

## Three Potential Presidents Visit the Hill as Board Gets Input

By Veronica Jons  
Editor-in-Chief

Three presidential finalist candidates visited MMU during the week ending Feb. 7 to convince students and officials that they're the right match for the university.

After current President Laurie Hamen announced her retirement effective at the end of the 2019-2020 academic school year, the search committee started the hunt to find Mount Mercy's next leader. Over the past month, the candidate list has dwindled from around 45 candidates to just three finalists.

On Feb. 4, the first candidate, Dr. Kimberly Long, joined the Mount Mercy community to see what the Catholic institution is all about. Throughout the day she met with current president Laurie Hamen, the Board of Trustees, the search committee, faculty and staff, and finally, the students. Despite a long day, she remained eager to talk to the students about her life and her goals for Mount Mercy.

"I want all students to have a high-quality opportunity for a higher education," said Long. She stressed throughout the student panel that she wants all students to feel welcomed here while living through Catholicism. Though her answers to tough questions were vague, she made it clear despite the circumstances, that she wanted what was best for the institution.

When it came to how she would expand diversity on campus while keeping the Mercy values, her response was, "Diversity is not incompatible with Catholicism. I mean, we have our first South American pope. The purpose of church is to serve the poor, sick, dying, minorities, and educate everyone regardless of background. Mount Mercy is a Catholic institution that welcomes everyone regardless of religion. The school serves, honors, and connects with the community, which is the true Catholic identity."

She dove into questions for 45 minutes. The final question left lingering in the air was, what sets her apart from the other candidates that students would be seeing the next two days? She then began to discuss how she wants to focus on individual engagement and building relationships with others. "I am consistent, very intentional, and very open," she said.

The next student panel occurred Feb. 5 at 3:30 p.m. in Donnelly. James Crawford III discussed his life for over 40 minutes of the hour allowed before students were opened up to questions. Throughout his discussion, he talked about how religion is an important part of everyday life. "What brings me to Mount Mercy at a higher education is my commitment to the Catholic education," he said. "It is the miracle of my life and I want to reinvest based on that miracle in other people's lives."

He went on to say higher education is based on relationships—teachers to teachers, and teachers to students, trust can be built and impacts people's lives. He is interested in understanding what students think is important on campus.

Although he did not touch on diversity and minorities at the Catholic institution, he did touch on having hard conversations on campus.

"At a Catholic college, we have to have those difficult con-

versations in a manner that is not based on, 'my thoughts are right and yours are wrong.' So, we all can learn and grow from that experience," he said.

He brought up the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy that he was involved in while in the military. He went on to say that he felt it was a policy that needed to happen in order to bring up many important conversations throughout the time frame it was implemented, until it was appealed and allowed "gays and lesbians the chance to not live a lie and to live an open and honest life."

The last day of the candidate visits was with Dr. Bob Beatty on Feb. 6. He started his meeting with the students by giving a short bio and jumped into students' questions. However, a motto he used throughout the interview was, "My dream job

has opened up here at Mount Mercy University."

Though he gave off a salesman-like impression, he took questions and concerns very seriously.

"Here at Mount Mercy,

I have found a place that values what I do and is passionate about a higher education," he said. "I never forget what my job is. My number one priority is for you to get a great education. You're investing with us."

He had a plan of action and made it clear that he wanted the students to know everything is for their best interest. In regard to diversity, he brought up plans of action that happened at his old institutions.

He implemented a 'camp' where the school would reach out to students in surrounding high schools who lived in poverty, students who were racial minorities, or students with no one in their family with a college background. Interested students would then stay at the college for a week, talk to students and faculty, and sit in on classes. At the end, students were offered a \$1,000 scholarship. It had a 50 percent success rate.

Regarding other topics like the LGBTQ+ community or bringing more racial diversity, he said, "I don't think it should be exclusive. It should be a welcoming campus to all students, period. No one should shy away from those discussions; it is part of being an institution."

The announcement of the new president of Mount Mercy University will be before March 1.

Dr. Kim Bro, representing faculty and staff on the search committee stated, "It was a very neat experience! What was really interesting was each committee member gets three votes during the seven-candidate process to narrow it down to the final three. Almost every member unanimously agreed on the top three of Kimberly Long, James Crawford, and Bob Beatty."

Although Laurie Hamen could not comment on who she would like to see be the new face of Mount Mercy, she did say liked how they were three unique people and how they showed openness to new ways to lead the institution.

"They need to be looking to lead Mount Mercy into the future, find the right person for the institution right now, and take Mount Mercy to the next level," Hamen said. About her leaving Mount Mercy, she said, "It is so bittersweet. I loved it here, the work, and the people. It also was an absolute treat to meet so many students."

Veronica Jons/  
Times

Dr. Kimberly Long visited campus Feb. 4.



Dr. Kimberly Long is currently the Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Professor of Psychology at Newman University in Kansas. While there, Long has overseen all undergraduate and graduate programs, including five programs—business, catholic studies, education, nursing and allied health, and arts and sciences. She advised Newman's comprehensive Higher

Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation while creating four online programs and developed the university's technology plan. Before residing at Newman, Long was assistant vice president for academic affairs and professor of psychology at the University of Mary. During her 2008-2016 tenure there, she chaired the Liberal Arts General Education Task Force, coordinated the HLC

focus group for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice program, and served as the institutional academic and research grants manager. Long holds a bachelor's degree in social and behavioral science and a Master of Management from the University of Mary in North Dakota. She received her PhD in industrial/organizational psychology from Capella University, Minnesota.

Derek Hamilton/  
Times

The second candidate, James Crawford III, visited MMU Feb. 5.



James Crawford, III, JD is a retired Judge Advocate General (JAG) and former Vice-Admiral of the U.S. Navy. He has served as legal advisor to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Navy, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As Commander of the Naval Legal Service Command (NLSC), Crawford gave legal services to active

and former service members and their families worldwide. From 2012-2015, Crawford was the Director of the Department of the Navy law school, where he secured funding to modernize the facilities and campus networks. He got his undergraduate degree in political science from Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina and a Juris

Doctorate from the University of North Carolina. He later worked towards a Masters of Laws in ocean and coastal law from the University of Miami School of Law and a Masters of Arts in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in Rhode Island.

Veronica Jons/  
Times

Dr. Bob Beatty ("you can call me Bob") was the final candidate to visit the Hill on Feb. 6.



Dr. Robert Beatty is the Dean of the Soules College of Business and professor of computer science at the University of Texas at Tyler since last year. At UT-Tyler, Beatty is in charge of four areas—human resource management, computer science, industrial technology, and business. He also looks over seven university institutes and centers. Before UT-Tyler, Beatty served as

the Dean of the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University from 2014-2019. There, he joined forces with community leaders to gain grants for new academic programs, entrepreneurship, research and teaching. At Florida Gulf Coast, Beatty also took charge of programs in high-impact student success plans and efforts to increase enrollment of minority students. Beatty was

the Dean of Business at Rowan University and Whitworth University. He holds an undergraduate degree in computer science from Texas Christian University, a Masters of Science in computer systems management from Creighton University in Nebraska, and an MBA and Doctorate of Business Administration from Mississippi State University.





