

Mount Mercy TIMES

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Annie Barkalow/Times
Former professor and author, Carol Tyx, visits Mount Mercy University for a presentation about her new poem collection about prisons.



Tyx Returns

Celebrated Professor Emeritus Presents New Poem Sequence

By Annie Barkalow
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Nov. 5, visiting author and former Mount Mercy English professor emerita Carol Tyx presented her new collection of poems in the Flaherty Community Room in Basile Hall.

The collection, titled "Remaking Achilles: Slicing into Angola's History," is inspired by a controversial incident that occurred at the Louisiana State Penitentiary (also called Angola after the former plantation that occupied that area) in 1951 in which 31 men sliced the Achilles tendon on their heel to protest inhumane conditions. The poems are written from the point of view of different characters, including inmates, the nurse that treated them, journalists, and officials from the penitentiary.

Tyx was introduced to the Zoom audience and room of 11 as a "positive change maker" by English professor Mary Vermillion, who helped run the Mount Mercy book club for inmates at the Anamosa State Penitentiary with Tyx. It was their work with the inmates

that led to the research for her book. "We were writing a paper about our project," said Tyx, "and to do some background research, we read some prison narratives." One of those narratives was from a man named Wilbert Riedel, who spent four years at Angola. It was his brief sentence about the prisoners slicing their Achilles tendon that stopped Tyx in her tracks.

"And I thought, 'whoa, that's something'—to mutilate your body in an attempt to make change."

Tyx was intrigued and began investigating the incident, which led to the idea of writing the narrative through poetry. "At first, I thought I would just write a handful of poems about this incident," she said, but the more she uncovered, the deeper the fascination. Soon she had poems that turned into "a whole world."

The book is written in a sequence of events, starting with the road leading to Angola. One line reads, "nothing but trees

"At first, I thought I would just write a handful of poems about this incident."

Carol Tyx, professor emeritus of English

and descending, as if you were winding through Dante's circles until you hit the bottom." Before each poem, Tyx gave some relevant background information and included slides with pictures from Angola. Key characters in the collection are Maggie Dixon, an editor for the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, the penitentiary nurse Daughtry, and Achilles, an imagined character who is a composite of different inmates.

Although the book is written in chronological order, Tyx says she didn't write them that way; rather, each poem came to her in the course of her research. "I just kind of wrote here and there," she said. The idea for writing in different perspectives came from a book she was teaching on called "The Unghosting of Medgar Evers" by Frank X. Walker, who tells the story of Evers' assassination from the point of view of different key characters. "That really influenced me...to write a book

based on research and try to give these multiple perspectives."

One audience member asked what her method was for writing from the point of view of someone racially diverse from herself, how to create authentic language without seeming to mock the language. Tyx admitted that it was a "challenge" that required a lot more research, one that she tackled by reading books from people of that era, geographic region and racial background. Part of that process involved a minimalist approach to dialect—writing enough to "get the flavor" but "not overdo it," so as to stay true to the character and avoid caricatures.

Tyx reflected on what she learned through her research about prison life today compared to the Angola situation. "Even though the brutality of the conditions at Angola, especially in the 40s and 50s, is not what it's like today, [there's] still the sense of you're at the mercy of the guards...things are out of your control, and that kind of entered me in a deeper way of understanding how powerless you can feel as a prisoner."

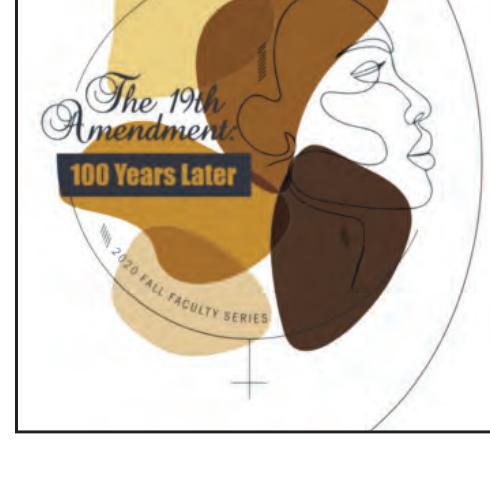
Speaker Assess the State of Women Globally

By Viktorja K Heires
News Editor

Rachael Murtaugh, director of the office of sustainability, presented the penultimate lecture in this year's Fall Faculty Series on Nov. 4.

The speakers before her gave attendees a historical timeline of the suffrage movement and the struggles women have faced over the last two centuries. Murtaugh's presentation, however, serves as a reminder that for over one billion women, that struggle is a daily reality.

"Gender equality is a fundamental human right, critical to ending poverty and improving social justice, as well as mitigating climate change," Murtaugh explained during her presentation,



which focused on the status of women in the world and the United Nations' efforts to achieve gender equality.

Currently worldwide, only 52 percent of women in unions like marriages and partnerships can make choices relating to their health care, sexual health, or reproduction. That means that nearly half of all the world's women have no bodily autonomy.

Murtaugh shared statistics illustrating the challenges faced by women worldwide. More than 700 million women in the world today were married before their 18th birthday, and more than one-third were married before they were 15. As a result of these early marriages, many of those girls are forced to quit school due to the increase in household obligations.

