that they were uninhabitable, all utilities were shut off immediately.

Mount Mercy facilities have been waiting for a budget to tear them down, which has been achieved this past December.

Jared Tegeler, sophomore, an exercise science major, and work-study for facilities, has been able to get up close and personal with these houses. He said, “One house has tons of mold in it and it stinks. Mold was covering all the walls of the basement.”

Once the houses are torn down from the area, the land will be tilled and grass will be planted to make the area more visually appealing.

The date for the demolition is still to be determined.

“It would cost too much to fix and to make them habitable for students.”

Dave Dennis

## Whine Week Gives All Students a Voice on Campus

On Jan. 6, SGA had their induction ceremony in Donnelly 300.

The first person to get inducted was Emma Lantz as the 2020-2021 president. Next, she inducted Andrea Lopez as vice president, Devin Blish as treasurer and Veronica Jons as secretary. Cabinet members were inducted after with Tiara Munoz as the administrative assistant and Maria Hermosillo Arrieta as activities coordinator. Next inducted were Christine Bwanakweri as coordinator of clubs and Deborah Kavira as director of public

SGA Update



Deborah Kavira  
Director of Public Relations

relations.

You can look forward to having Whine Week the first week of February. So, keep an eye out for boxes around campus to submit any thoughts or comments on how to improve the school as a whole.

The new members of the SGA team have several new ideas for the next school year. Some projects we are looking in to include better lighting on the way to the RAC, which involves public safety and the city of Cedar Rapids’ cooperation. We are also thinking of adding a sidewalk from lower campus to some Hazel houses.

For the months of January and February, we will be recognizing African American heritage for the “We are Mount Mercy” campaign.

## Heard on The Hill

By Jada Veasey and Caroline Groesbeck

What people are saying on topics of interest



Addy Shindelar,  
freshman, music education major.  
“I have no idea.”



Connor Christophersen,  
senior, management and marketing double major.  
“Andrew Yang.”



Emma Lantz,  
sophomore, psychology, criminal justice double major.  
“I wanted Cory Booker to win and now I am not sure who I want to win the Democratic caucus.”



David Jensen,  
sophomore, accounting, finance double major.  
“I’d have to go with Andrew Yang, probably.”



Hannah Lueck  
sophomore, nursing major.  
“I’m not sure who I want to win, but I really care about the farming industry and the farming economy.”

## ‘New Year’s Resolution Fail’ New Comic

Editor’s Note:

Mount Mercy Student Susana Zierke drew this cartoon for the Mount Mercy Times. Zierke is a freshman majoring in art education.