Caroline Groesbeck/Times

Marketing expert Kelly Wirges speaks during the Iowa Newspaper Convention in Des Moines earlier this month. Students at the Iowa College Media Association convention, hosted by INA, could attend ICMA or INA training sessions at the convention.

# Times Wins Top Awards for Editorials, Review

By Caroline Groesbeck  
Managing Editor

The Mount Mercy Times won seven awards across seven different categories in the two-day Iowa College Media Association (ICMA) conference on Feb. 6 and 7.

At the conference, which includes categories such as Best Staff Editorial, Best Review, Best Profile, Best Photography, and more, the Times staff placed first in two categories, third in two categories, and an honorable mention in another three.

The judges considered student work published between Oct. 20, 2018 and Oct. 18, 2019 in the 2019 contest.

While the awards ceremony is a highlight of the two-day conference, it has much more to offer students. With various sessions, multiple speakers and a networking lunch, the ICMA conference offers opportunities for improvement to journalism and marketing students. Although the conference content is mostly focused on newspapers and their marketability, it does offer students a chance to take knowledge back to their respec-

tive majors.

With topics varying from Adobe editing tips, to Instagram tips and tricks for storytelling to nonprofit news organizations, the sessions focus on current issues in the newspaper and marketing world. One presenter

focused on how to make a sale while another focused on not “shooting skinny rabbits,” meaning not to get hung up on the little things.

The conference is also a unique opportunity for students to network with working professionals and potentially secure an internship or job. With all types of organizations present, students are able to make connections with small town newspapers, large publications, local businesses, and more. Many companies attend the conference not only to gain tips for their publications, but also to look for potential new hires.

A common theme within the conference was resilience.

Journalism is a tenacious field, so reporters often have to push themselves and continually re-examine their surroundings in order to be successful.

## Stories of Merit

The Mount Mercy Times staff won the following awards for the 2019 Better Newspaper Contest sponsored by the Iowa College Media Association:

### First Place

**Best Staff Editorial**—“Unsafe Zones; Youth Advocates” by Veronica Jons, Jada Veasey, Caroline Groesbeck and Courtney Hoffman.

**Best Review**—“New ‘Halloween’ Horror Film Proves that Suspense Can Satisfy Even More than Gore” by Cameron Junge.

### Third Place

**Best Profile Story**—“Sisters Set Each Other for Success” by Caroline Groesbeck.

**Best Page 1 Layout**—“Safe Zone?” by Jada Veasey, Matt Trueblood, and Caroline Groesbeck.

### Honorable Mention

**Best News Photography**—“Eco Club Takes Students to State Park--Students explore Maquoketa Caves” by Ekaterina Rangelova.

**Best Print Design**—“Nation and MMU Abuzz over Mid-Term Election” by Peter Brooks, Jada Veasey and Caroline Groesbeck.

**Best Sports Feature**—“Athletic Trainers are The Work Horses of Mustang Athletics” by Mahlon Steepleton.

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# Unsafe Zones

As MMU Struggles in Delicate Discussion of LGBTQ+ Issues, We Want All to Feel Welcome on The Hill and at the Times

## Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

The Safe Zone explosion began on April 3, when a student posted her reaction on Facebook to documents that were being prepared for training at Mount Mercy.

Students were unaware of the months-long pause in Safe Zone training, reacted strongly to the MMU document and wondered what the future of the program was here.

Dr. Laurie Hamen, MMU president, issued a statement regarding this on the following day.

This is the first public statement that has been released since the Safe Zone training program was put on hold in the fall of 2018 near the end of October.

We do not agree with the decision to pause training for this important program but if a pause or review was necessary, we wish that it had happened more quickly. Most of all, the way students learned of this situation—which does have an impact on many students—was unfortunate.

It should not have taken a social media blow up for the school to inform students of what was going on behind the scenes regarding Safe Zone training. We understand that the university

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has a Catholic identity and this is something that it seems to be wrestling with. But Catholicism isn’t just about defining marriage or family in a Biblical way—it’s also about compassion for all persons, and we don’t think the handling of this issue has lived up to that ideal.

We think the conversation about Safe Zone would be more awkward if held in public, but we think openness with a community that will feel the impact of decisions is almost always the way to go. And this is a topic that voices are contributing too—it is worth noting the library has a LGBTQ+ display and that, as far as we know, professors are not removing Safe Zone stickers from their doors.

As for the Times, we want you to know we value your voice regardless of your sexual orientation, religious identity, or political beliefs. We are a student run news organization and if

you are LGBTQ+ and want a platform to share your views please contact us. The Times is happy to be a part of this discussion.

This paper wants to be a diverse and inclusive publication, if you have any opinions you want to voice you are welcome to submit them to this paper.

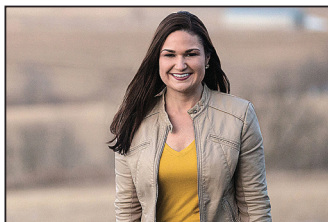
**As for the Times, we want you to know we value your voice regardless of your sexual orientation, religious identity, or political beliefs.**

Nov. 15, 2018

## OPINION



Democrat Rep.-elect Cindy Axne



Democrat Rep.-elect Abby Finkenauer



Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds

# New Era

The Face of Politics in Iowa is Changed for the Better With Women Winning

Within the midterm election, the best news in our state is that Iowa did something it’s never done before in its 172 year history.

In this election Iowa finally elected two women to the U.S. House of Representatives and a female governor of Iowa! Those House and Governor elects are Rep.-elect Abby Finkenauer (D), Rep.-elect Cindy Axne (D) and Gov. Kim Reynolds (R). This is great news and we finally get join the 45 other states that have already elected women to these offices.

Finkenauer will represent Cedar Rapids and Mount Mercy after unseating Rep. Rod Blum.

The positive direction in Iowa ends up being a mixed bag in a way, as Iowa has the

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unfortunate distinction of retaining Rep. Steve King. If you’re not familiar with Rep. King, he has repeatedly refused to condemn while supremacists and even barred the Des Moines Register, Iowa’s largest newspaper, from his post-election press conference this election. Not allowing reporting on your win is baffling and infuriating.

In national news, the House of Representatives was flipped and has turned to the hands of the Democrats with 226 members in the House. The Senate stayed Republican with 51 seats as the Republicans gained two seats from the Democrats.

We will see in the future whether the two branches of Congress can work together to pass legislation that will benefit the American people and more specifically col-

lege students.

According to NPR.org, the United States had its highest midterm voter turnout in 52 years, around 47 percent of eligible voters. This is good news, but it is still a small number of eligible voters and measures should be taken to get people interested in civics.