Domestic violence laws are lacking or nonexistent in 49 countries, so women and girls have no legal recourse if their partner or spouse is abusing them. Additionally, 39 countries have inequitable inheritance laws,

forcing women to be dependent on their male relatives for survival. The most shocking fact of all may be that over 200 million girls in 30 countries around the world are victims of female genital mutilation.

This procedure can increase the risk for bladder and urinary infections and can lead to increased mortality risks to women and their babies when they give birth due to complications with scarring.

Murtaugh's presentation offered a glimmer of hope in this area however: the practice of female genital mutilation is on the decline overall. The statistics used to show that one in two girls ages 15-19 were likely to have this procedure done on them. That rate is now one in three.

There are also large-scale efforts aimed at ending inequality. The United Nations has laid out several objectives aimed at achieving an equitable status for women worldwide. One of their most significant

goals is eliminating harmful practices such as child marriage, early and forced marriage and childbearing, and female genital mutilation and circumcision.

To jumpstart some of this progress towards true equality, countries can start by voting more women into policy making positions and supporting the ones who already hold office. Currently, women make up less than one quarter of all parliamentary seats worldwide.

39 percent of all employed women worldwide are working in the agricultural food production industry. However, the rate of land ownership among women is only about

14 percent. Supporting women landowners is another opportunity to make progress.

It isn't all doom and gloom though, Murtaugh assured her audience. Over the last 20 years, there have been 274 regulatory reforms across 131 countries, including those relating to domestic violence, land ownership, and giving women more autonomy in their own lives.

School-age girls are being educated at much higher rates than they have been historically; there has been an overall 38 percent decrease in maternal mortality from 2000 to 2017 due to advances in health care, and in Southern Asia, a girl's risk of child marriage has dropped over 40 percent since 2000.

"Women are half the population and therefore half the potential," Murtaugh stated.

Climate change is an area where women can be agents of change for the better. A loss of biodiversity and deforestation in developing countries means that the women and girls who are responsible for gathering the family's water and fuel are forced to go further from home to find those resources.

The UN also has a goal of an eventual worldwide switch to renewable energy resources and away from biomass fuels.

By doing outreach and education with the women in those countries and communities about different ways to create and use fuel, it is possible for these women to have large scale effects on the energy sector.

To help with these issues, you can support campaigns to end child marriages and female genital mutilation. You can also work alongside women, giving credit where due, support girls and women in school, and address your own implicit biases about the traditional gender roles.

In closing, Murtaugh said, "Our biggest barrier right now is our own unconscious bias against girls and women in leadership and STEM fields."

Online Option

Many Students
Can Stay Home
After Break

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

As Mount Mercy's first semester comes closer to an end, many questions are slowly being answered for what's to come.

President Tim Laurent announced Nov. 12 that following Thanksgiving break, undergraduate students will have the option to move to remote learning as approved by the professor.

Students will be allowed to remain on campus or go back home without being refunded their housing fees. However, nursing students will be required to continue with in-person clinicals, labs and simulations.

In addition, university officials are expected to announce that all athletes will be required to get tested after winter break in order to continue their athletic activities and events. Currently, the only thing athletes must do is complete a COVID-19 questionnaire every day before 11 a.m. to participate in

Ekaterina Rangelova/Times
A student selects paint to use at the Cookies and Canvas event Nov. 13.

Students Paint, Enjoy Cookies at Friday the 13th Event

By Ekaterina Rangelova
Staff Writer

Bad luck didn't haunt students on Friday the 13th as they had the opportunity to pick from a range of different sized canvases, get their paint and brushes, and engage together in the Cookies and Canvas event organized by M2AP Board.

This annual event gives students a chance to unwind from the everyday stress that college bestows upon them, and engage in therapeutic art.

"We do this every year, because we found that students enjoyed it," said Paige Toomer, junior English and psychology major. "Obviously, due to COVID-19, not everyone can be here. And since we are social distancing, there is a minimal amount of people who can actually be in each room."

And she is not wrong about the changes, as a room could fit about 10 students with each having their own desk to work on their canvas.

Regardless of the changes made due to the current circumstances, the activity remained enjoyable for students as they played their favorite songs and enjoyed painting with a cup of hot chocolate in hand during the cold fall weather.



Lexie Johnson (above) shows her bingo prizes. M2AP Board member Sami Bhor (right) calls the bingo numbers at the event Nov. 5 in Donnelly 300.



Grocery Bingo Winners Walk Away with Kitchen-Related Prizes and Gift Cards

By Josh Harmon
Senior Multimedia Editor

On Thursday, Nov. 5, M2AP Board hosted a bingo night in Donnelly 300. A limited number of students packed the room early, while staying socially distanced. Donnelly 301 was used as an overflow room for extra students to safely play along.

Donnelly 300 hosted most of the students. It was also where the M2AP Board members hosting the event ran the bingo competition. Bingo numbers were selected randomly from a spinnable cage that held the 75 balls used to play the game. Members running the event incor-

porated the virtual learning technology in Donnelly rooms 300 and 301 to Zoom the bingo game to the overflow of students.

M2AP Board went with the theme of 'Grocery Bingo,' meaning the prizes consisted of snack packs and kitchen utensils such as pots, pans, ladles, and other items commonly used in the kitchen like an air fryer. Gift cards from Hy-Vee and Walmart were also included as prizes for winners. The cookie snack pack consisted of Chips Ahoy!, Oreo's, M&M's and other sweet treats. An alternative salty snack pack was also featured as a prize which contained multiple bags of various flavored chips.

"I plan to give my mom the cookie sheet for Christmas," said Lexie Johnson, sophomore psychology major, about her prize for winning one of the bingo rounds. Along with the cookie sheet, Johnson won a \$10 Walmart gift card, which she plans on using to buy herself something.

Jenn Entz, freshman nursing major and Kendra Alcott, sophomore marketing major were also amongst the winners of grocery bingo. Entz won a \$20 Hy-Vee gift card as well as a collection of new kitchen utensils. Alcott walked away from the event with a new pot set and gift card to Walmart.

Klein: Sports Teams Not Causing Spread of Virus at Mount Mercy

◆ **Online Option**
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their sport.

Many speculate that sport teams are to blame for COVID-19 outbreaks on campus, but Nate Klein, VP of student success, notes: "Sports do not create COVID-19."

The MMU COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team has played out many scenarios to find the best option for Mount

Mercy students, faculty, and staff members. According to the latest meeting with Linn County Public Health officials, there is no need for them to step in, Klein said. Mount Mercy's COVID-19 positivity percentage is only a quarter amount of what the total positivity rate of Linn County.

"We are doing all the steps necessary to do what we can for students during this time," Klein said.

According to data from the

Pandemic Response Team, despite there being a large population of graduate students contracting COVID-19, the spread is being seen most often within undergraduate nursing clinical groups, residence halls, and sport teams. So far, there has not been a reported COVID-19 case from classroom contact.

Recently, the school updated its website to further explain the protocols for self-isolation, quarantine, and a quasi-quarantine. In addition, the dashboard

is updated every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, which has become a quiet reminder of the virus that has impacted the school and the people within it.

Regardless of any setbacks Mount Mercy has endured, the school has prevailed. Due to COVID-19, it is expected that plans could change any given day. Only time will tell what to expect after the breaks in the school year.

Iowa's COVID-19 Numbers Climb

Linn County Tops 11,000

By Jada Veasey
Senior Opinion Editor

Cases of COVID-19 in the nation and specifically in Iowa are on the rise. Iowa is third in the nation for fastest growing COVID-19 cases, second to only North Dakota and South Dakota. Several cities in Iowa, including both Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, have cracked the nation's top 20 list for cities with the most infections per capita.

As of Nov. 14, the New York Times reports that Iowa has a total of 185,113 active COVID-19 infections. Nearly 5,000 of those cases were reported on Nov. 14 itself. Linn County alone accounts for 11,544 of those cases. The New York Times also reports that since the beginning of the pandemic, 1,985 Iowans have died due to the novel coronavirus.

According to the New York Times, 1,200 Iowans are currently hospitalized for the virus, and the state's healthcare system is beginning to feel the pressure of the pandemic. At a Nov. 5 press conference with Governor Kim Reynolds, chief clinical medical officer of UnityPoint Health Dr. David Williams said, "We've been spending eight months taking care of you, taking care of your family, taking care of your friends. My plea to everybody watching this today: Take care of my family. It's time to take care of the health care workers."

Healthcare employees across the state have been emotionally and physically exhausted by the impacts of the pandemic. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that the situation will improve much any time soon.

Despite acknowledging the dangers of the virus, Governor Kim Reynolds still largely opposes statewide action. She has not issued a statewide mask mandate, lockdown, or stay at home order and is instead relying on Iowans to "do the right thing."

If the past is any indication, Iowans may continue to do the wrong things. After all, many public health officials are blaming unmasked Halloween celebrations for the current surge in cases, and with the winter holidays approaching, it is likely the state will see a similar surge as a result of more unmasked gatherings.

Of course, numbers are on the rise nationally as well. There is no longer an epicenter for the American pandemic; instead, every part of the country seems to be on fire at once. Even places that successfully flattened their curves in the spring, like New York City, are seeing new surges of the virus.

The New York Times reports that as of Nov. 14, the United States has had over 11 million cases of COVID-19. The New York Times also reports that the virus has caused 245,777 deaths, and 69,455 Americans are currently hospitalized for the virus. Without major action and new behaviors, it is unlikely that the situation will improve, especially as temperatures in parts of the country drop and Americans spend more time indoors in poorly ventilated areas.



Although President Trump continues to resist, the results of election 2020 are clear. Former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris lost Iowa's vote, but won the national popular vote and have Electoral College votes to take office. Republicans Sen. Joni Ernst and Ashley Hinson, a former member of the Iowa House, won the U.S. Senate seat in Iowa and the First District Congressional Seat, representing Cedar Rapids.

Election Results Clearly Point to a Victory for Joe Biden

After a long wait, the new president of the United States of America has finally been elected. Election day was on Nov. 3, and you could see the nervousness among people's faces.