We hope you voted. If you didn’t, shame on you. If you’re an MMU student reading this editorial, you’re an adult. Voting is acting like one; not voting is to remain a child.

Things have pivoted in our country and we are moving in a different direction. All that’s left to do now is see where that leaves us.

**Editor’s Note:** Images are edited versions of publicity photos from candidate web sites.

Oct. 10, 2019

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# 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

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 receiving 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.

# MMU Wins CR College Cornhole Contest Bragging Rights

By Emilio Ramos  
Staff Writer

Mount Mercy’s Josh Harmon and Tony Begley won Mount Mercy the bragging rights of Cornhole Champions for another year during the Rough Riders hockey game on Jan. 31.

This was the second annual Cornhole Tournament held between three colleges in Cedar Rapids, Mount Mercy University, Coe College and Kirkwood Community College. Beth Chaney, student engagement coordinator for Mount Mercy, hopes that events like this will build friendly rivalry between Cedar Rapids colleges.

“I would like to see more intercollegiate events in the future,” Chaney said.

Harmon, a student, and Begley, a staff member, were this year’s participants playing cornhole for Mount Mercy. They played during the first intermission of the Rough Riders hockey game.

Cornhole is a game where small bags filled with dried corn are tossed to a wooden platform with a hole for points. It is normally played on land during barbecues and tailgate parties, but this tournament featured the competitors

playing center ice.

Mount Mercy wasn’t the only one to walk away with a win. Following Harmon and Begley’s dominance with the cornhole bags, the Rough Riders secured a victory of their own in overtime against the Youngstown Phantoms. The chorus of cowbells was deafening as the game winning puck was shot, bringing the final score to 2-1.

With the two goals earned during this game, the Rough Riders’ total goals for the season were brought to 117. The Rough Riders have partnered with Care Pro and Horizons for the Skates for Plates program. For each goal scored by the Rough Riders this season, CarePro will make a five-dollar donation to Horizons.

These donations will be used to provide senior citizens with meals via their home delivery program. Each meal will be delivered by the Rough Riders players and staff in the community each week.

For those who would like more information, CarePro and Horizons are family health organizations that provide health and medical assistance for underserved populations. Their websites are [www.careprohs.com](http://www.careprohs.com) and [www.horizonsfamily.org](http://www.horizonsfamily.org).



Emilio Ramos/Times

Student Josh Harmon and staff member Tony Begley (above) won the cornhole college contest held recently at a Roughriders game (left).

**“I would like to see more intercollegiate events in the future.”**

Beth Chaney, student engagement coordinator





# Black History Month Remains Relevant and a Necessity

February is Black History Month in the United States. Every year, it seems that some people have an issue with the monthly celebration. It's not unusual to hear people claiming that "Black History Month isn't needed anymore; racism is ancient history!"

People who make such claims are wrong. Even though some people may believe that racism is a thing of the past, it is pretty much a guarantee that every

**Staff Editorial**

The opinion of Times editors

person of color in this country would disagree with that idea. And, by extension, every person of color on this campus would likely agree with that disagreement.

Racism didn't end when slavery ended. It didn't end when schools were desegregated. It didn't end when Barack Obama was elected to the presidency. And looking at the way society is now, it's not likely to end anytime soon.

Every single day, black people, and people of color in general, experience racism. Maybe it isn't always outright and obvious racism, but it's certainly racism.

Every time someone mixes up the names of two Hispanic students in a class, that's a kind of racism. Every time someone asks a black person, "Can I touch your hair?" that's a kind of racism. Every time a white person tells a person of color that they're "So articulate!" that's a kind of racism.

For people of color, racism is an unavoidable and everyday occurrence.

Black History Month is intended to be a celebration of the many important contributions black people have made throughout history. It is a celebration of the past, present, and future of black culture. It is not something that should be

mocked or belittled; it shouldn't be the punchline to anyone's insensitive joke.

We are urging the members of the Mount Mercy community to recognize their inherent prejudices and biases this month. We should all do our best to correct our past mistakes and put our best foot forward to prevent future negative incidents.


Learn all you can about black culture and the cultures of other marginalized communities. Education combats ignorance. Let's all do all that we can to make Mount Mercy a welcoming place for people of all cultures and backgrounds.

# More than His Career, the Black Mamba's Legacy Will Live On

On Jan. 26, NBA and sports fans around the world were stunned to hear about the passing of two-time Finals MVP and five-time NBA Champion Kobe Bryant.

I can still remember the sweat dripping from my palm under the hot summer sun in Arizona. The asphalt of the half-court hoop in my grandmother's backyard sizzled under my Nike trainers. I drained an imaginary last-second, buzzer-beating shot and flexed my number 8 Kobe Bryant Lakers jersey in celebration with the crowd attending, which would've been my mother and grandmother drinking sun tea and watching me play.

*Opinion*



**Josh Harmon**  
Video & Multimedia Editor

All of Bryant's 20 seasons in the NBA were played with the Los Angeles Lakers. Not only was he the face of the franchise, he also maintained a strong leadership role throughout his career. The Black Mamba played with the same passion and love for basketball each and every game. Bryant even dropped 60 points in his final professional game before retiring, proving his stamp and impact on the league and completed his farewell to the NBA by saying, "Mamba out."

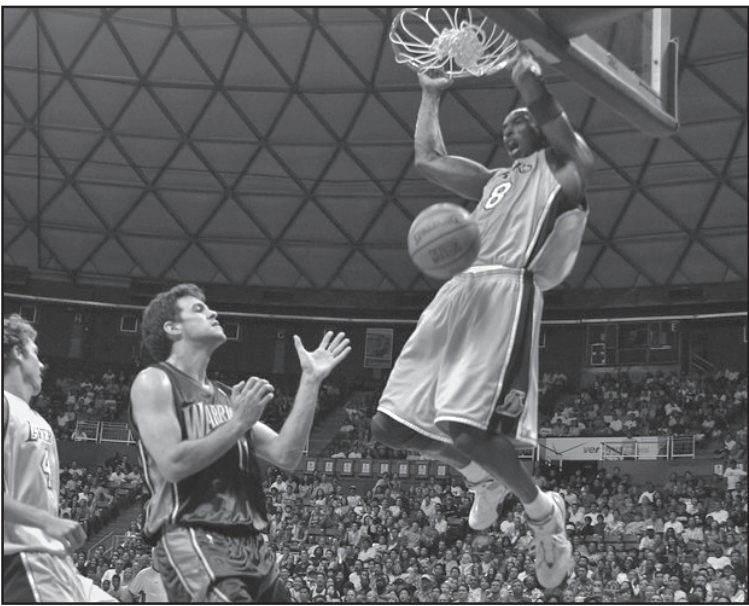
Yelling out "Kobe" before shooting a basket in hope of seeing the basketball swish through the net will always be a simple and friendly way to honor Kobe's legendary career. The saying became so popular, it turned throwing a piece of paper in the trash or dirty clothes in the laundry bin into recreations of the many baskets that Bryant scored.