Before the elections, I had spoken to a few people on campus at Mount Mercy University and asked them about their thoughts on the election and their opinion on who they thought would win the race. Many people said that they wanted Joe

Opinion
Dylan Mills
Staff Writer

Biden to win, however, as much as they wanted him to win, they thought that the majority of America would be in favor of Donald Trump. On the other hand, there were a few students that predicted Biden would win, especially after Trump tested positive for COVID-19.

Honestly, I myself didn't know much about the U.S. elections in the beginning, but I have a roommate on campus who is studying politics and law; he explained a lot of things to me and helped me get a better understanding about how the system worked. He predicted that Biden

would win and had valid reasons to back up his statement. As things are right now, he looks to be correct.

Although some results are still being counted, it is clear to most people that Biden has secured the win. However, statements are now being raised that this is America and that Trump can pull tricks from out of his sleeves, meaning that many people still believe that although Biden is the clear winner, there is still a chance that a surprise may arise and that Trump could remain the president in the new year.

Overall, the winner is pretty clear, and most people are certain Biden is the winner and that it will stay this way. However, on the other hand there are also people who think that anything could still happen and that some excuse will come up which will see Trump heading into the new year as the president. It is an endless story, but what do you think?

Editor's Note: Dylan Mills is a student from South Africa reporting on his impressions of an election in the U.S.A.

Mustangs: We Must do More to Fight this Deadly Pandemic

COVID-19 numbers have been on the rise for the past couple of weeks. It is not a surprise, with the lack of restrictions and safety measures, that Iowa has three cities on the 'Worst Places in the Country for COVID-19 Spread' ranking list. As a comparison, according to the New York Times, New York City has on average 17.6 new cases per day. Iowa cities have surpassed that: Cedar Rapids averages 156.4 new cases per day, Waterloo-Cedar Falls 137.6, and Dubuque is at 133.7 cases per day. So, what can we expect for the holiday season for Mount Mercy University?

Despite the administration announcing that students will be allowed to engage in completely remote learning (with the permission of their professors) following Thanksgiving break, it just simply isn't enough. Nursing students and other majors with in-person requirements still don't get the luxury to learn from an online setting. We have heard that some professors have been denying some hybrid students the online option because they want them to have face-to-face class presentations.

If the school is seeing an increase in outbreaks for students going to clinics and other in-person off campus learning requirements, then why allow the students to be put at risk? If the option to go to remote learning doesn't apply to every-

one then why offer it at a college where a large majority of the student population falls under the requirements to stay in-person? We understand nursing has to meet state requirements and that is a barrier. But can MMU, as one of the most important nursing colleges in Iowa, wake up the state board that its rules this year must be more flexible?

The school continues to make the comment that there has not been classroom spread, but is that what it will take to shut down in-person classes? Will it take a hospitalization to stop putting students, faculty, and staff members' lives on the line?

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, Mount Mercy has yet to take any drastic measures for students coming back from break. There are no regulations or preventative measures in place for the average student on campus. No required temperature checks before entering the classroom, no COVID-19 questionnaire to take every

day. Required testing is still frowned upon, so MMU has opted for optional randomized testing. Some professors still are not sanitizing after classes leave the room. The list of things that worry us goes on and on.

The school can provide us with all the hand sanitizer and masks they want, but that may not identify the real problem. By the time we get back from break, Mount Mercy's outbreak numbers may skyrocket because the school is not being more proactive for

residential students and commuter students that step foot on campus property after travelling during the holidays.

If other colleges can make it required to do remote learning after break, Mount Mercy should, too.

Is it the focus on finances from the administration? Is it the students' learning preferences? We feel that Mount Mercy University

needs to do what is best for the students, faculty, and staff during a time where

health and safety for everyone's wellbeing

should be a priority.

A big factor that may come into play for the school is what we the people of Mount Mercy University do while on break to keep campus safe. With student-athletes having to fill out their COVID-19 questionnaire and get temperature checked every day over break, other students should also be proactive on their health with temperature checking and staying aware of any onset symptoms.

Students should continue to practice social distancing over break and wear a mask with those you are not exposed to on a regular basis. Continue to wash hands or sanitize them regularly and wipe down highly trafficked areas. Students: Before coming back to campus consider self-isolating in your bedroom for a few days.

Above all, we hope everyone on the Hill stays smart about where they go. It is a common practice when visiting back home to go see old friends, go to restaurants and bars, maybe even attend a get together party. Do not do these things. It would be negligent and put you and those around you at high risk for COVID-19.

If we cannot get the school to take more drastic measures and precautions for the wellbeing of this institution, it is up to all of us to do what we can to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Stay healthy, be smart, and please only pass the mashed potatoes with sanitized hands!

Related Content:

Mount Mercy University announces many students can stay home after Thanksgiving. See story, page 1. Iowa continues spike. See story, page 2.



MAGA: Believe the Results

The Election May Be Over, But the Anxiety Is Not

What an election week! Yes, election week, not election day.

Though the last ballots were cast on Tuesday, Nov. 3, the winner could not be predicted until Saturday morning, Nov. 7, and even now the race is still being contested by the current commander in chief.