If there are a few things that

I take away from the career of Bryant, it would be his passion, love and hard work ethic that he put toward any and every situation. Bryant showed that basketball was much more than just a game, and his passion could translate far from the hardwood of a basketball court and into one's everyday life.

Much like myself, Bryant hated to lose. You could count on Bryant to show up with the same fierce, competitive mamba mentality every time he walked in the gym. The Lakers could be leading or trailing by 30 points, it could be the championship game or a pick-up game during practice, but no matter what, Bryant would compete like he had something to prove.

One thing that's still hard to take away from the death of Bryant is how inevitable death is, and how it can come at any moment. Bryant was only 41 years old when he tragically died



Wikimedia Commons

Kobe Bryant delivers one of many slam dunks during a 2005 game at the University of the Hawaii in a photo taken by Cpl. Megan Stiner.

in a helicopter crash around the Calabasas area of California. Gianna Bryant, Kobe's 13-year-old daughter, was also on board the helicopter when it crashed.

I can only imagine the thoughts going through Bryant's mind as he helplessly held his daughter during their last seconds of life. No matter how rich

or poor one may be, death can happen any time. It is important for us to cherish every second with the people we care about, because we never know when they may be taken from us.

**Editor's Note:** A related story on page 4 covers more MMU reaction to the Bryant death.

# We Need to Listen When God Calls on Us to Be Brave

I'm not sure how many of you see me around wearing my navy sweatshirt that says, "Quo Vadis" on it, but if you have and ever wondered what it means, I'm about to tell you.

It starts off with a story about St. Peter and Jesus. Way back in the old times after Jesus ascended into heaven, things were getting frightening for the Christians. The Roman officials didn't like how fast Christianity was spreading and were doing all they could to stop it. With all this commotion going on, Christians looked to St. Peter for guidance, especially since he was the pope.

He probably wasn't wearing all white at that time like you might see Pope Francis, but he very much so was the leader of the Christian faith. St. Peter and other Christians wanted to spread the faith and not let it die in Rome as they get persecuted! So, they thought leaving Rome was the best solution.

After departing Rome, the ultimate 'Quo Vadis' moment happened. It went down like this! As St. Peter was walking up Aventine Hill, Jesus appeared to him. But Jesus didn't just appear in the sky and say some comforting words of consolation, no! Jesus instead started walking back to Rome.

Peter, filled with confusion asked Jesus, "Quo vadis, Domine?" which

*Faith on the Hill*



**Kasey Kaimann**  
Columnist

translates as "Where are you going, Lord?" And with that, Jesus replied, "I am going back to Rome to be crucified a second time."

St. Peter, in an instant, knew what he had to do: go back to Rome and be crucified for the Lord. And that's exactly what he did.

This makes me reflect on how many times I am tempted to leave situations when things get hard when perhaps Jesus might be asking me to stay and be a witness for the faith even though it might seem pointless to me. But I must remind myself that God is God and I am not. His plans are far beyond mine.

I think sometimes when we are faced with trial or tribulation, we want Jesus to tell us, "It's okay, run from harm and protect yourself," and perhaps Jesus would tell us this most of the time. However, there are other times when Jesus wants us to face our trials and be a witness of His love amid the storm.

I'm sure St. Peter thought Jesus was crazy after hearing his reply. Jesus literally just asked him to go be martyred! Right when St. Peter thought he was doing what was best for the Church, Jesus stopped him and showed him that there was an even better plan that would bring God more glory.

Sometimes, God calls us to be brave and trust that He's got something better in mind. I hope the next time you face a trial, you turn to God and ask Him what He wants you to do rather than thinking you have the best plan, because after all, God is God and we are not.

# From 2015's #OscarsSoWhite to 2020's #OscarsSoFakeWoke

I think we all remember 2015. It was quite a year, Obama was still President, the beloved video app Vine was still a thing, and #OscarsSoWhite was trending on Twitter.

Well, it's five years later, and newsflash: the Oscars are still so white. There were quite literally more jokes about the lack of black nominees than there were black nominees. Yes, several people of color did score a coveted golden trophy, but tons more were ignored by the Academy and the nomination process altogether.

Despite the still fairly beige nature of America's most important film award show, the winners were still feeling pretty woke during their acceptance speeches.

Brad Pitt, who won for best supporting actor for his role in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," used his acceptance speech to take a jab at Trump and his Senate impeachment trial.

*Opinion*



**Jada Veasey**  
Opinion Editor

Joaquin Phoenix, winner of the coveted best actor award for his titular role in "Joker," made references to both human rights and animal rights, and told the world why everyone should stop drinking milk (this one is worth a watch on YouTube if you didn't get to drink in the dairy-filled splendor live).

These were just a couple examples of just how woke our favorite celebrities are! Some of the red-carpet looks were woke, too. Natalie Portman wore a cape over her gown, and the cape was embroidered with the names of female directors that the academy failed to nominate this year.

Of course, Natalie was banking on the fact that we'd ignore the fact that she's worked with only three female directors in her decades long acting career. Yikes.

If there's one thing that Hollywood loves, it's a soapbox.

I couldn't help but snicker at the irony of the whole situation. These celebrities, some of the wealthiest and most famous people in the world, got up in front of a bunch of other celebrities and gave them

#WokeWordsOfWisdom (or maybe I should just call it #Wokedom) about how they should live their lives.

Give me a break. I think it's great to be passionate about a cause that speaks to you, but when these people, who have all the means to influence society in a broad and significant manner, would rather rant to an audience than actually strive to make tangible change, it's hard for me to buy into it.

And it's even harder to believe their words when they've shown up to an awards ceremony that has never done near enough to recognize marginalized voices.

Do some celebrities genuinely do important activism work? Sure! But I'll tell you one thing for sure, none of them give nearly enough of their fortunes to the causes they claim to care so much about.

And why would they? They've become accustomed to lifestyles where they can get whatever they want, do whatever they want, and no one will question them.

At some point, celebrities need to put their money where their mouths are.



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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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

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# Building Courage to Leave Builds Character

I just got back from one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Paris. No, I'm not talking about Paris, Texas. I'm talking about Paris, France.

### Opinion

My class learned a great deal in class about the "Roaring 20's" and "The Lost Generation" of Paris. We talked about Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald on our tours, as well as Picasso and Langston Hughes. We went to their famous bars, houses and graves, as well as touring Paris' most famous architectural places.



Mahlon Steepleton  
Staff Writer

It was my first time out of the country and I was scared of the overall experience I was going to have. I have watched TV shows, movies, etc. over the years on Paris and knew a lot of the stereotypes about the

city and country we were headed to.

The biggest ones I was afraid of were, "Well, French people can't or won't want to speak English to you," or "The French people are rude and dislike/hate Americans a lot." Well, I'm glad to say both of those are extremely false. A lot of French citizens speak English, some very well.

What I learned was that they learned English in high school and actually watched a lot of American TV shows, like "Dexter," "Breaking Bad," "The Office," etc. to learn English. I really thought this was very interesting. As for Parisians and French people hating or being

mean to Americans, that's a false stereotype, too.

They are really nice and polite people and a lot of them are fluent in two or more languages. They

are happy to help you if you are lost or are asking for directions.

Several people helped me when I needed help with directions on the Metro. There was

Several people helped me when I needed help with directions on the Metro. There was even this older woman on the Metro who offered the girls in our class chocolate and a hug.

# Spoken Word Poet Speaks Her Truth

By Bri Ostwinkle  
Web Editor

On Feb. 13, Lady Caress, a spoken word poet, visited campus and showed off her many talents to shed light on a wide range of topics.

Caress captured the audience's attention through beatboxing, singing, and reciting poetry. She covered topics including mental health, Black History Month, and the experiences of women.

Caress opened her show by telling the audience more about herself in order to make a stronger connection. Caress has been a poet for 7 years, but instead of being a typical poet she refers to herself as "a hustler," due to the fact that it is the same sort of struggle and feels like she's in the streets with everyone else.

The first topic she discussed was mental illness. Caress talked about how a lot of people have smiles on their faces, but are struggling on the inside. Her poem reflected on suicide and the serious issue that it is, yet people don't draw attention to it until it is too late.

"We give props to the president of student council, we give pats on the back of the quarterback, but we ignore the ones who fell off track," said Caress.

She spoke on the importance of checking up on the ones we

care about and telling the ones we love how much we appreciate their presence in our lives.

Caress then spoke about Black History Month and the struggle that people of color go through growing up.



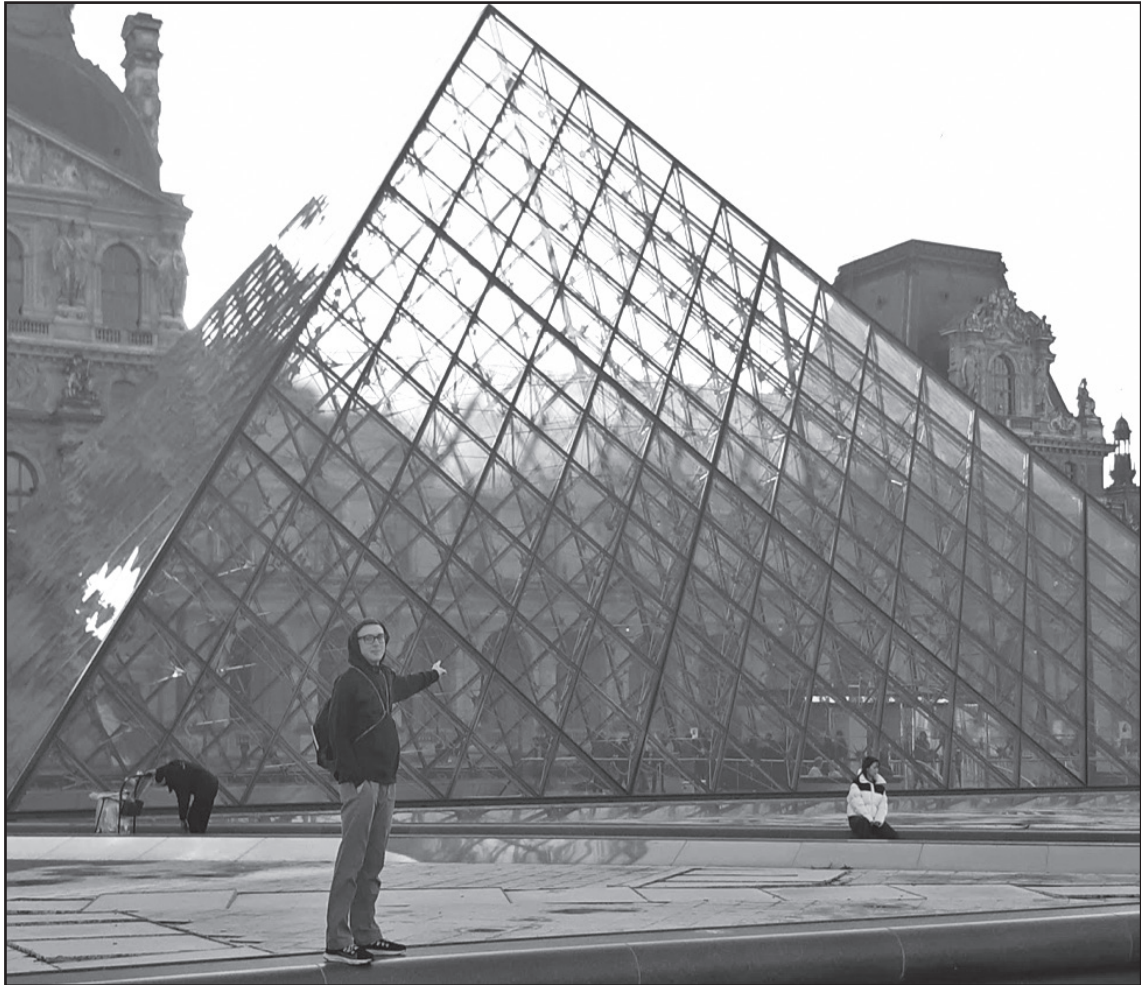
Bri Ostwinkle/Times

"We need to face the facts: there is a rapid death of blacks," said Caress.

Caress said this line over and over in her piece talking about the issues that are still around in society today surrounding those of color. She focused on talking about the violence and poor communities that surrounds them. Caress ended the night by talking about women. She talked about the strength that women have and what they accomplish in life, whether it goes noticed or not.

She said that, "Women, we go through it, but we never say anything. We stay silent and carry on."

She went into more detail about the fact that, no matter what the circumstance is, we have bad days, and the difference between a bad day and a good day is a simple pep talk. Caress said that sometimes no one is around to give you a pep talk, but, no matter what happens, there will always be light at the end of tunnel.



Mahlon Steepleton/Times

Writer Mahlon Steepleton points at the famous glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris, France, not Texas.

even this older woman on the Metro who offered the girls in our class chocolate and a hug.

Our coordinator, Fatima is one of the nicest, if not the nicest person I have ever met. She guided us for 10 straight days on where to go, what place was what, what to do and not to do in Paris. She even got us gifts for the way back and said to text or call her if we ever wanted to chat with her.

The city reminded me a lot of Chicago with all the lights at night, and it was very beautiful. One night, I jogged to the Eiffel Tower from our hotel and it was one of the best experiences I have had in a while. It was very peaceful and not loud from cars

or the traffic. I was just jogging and listening to good music. When I got to the second floor, I saw the whole city and it was very magical. It was one of those moments where it's just you and the city.