Joe Biden won, and it brought me a fleeting moment of joy. I watched his acceptance speech on CNN Saturday night and felt happier and lighter than I have in many months.

Biden winning this election means something to me – more Americans chose hope over hate. The race was far closer than I would have liked it to be, a lot of people still chose hate, but I remain thankful that Biden and Harris won in the end.

My various social media feeds have

seemed far more optimistic than usual over the past couple days. Friends and family are sharing stories of glee and relief about the election. They are celebrating, and some of them have posted about how excited they are for things to "go back to normal."

I hate to be the bearer of bad news during such a joyful time for so many Americans, but it needs to be said – we are a long way gone from "normal."

Sure, Joe Biden may have beaten President Trump in the election, but America is still deeply divided. Biden becoming President Elect will not change the fact that America has deep rooted problems with race, misogyny, homophobia, and xenophobia.

Opinion



Jada Veasey
Senior Opinion
Editor

It seems like this country could implode at any moment.

A new president cannot rewrite a nation's painful and shameful history. Biden's new status will not make hateful Americans any less hateful. The Biden administration does not have a magic wand and it is not a quick fix, because none of America's problems are ones that can be repaired instantly.

As a black woman in this country, I cannot stress enough how nervous the current political climate makes me feel. It seems like this country could implode at any moment.

While confederate flags and MAGA hats have always made me nervous, they scare me now more than ever in the days after the election. Republican rage seems to be at an all-time high, and as a black person who often travels around town alone, I feel like an easy target.

There has been an uptick in wary and angry glances thrown my way in public in the last week. I am uncomfortable and sometimes feel unsafe, even though my favored candidate won.

I do remain hopeful that the Biden administration will at least try to unite the nation, while the current president has done nothing but try to turn Americans against each other. I think that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have America's best interests in mind, while I feel Trump tends to operate off of his own self-interest, rarely considering how his words or actions may affect the average American citizen.

So yes, I am hopeful about America's future. But I fear that I'll never feel "normal" in this place again. If you're someone who thinks Biden will make your life feel normal or calm again, please recognize the immense privilege you have. Not all of us are so lucky.

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Trump's Refusal Means Democracy is in Trouble

Opinion



Jessica Abdonay
Staff Writer

Questioning a democracy based on its democratic process will lead the United States down a dangerous road that will leave a mark even after Trump gets the boot.

rigged by the Democrats. Questioning a democracy based on its democratic process will lead the United States down a dangerous road that will leave a mark even after Trump gets the boot.

What's concerning is that the majority of Trump's Republican allies in the Senate and the House know that Biden has won, however they refuse to acknowledge this. Trump's administration has dug its nail so deep into the government that not acknowledging a fair and free election is now just considered playing the dirty game of politics.

In a normal election year, the new president elect would be granted access to briefings that are necessary and vital to running a country. Emily Murphy, Trump's appointed head of General Services Administration has not recognized Biden as president elect, therefore a smooth transition to the White House cannot happen.

This can gravely interfere with national security putting our country at risk. Trump recently fired Mark Esper, his secretary of defense, which is troubling. It's left many people questioning –

what's next?

The questioning of a democratic election and vilifying the media will outlast the Trump administration if those in power continue to ignore facts and the majority. There is nothing to gain from refusing the outcomes of an election but stroking the bruised ego of a man who is afraid of what will happen to him after he leaves the White House.



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

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Summer Release of Hank Green Book Does Not Disappoint

Writer Accomplishes An Elusive Feat: Sequel to 'Remarkable Thing' is Better

Please don't judge me too harshly; I'm about to review a book that came out in July. Yes, July, four whole months ago. In my defense, I purchased and started this book as soon as it was released, it just took a long time to find the focus to finish it. "Just pandemic things," or whatever.

Hank Green's latest novel, "A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor," did not disappoint. The book is the sequel to Green's 2018 "An Absolutely Remarkable Thing," which I was dazed by then and continue to love re-reading now.

Since Green impressed me so much with his debut novel, I went into its sequel with pretty high expectations. I hoped to be just as invested in the second book in the series

Review



Jada Veasey
Senior Opinion Editor

If anyone would understand what it means to be an internet celebrity, it's Hank Green. He has a giant following on YouTube, founded VidCon, and is now one of the most popular creators on Tik Tok. It is always refreshing to read a take on the impact of the power of social media that isn't just "gosh, kids and their dang phones these days!"

as I was in the first, and I certainly was.

In fact, I feel that Green may have accomplished an incredible and elusive feat: The sequel might actually be better than the original installment. Somewhere in the distance I can feel George Lucas oozing with jealousy. Good.

In "A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor," readers are re-introduced to most of the last novel's main characters – Maya, Andy, Miranda, and the hilariously named April May. The previous book ended on a cliff-hanger of sorts, and Green takes his sweet time resolving it.

The slow answering of the question, "What really happened to April May?" is part of what makes this book so interesting. Over the course of the novel, bits and pieces of what happened to April are revealed, but you have to keep reading and stay in the story to truly get to the bottom of just what happened.