Paris has some differences from the United States and when I was over there I kept thinking about why the United States doesn't try to change and take different ideas from other countries and apply it to our own. I mean, we have taken a lot of food, art, and technology ideas from other countries and applied it to America over the years. Why not do things that can improve our country? France

has universal healthcare, a great economy, way less school shootings, and way less OWIs and alcohol related car crashes and deaths. Just to name a few.

Overall, it was a 10 of 10 experience, besides me getting food poisoning one night from eating Subway, almost walking into the women's restroom at the airport (both looked exactly the same: they had the same colors), and stepping in dog poop.

It was an amazing experience and I'm happy I got the courage to take a trip outside of the United States. I am a better person for doing it.

# You Want a Glass with that Whine?

### Opinion



Deborah Kavira  
Director of Public Relations

The members of SGA went over each of the ideas that students included in the yellow boxes around campus. Each of these 'whines' were discussed and included on what could be done about those suggestions. Some of the recommendations included different parking procedures, Lundy fitness upgrades, applying Mercy crosses to all classrooms, better food options, and an air hockey table in the game room.

Some projects we are looking into and are already working on include buying new cue sticks and ping-pong paddles for the pool room. These new items are being kept at the information desk currently and are available for everyone to use. SGA is also updating our flag collection hanging in the UC to represent everyone from different backgrounds that are currently attending MMU. Be on the lookout for some of these changes! If there are other suggestions, or more detailed suggestions, please contact sga@mtmercy.edu!

# Remembering a Former NBA Star

By Morgan Ingwersen  
Staff Writer

After the tragic death of NBA Superstar Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and 7 others on Sunday, Jan. 26, Mount Mercy students remember the greatness of the former NBA star's career.

In his second season for the Los Angeles Lakers, Bryant was voted a starter for the 1998 All-Star Game at the age of 19, becoming the youngest All-Star in NBA history. After teaming up with Shaquille O'Neal to win three consecutive NBA championships he was voted first team all-NBA from years 2002-04.

Byrant scored 81 points against the Toronto Raptors in Jan. 2006. Bryant had the second-highest single game mark in NBA history, and led the league in scoring that year and the next.

"Kobe was possibly the best scorer to ever play the game of basketball," said freshman Dylan Andreassen, business management major. "He could take over a game in a matter of minutes. Personally, he is the second best of all time, behind Michael Jordan."

In 2008, Bryant was named Most Valuable Player and carried his team to the NBA finals, where they lost to the Boston Celtics. In the 2009 NBA finals, the Lakers beat the Orlando Magic to win the championship. The following year, the Lakers won their second straight title, beating the Celtics.

In April 2013, Bryant suffered a torn Achilles tendon, and worked hard to return to the court before fracturing his knee six games into the 2013-14 season. Bryant surpassed Michael Jordan for the third all-

time scorer on the NBA scoring list in Dec. 2014, but his season ended due to injury for the third straight year when he sustained a torn rotator cuff in Jan. 2015. In November 2015 Bryant announced that he would retire at the end of the season.

"There is no doubt that Kobe was one of the greatest athletes alive and after hearing of his death, I was left in a surreal state," said freshman Carlos Rivera, finance and management major. "I couldn't believe that something so awful could happen to someone who inspired thousands and it was a reminder that life is really short."

By the end of his career, Bryant had 17 NBA All-Star selections, an NBA MVP, five NBA championships with the Lakers, and a reputation for relentless work ethic.

# 'Perks of Valentine's Day' New Comic

### Editor's Note:

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





# Mustangs Finish Second

Veronica Jons and Taylor Petersen/  
Times

Ally Trager (right) sprints to the finish line in the 400.

Cameron Steffens and Jacob Blackmon (far right) fight to beat records in the mile.



## Women Break Records at FNL

By Taylor Petersen  
Sports Editor

The Mustang women’s track and field team competed at the Wartburg Indoor Friday Night Lights Meet in Waverly, Iowa on Feb. 7, finishing in second with 126 points and breaking records along the way.

Two athletes broke school records and qualified for the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championship on March 5-7 in Brookings, South Dakota. Vanessa Cortez, senior, finished first in the 5,000 meters, breaking her previous record with a time of 18:26.03, qualifying her for the championship in the “B” standard.

Senior Andrea Ertz qualified again for the NAIA Championship after finishing in first and breaking the school’s record in the mile with a time of 5:01.59 qualifying for the “A” standard. Ertz qualified for the 3,000 meters at the Wartburg College Indoor Select Meet with a time of 10:17.22, also qualifying for the “A” standard.

Some Mustangs improved their personal bests. Jasmine Wardell, senior, placed fifth in the weight throw with 15.02 meters, improving her spot in the record book. Junior Oceana Papakee finished third in shot put, beating her personal-best with a mark of 11.87 meters.

In field events, Rachel Gadiant, senior, placed first in the high jump (1.25 meters).

In the long jump, Lexie Johnson, freshman, finished second (4.79 meters) and Sophie Feahn, sophomore, came in third (4.55 meters).

Noteworthy runs include Feahn, who placed second in the 60-meter dash (8.17), freshmen Shaniya Matthews placing fifth (8.48), and Sarah Schneider finishing sixth (8.49). Matthews also placed second in the 200-meter dash (28.20), along with Feahn in fourth place (28.71).

Three Mount Mercy women finished in the top 10 of the 400 meters and 800 meters. In the 400, junior Ally Trager finished seventh (1:07.10), Johnson came in eighth (1:11.90), and Sydney Dietze in ninth (1:16.96). In the 800, Mady Roth, senior, finished third (2:33.60), freshman Sydney Woods came in fourth (2:43.95), and Madysen Framer, freshman, followed her placing fifth (2:48.50).

Following Cortez in the 5,000 meters was Emily Erickson, sophomore, finishing sixth (20:02.54). In the 3,000 meters Hallie Kephart, freshman, placed sixth (11:52.74).

The 4x400 relay ended with the team of A. Ertz, Gadiant, Trager and Roth finishing third (4:16.06) and the team of Britney White, freshman; Schneider; Dietze; and Johnson following in fifth (4:51.84).

The women’s track and field team will be competing in the Heart of America Conference Meet on Feb. 21-22 in Maryville, Missouri.



## Men Make Big Strides at Meet

By Veronica Jons  
Editor-in-Chief

The men’s track team placed second overall with a total of 92 points at the Wartburg Indoor Friday Night Lights Meet on Friday, Feb. 7.

Two records were beat by long distance runners. Senior Jacob Blackmon finished fourth place in the mile with a time of 4:30:03, while freshman Nathan Skala finished third with a time of 1:57:93 in the 800-meter dash.

Other top performances of the night came from freshman Raymond Venditti, getting second in the 60-meter dash. In the 400-meter dash, juniors Josh Harmon and Hunter

Filloon finished nearly one second apart with Harmon getting third with a time of 53.97, and Filloon in fourth place with 54.61.

Not far behind

Blackmon in the mile, junior Cameron Steffens finished sixth.