The plot revolves around many of the issues that the first book touched on – the dangers of technology, the implication that humans aren't alone in the universe, and how navigating love and friendship in the 21st century can be

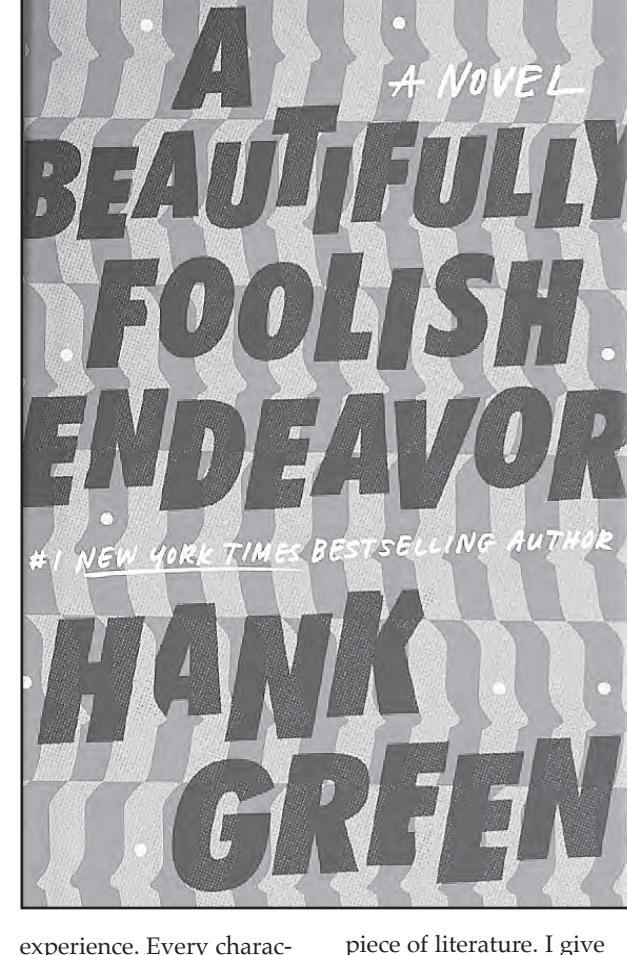
tricky sometimes.

Like "An Absolutely Remarkable Thing," Green's latest work also touches upon just what it means to be famous in a society fueled largely by social media.

If anyone would understand what it means to be an internet celebrity, it's Hank Green. He has a giant following on YouTube, founded VidCon, and is now one of the most popular creators on Tik Tok. It is always refreshing to read a take on the impact of the power of social media that isn't just "gosh, kids and their dang phones these days!"

One of my favorite parts of this book was Green's devotion to giving each of the main characters near equal time on the page.

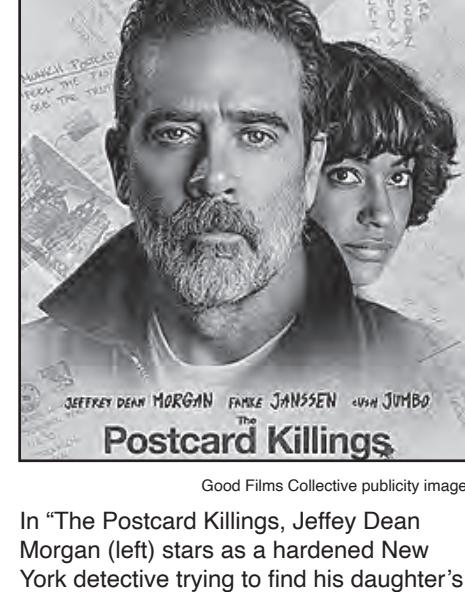
The story flip flops between the viewpoints of the primary cast of characters. One of Green's many writing talents is his ability to make the voices of each character sound different from each other, and it makes for a fun reading



experience. Every character has their own way of speaking and telling their part of the story.

Overall, I think "A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor" is a wonderful

piece of literature. I give it 5 out of 5 stars. I don't think I've ever given out a perfect score, but this book is just that interesting.



Good Films Collective publicity images

In "The Postcard Killings," Jeffrey Dean Morgan (left) stars as a hardened New York detective trying to find his daughter's killer.

'The Postcard Killings' Is OK, But Not What It Could Be

In "The Postcard Killings," a pair of serial killers are stalking honeymooning newlyweds as they make their way through Europe.

Review



Viktorja K Heires
News Editor

days before they kill, each one containing a cryptic message.

American detective Jacob Kanon (Jeffrey Dean Morgan, who is also known for his roles in "The Watchmen" and "The Walking Dead") flies to Europe to help solve the case after his own daughter and her new husband fall victim to the killers.

Kanon is assisted with his investigation by an American reporter, Dessie Lombard (played by Cush Jumbo from TV's "The Good Wife" and "The Good Fight") and inspector Klau Bublitz (Joachim Krol) when it becomes clear that the perpe-

trators are moving throughout European cities, and the local authorities don't take him seriously.

The first half of the movie develops slowly, being driven by character interactions and dialogue, rather than action. In the second half, the action speeds up as Kanon, Dessie, and Bublitz

race against the clock to find the killers before they commit their ultimate crime.

The movie is based on the novel of the same name by Liza Marklund and James Patterson, and Marklund contributed to the screenplay.

Overall, the film is okay but not fantastic. There are a few small plot points that are not fully explained and seem to happen quite suddenly, catapulting the audience into the second half.

small plot points that are not fully explained and seem to happen quite suddenly, catapulting the audience into the second half.

There are also a couple spots where the dialogue feels stunted.

If not for that, this could have been a great slow burn flick, because there are some solid plot twists that you won't see coming, unless of course you've read the book.

I'd give this film 3 popcorn buckets out of 5.

M2AP Board Most Popular Event Adapts to Pandemic

By Viktorja K Heires

News Editor

The annual Build-a-Critter event, which will be held this year in the Flaherty Community Room in Basile Hall, is the most popular event on campus, and is expected to draw a significant crowd, despite the pandemic.

"We easily draw over 100 students," said Megan Mineart, internal events co-executive for M2AP Board as a social work and political science double major.

Build-a-Critter gives MMU students the opportunity to choose a furry and adorable new stuffed friend. The offerings this year range from snakes, dragons, and penguins, to pigs, ducks, cats, dogs, and more. Participants get to pick out an unstu-

ffed form at the first station and then move on to the stuffing station, where they can bring their new friend to life.

Though highly attended, this event

will be more minimalist in nature. Refreshments won't be served for this event, both due to social gatherings being discouraged at this time, and to there being a restriction on the number of attendees allowed at one time.

The Build-a-Critter event was originally started because the M2AP wanted to create an event that students would love to go to time and time again. The first event was so popular that it is now a yearly tradition on campus.

In the past, the event was held in the UC. However, that space is now being utilized for dining services and is unavailable. The decision was made to use Flaherty in Basile Hall because it is a large enough room to allow for distancing during participation.

"It isn't unusual to have people lining up an hour before the event starts," said Mineart, who has a blue and purple dragon she made last year.

The Build-a-Critter event was originally started because the M2AP wanted to create an event that students would love to go to time and time again.

Joyful Saint Asks:

'When Shall We Begin to do Good?'

Joy. Happiness. Laughter. A smile.

These things all make us feel good inside especially when we experience them with others. Our lives need some joy right now. When was the last time that you could share laughter and joy with the people around you? When was the last time that you had a big smile on your face?

The one who showed us how to live out our faith with joy is St. Philip Neri. He was born on July 21, 1515 in Florence, Italy. He died on May 26, 1595, and the church remembers him every year on May 26.

St. Philip was known as a good and cheerful boy. He played a lot of practical jokes on everyone including his parents, teachers, and friends. After studying theology and philosophy he was ordained a priest. St. Philip did not lose his joy and sense of humor after he became a priest. He loved to laugh and shared his laughter with others.

After he was ordained a priest, he worked with the young men of his parish. He was always happy to hear confessions. As a confessor, St. Philip realized that youth needed direction. They needed more than to always be told what not to

do. They needed guidance and direction on what they should do.

As a result, he founded the Congregation of the Oratory where the rule was to share a common table and perform spiritual exercises. This group consisted of ordained priests and other men.

He would ask them, "Well, brothers, when shall we begin to do good?"

St. Philip was great at starting up conversations and then talking to people about Christ in a casual manner. He would give them something to think about and was evangelizing through everyday conversations. He was known for his intense spirituality, but he shared that with others in joy. No one was intimidated by him. This shows just how well he was able to share his love for God. He won people over by his gentleness, friendship, and laughter. He wanted to change the world for the good and did so not by harsh criticism, but rather through joy and love of others. He was canonized as a saint on March 12, 1622.

Let us all follow the example set by St. Philip Neri. "A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one." We should all strive to spread love, joy, and laughter around campus and in our homes. We can spread Christ's love and truth to others through our everyday conversations.

Well, Mustangs, when shall we begin to do good?

Faith on the Hill



Vanessa Milliman
Columnist



Josh Harmon/Times

Anthony Horton, Jr., a first-year student, plays defense against Waldorf (right). The Mustangs huddle pre-game (below).



Josh Harmon/Times

Mustangs Put on the Speed

Kenny Clay drives to the rim in a fast-paced game that ended in triple digits.

McKinney Scores 27 as MMU Outpaces Waldorf University 103-71 Nov. 13

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

Waldorf University didn't stand a chance against the Mount Mercy men's basketball team for the Mustangs' third game of the season on Nov. 13.

Despite there being some new faces on the starting line-up, the Mustangs started out strong with their fast-paced offense. Within the first 45 seconds of the game, senior Bailey Basala scored a

three-pointer for the team.

The men gave Waldorf no other option but to match the Mustangs' speed, leading to many missed shots for the Warriors and many defensive rebounds from senior Dennis McKinney,

totaling to six rebounds for the night.

Top scorer of the night with 27

"We played with energy and pace, which is when we play at our best."

Dennis McKinney, senior

points on the board, McKinney said, "We came out and set the tone early. We played with energy and pace, which is when we play at our best."