To add to Blackmon’s success, he placed fourth, right in front of seniors Sayed Opeyany in fifth and Chase Kress in sixth.

The 4x400 relay team of Skala, Golding, junior Mahlon Steepleton, and sophomore Nick Jordan finished fifth. In addition,

the other team of Venditti, Filloon, freshman Oscar Lopez, and junior Devin Blish placed sixth.

Junior Luke Nickelson stole the show by placing first in both long

jump (6.80 meters) and triple jump (13.45 meters). Along with him finishing in the top three,

freshman Mitchell Miller took third place finishes in shot put (13.43 meters) and weight throw (14.64 meters). Another freshman, Carter Mahon finished ninth in the weight throw (10.72 meters).

**Two Mustang long distance runners beat records, senior Jacob Blackmon and freshman Nathan Skala.**

## Men’s Volleyball Loses Season Opener with a 3-0 Sweep



Taylor Petersen/Times

Our setter sets the ball out of Grand View’s reach to set up the hitter in hopes to score points for the Mustangs.

By Taylor Petersen  
Sports Editor

The men’s volleyball team lost their first home game of the season against the top-ranked Grand View University Vikings. The Vikings swept the Mustangs 3-0 on Jan. 28 at the Hennessey Rec. Center.

The two teams battled back and forth until the Vikings went on a six-to-nothing run and would end the set with another 5 straight points, winning the first set 25-15.

In the second set, the Mustangs held the lead because of Viking errors of missed serves, shanked balls, and out of bounds kill attempts. However, the Vikings fought back to tie the score 16-16. Both teams seesawed back and forth

until Grand View took a 5-1 run, winning the set 25-22.

The third set was dominated by the Vikings and the Mustangs couldn’t create enough momentum to come back. Grand View won the set 25-19.

The Mustangs were led in kills, digs, and aces by Evan Gaskill, junior, putting up 8 kills, 6 digs and 2 aces. Following Gaskill was senior Nikola Stoimenov with 7 kills and 2 blocks. Julian Armendano, sophomore, and Ben Steffen, junior, had 6 kills each, while sophomore Ben Ruggles had 26 assists.

The Vikings were led in kills by Felix Chapman, senior, with 18, followed by Livan Moreno, sophomore, with 8 kills and 2 aces and Raffy Polanco, senior, with 7. Eli Iriarry,

junior, led in digs, aces, and assists with 12 digs, 2 aces, 28 assists. Lastly Oscar Manana, junior, had 4 blocks.

Overall the Mustangs had 30 kills, 28 assists, 23 digs, 4 blocks and 3 aces, while Grand View overall had 40 kills, 34 assists, 33 digs, 8 blocks and 5 aces.

The Mustangs fell to 0-1 overall and 0-1 in conference play, while the Vikings advance to 5-1 overall and 2-0 in conference play.

Despite, going back and forth with Grandview last year with wins and losses, the Mustangs have not been able to fight back this time around.

The next home game will be on Friday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. against Clarke University in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

## Sports In Short

### Men’s Bowling Takes First

Men’s bowling placed first in the Cedar Valley Open, hosted by Wartburg College and Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo on Saturday, Feb. 8 and Sunday, Feb. 9. On Saturday, the men’s team was in the lead with 7,619 pins after 5 team games and 12 baker games, with Grand View not too far behind with 7,177 pins. On Sunday, they continued to dominate the other teams, beating Hastings College by 22 points and winning with a total of 7,516 pin falls. Senior Dylan Catalano-Wild was awarded top individual honors. Three fellow Mustangs were top four finishers alongside with Catalano-Wild: senior Alex Brice, sophomore Max Roers and junior Alex Diercks. Their next tournament will be the USBC ITC Sectionals on Friday, March 13 and Sunday, March 15.

### Women’s Bowling is on a Roll

The Mount Mercy women’s bowling team placed first out of 10 teams at the Cedar Valley Open. On the first day of the tournament, the women’s team was in the lead with a total of 7,159 pin falls after 5 team games and 12 baker games. On the second day, they claimed first place with a total of 7,423 pin falls. Mustang junior Cassidy Courey placed third and freshman Ayra Nur Jehan Aminuddin placed fifth, qualifying them for the all-tournament team. Aminuddin also took top individual honors at this meet. Their next tournament will be the USBC ITC Sectionals on Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15.

### Men’s Volleyball Over Wilcats, Statesmen

The men’s volleyball team are now 2-2 overall and 2-2 in the conference after dominating the Culver-Stockton College Wildcats on Tuesday, Feb. 4, sweeping them 3-0. In set one, junior Evan Gaskill was able to get Mount Mercy on a 6-1 run. The Wildcats then came back to tie 19-19, but the Mustangs won the set 25-21. The Mustangs won the second set 25-16, dominating the Wildcats with 15 kills. In the third set, the Wildcats took the lead until senior Matt Belling served 5 points, taking them to the top. Mount Mercy won the third set 25-23. Overall the Mustangs had 41 kills, 34 assists, 43 digs, 8 blocks and 4 service aces. Gaskill led the Mustangs with 14 kills followed by Julian Armendano, sophomore, with 12 and Ben Steffens, junior, with 10. Sophomore Ben Ruggles had 29 assists while fellow sophomore Tiago Almedia had 15 digs.

It was another 3-0 sweep for the men’s volleyball team on Tuesday, Feb. 11 against the William Penn University Statesmen, resulting in the Mustangs advancing to 5-4 overall and 3-2 in the conference. In set one, Mount Mercy took an early lead, leading to a 25-19 win. In set two, William-Penn took the lead until senior Dalton Hynek tied the set 13-13 setting them up to win the second set 25-22. Mount Mercy then went on to win the third set 29-27. Overall, Mount Mercy had 38 kills, 33 assists, 40 digs, 8 blocks and 3 service aces. The next home game will be on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in Hennessey Rec. Center against Clarke University

### Dance and Cheer at NAIA Championship

The Mount Mercy Dance and Cheer teams competed in the Heart of America Conference Championship in Olathe, Kansas at MidAmerica Nazarene University on Saturday, Feb. 15. Eight dance teams and nine cheer teams competed in the championship. MMU dance finished third in the conference with a final score of 77.84. Cheer finished sixth in the conference with a final score of 51.90. The head spirit squad coach Dax Cox won the coach of the year award for the NAIA Heart of America Conference.

### Baseball Gets Swept Away

Mount Mercy men’s baseball started off their season with four losses on the road on Feb. 14 and Feb. 15 against College of the Ozarks and Texas A&M University-Texarkana. The first game ended 0-6 against College of the Ozarks with the Ozarks scoring 2 runs in the first inning, 3 in second inning and 1 in the fifth. The second game resulted in a 0-11 loss for MMU against Texas A&M-Texarkana. Texarkana scored 1 run in the first inning, 7 in the fifth, and 3 in the seventh. The third game resulted in a 0-8 loss against Texarkana with Texarkana scoring in the third, fifth, and sixth innings. In the final game, Mount Mercy was able score 3 runs, but it would not be enough against the College if the Ozarks’ 4 runs. Mount Mercy’s first home game of the season will be on March 3 at the P.A.C. at 2 p.m.

## Upcoming Home Games

### Saturday, Feb. 22

Women’s Basketball v. Peru State College at 2 p.m. in Hennessey Rec. Center

Men’s Basketball v. Peru State College at 4 p.m. in Hennessey Rec. Center

### Thursday, Feb. 27

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

### Saturday, Feb. 29

Women’s Basketball v. MidAmerica Nazarene University at 2 p.m. in Hennessey Rec. Center

Men’s Basketball v. MidAmerica Nazarene University at 4 p.m. in Hennessey Rec. Center

### Tuesday, March 3

Men’s Baseball v. Saint Ambrose University at 2 p.m. at Plaster Athletic Complex



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Want more stories?

Check out mountmercytimes.home.blog to read more sports, opinion, and campus events. Topics include men's and women's basketball, the coronavirus, blanket making, super-bowl commercials, and more.

Heads Up:

Vegas Night

M2AP Board is hosting its annual Vegas Night in the UC Friday. Students are able to use chips to play games and win big with prizes at the end of the night!

Late Night Pancakes

Students are invited to celebrate National Pancake Day and Fat Tuesday with a late night breakfast on Feb. 25

Ash Wednesday

In honor of Ash Wednesday, the traditional start of the season of Lent, Mass will be celebrated in The Chapel Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 11:30 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. There will be an ash distribution service in the UC at 3:30 p.m.

Tour Through Africa

BSU is hosting an exhibition of African countries and cultural foods as the final event of their celebration of Black History Month on Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. in the UC.

# Mustang Women's Bowler Welcomed into Junior Team USA

By Donovan Grubaugh  
Staff Writer

Cassidy Courey has always been competitive since picking up a bowling ball at the age of nine, and this drive has led her to achieving her biggest accomplishment to date: making Junior Team USA. But this is only the beginning for her, she has dreams of going pro on the Professional Women's Bowling Tour, or the PWBA.

To get to where she is now, Courey put in years of practice and hard work. "My mom had me join a league with a friend," she said.

This brought out a competitiveness in her that hasn't stopped, she said "I'm just a competitive person and that's how I started improving in bowling. If we played a game right now, I would just want to crush you."

Her coming to MMU was originally about bowling and during her visit

here, she had a lesson with head coach Andy Diercks. The lesson sparked her interest into coming to MMU, but it was what the school offered academically that sold her. "The school had good offerings so I wasn't going to compromise on the school part for the sake of bowling, everything kind of aligned to what I wanted."

Courey went to a high school that had 3,100 students, so there was some hesitation about attending a college that was significantly smaller than what she was used to. However, one of her teachers told her that going to a smaller school would be great for her, "She thought I would fit in more of a small school because I'm more of a relationship person."

In order to make Junior Team USA, Courey had to go to Team USA Trials in Las Vegas at the beginning of the 2020. She said that it was a good learning experience about herself



Contributed by Cassidy Courey

Mustang bowler Cassidy Courey is a rising star on the lanes, recently making Junior Team USA.

between April and August, so there comes a small challenge of finding a job that allows her to take time off in the summer to bowl professionally, "Right now my current thought is to work in the bowling industry."

By staying in the bowling industry, she is more likely to get that time off to compete and earn money. Another goal of hers is to make regular Team USA, and she is confident she can do that, saying "I've shown myself that I can do it by making Junior Team USA."

Courey shows no signs of slowing down, and she doesn't plan on doing so for a long time. She hopes that after all is said and done, she can give back to the sport and become a coach. "There have been a lot of people there for me throughout my life, and I just want to be able to give back to the sport," Courey said.

Gloria Osei Tutu/Times

## Year of the Rat

# Mount Mercy Brings in Lunar New Year

By Gloria Osei Tutu  
Staff Writer

This year's Lunar New Year event included a lot of activities like games, crafts, entertainment, science experiments, and not to mention lots and lots of food.

"I think it went pretty well," said Becky Ann Fishbein, a sophomore



criminal justice major. "There are always pros and cons to every event, but it was nice seeing the community interact with us and seeing so many students there also."

The program started at 4 p.m. on Feb. 9 with students lined up with tickets of five dollars for free food. After that, there was a karaoke performance and a dragon dance per-

formance from Kennedy High School. During the performances, a lot of kids were making quick work of crafts.

"It was pretty fun; food was nice," said Ekaterina Rangelova, a junior psychology major. "It was better last year, but overall I enjoyed it."

M2AP Board, the International Club and Joe Nguyen, and associate pro-

fessor of chemistry worked together to plan the event.

"It was boring at first but it got better as the night went on," said Franchelie Sonia, president of the International Club. "Students seemed to enjoy the activities and crafts."

Nguyen did a science experiment with fireworks at the end of the event with everyone gathered to watch.

## Disney Night Big Hit with Students

By Josh Harmon  
Video and Multimedia Editor

M2AP Board hosted Disney Trivia Night on Feb. 6. The trivia night provided students with the chance to put their knowledge of Disney history to the test while competing against other students in the hopes of earning the highest score and winning a Disney themed prize item.

More than 25 students gathered in Betty Cherry to attend the event. The trivia provided questions that could be answered by both Disney enthusiasts, as well as students looking for a Thursday night study break. Prizes for trivia winners were Disney themed and included a "Cars" themed windshield cover, a pop-corn

maker, a "Snow White" puzzle and an Olaf coffee mug.

The event was specifically hosted by M2AP Board member Ashley Frees, freshman exercise science major. As a freshman, this year was the first year that Frees has been involved with Mount Mercy's M2AP Board club and it also the first event that Frees was the primary host of.

M2AP Board will continue to host student-friendly events throughout the remainder of the year. Members of the M2AP Board committee encourage students to attend their next event, which is the annual Vegas Night. Vegas night will be a casino themed event that takes place on Feb. 21 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the University Center.

Heard on the Hill

By Lizzie Meine

What people are saying on topics of interest

With the possibility of warmer weather on the horizon, the Times asked: What are you looking forward to in the spring?

**Susana Zierke,**  
freshman, art education major.

"I am excited to make more art and finish my first year of college."

**Molly Jenkins,**  
freshman, political science major.

"I'm looking forward to starting the softball season and continuing with my classes. I'm really enjoying them so far."

**Stephanie Clore,**  
junior, biology major.

"Honestly, I'm excited for spring break."

**Taylor Dearborn,**  
sophomore, English major.

"I am so excited to see if the cheer team is able to make it to Nationals and to be one year closer to getting my degree."

**Ayla Boylen,**  
junior, art major.

"I am looking forward to watch Bernie Sanders take over the democratic party and to finally have warmer weather for my weekly Friday climate strikes."