He couldn't

have been more right. Throughout the night, the Mustangs kept pushing the Warriors to match their speed of play. During the night, senior

Keishun Thomas continued to contribute to the high scoring game with seven assists. Thomas wasn't the only one in on the action—sophomore Cody Westcott dove for the ball, wrestling it from the other player to gain possession with success.

The Warriors, desperate to catch up to the Mustangs, attempted a three-point shot with two seconds left of the first half, only to miss—signaling the end of the first half with a score of 51-31.

By the end of the second half, junior Tyler Kelly had given the game 18 points, with senior RoyShawn Webb having 17 points, and Basala ending the game with 15 points.

The Mount Mercy Mustangs finished the game with a score of 103-71, giving them a season record so far of 2-1. They will have played their first conference game against Clarke on Nov. 18 in the Hennessey Recreation Center.

The 11th Hour The 11th Day The 11th Month

When the guns of August fell silent, 1918

The Mount Mercy Times thanks all MMU veterans for your service

Veterans Day 2020

Image: Flag on Nov. 11, 2020 at corner of C Avenue and Collins Road

To them who crossed the flood
And climbed the hill, with eyes
Upon the heavenly flag intent,
And through the deathful tumult went
Even unto death: to them this Stone—
Erect, where they were overthrown—
Of more than victory the monument.

Herman Melville
For Marye's Heights, Fredericksburg



This is the final Times print issue until Spring. Watch for our online updates.

December CJ Grad Starts at IC Police

Josh Harmon/
Times

Sarive Rukakiza, a senior from Iowa City, originally came from Tanzania. A legal resident, he is awaiting citizenship. The December criminal justice graduate works in the office at the Iowa City Police Department.



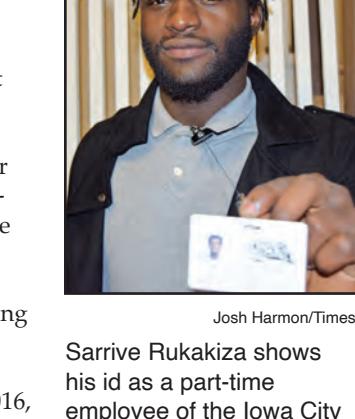
Semi-Pro Soccer a Highlight on Journey to MMU

By Josh Harmon
Senior Multimedia Editor

First arriving in the United States from Tanzania at 12 years old, Sarive Rukakiza could barely form a sentence in English. Today, he smiles and shuts his eyes slightly when recollecting memories from his journey thus far.

Currently, Rukakiza is grinding out his last

"In my head I've always wanted to own a business, like an African market here in Cedar Rapids. But my heart has always been with criminal justice."



Josh Harmon/Times

Sarive Rukakiza shows his id as a part-time employee of the Iowa City Police Department.

Rukakiza predicts soccer will always be a part of his life and can see himself possibly training or coaching in the future.

The team is currently in their off-season and will continue playing games in the summer depending on COVID-19 procedures.

"In my head I've always wanted to own a business, like an African market here in Cedar Rapids. But my heart has always been with criminal justice," Rukakiza explained when describing what he would like to do in the near future following graduation.

Looking to expand his education and experience in the criminal justice system, Rukakiza applied for a part-time position at the Iowa City Police Department.

A week or so after turning in his application, Rukakiza received notice that he would be hired to help with receptionist and dispatch work, a versatile position that can be titled

Vitoria Kazanovski/Contributed
Sarive Rukakiza holds up the Heartland Super Cup won by the Cedar Rapids Raptors, a United Soccer League semi-pro team he is a member of.

as a station master.

"The position is perfect for me to gain comfort and knowledge in the criminal justice field," Rukakiza said about his occupation. "That way in the future when a higher position presents itself, I will be more prepared," Rukakiza finished.

His daily workload consists of answering

the phone when citizens

call with various questions. His duties also include

entering warrants and other information into the station's system. Rukakiza

can't disclose specific information about the variety of

calls that the police department receives. However, he did mention that he's encountered both routine and unusual situations.

Rukakiza is still awaiting his U.S. citizenship, which this year was delayed specifically due to the pandemic.

He currently carries his United States permanent residency card which he says his mom would kill him if misplaced. Rukakiza

explains that he somewhat already feels like a U.S. citizen.

"However, when I receive my citizenship, I will be pretty happy. I still understand the value of the document, it won't just feel like another license," Rukakiza finished.

SGA Column

Veronica Jons
SGA Secretary

It's that time of year again with the year slowly coming to an end, SGA executive elections are underway!

There are open positions for the 2021 president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, with cabinet positions opening later this year. The current SGA executive team consists of junior Emma Lantz, junior Andrea Lopez, senior Devin Blish, and senior Veronica Jons, with the SGA advisor position being served by Nate Klein. The requirements to serve on the executive team can be found on the application, and the position duties can be searched on the Mount Mercy University website. In addition to elections, the SGA team is

currently working closely with the COVID-19 Response Team to better the opportunities, safety, and wellbeing for students and campus this school year.

The team worked together to have the dashboard webpage to give a better description to the coMMUNITY about the differences between self-isolation, quarantine, and quasi quarantine.

SGA is still in the process of renovating the SGA room to be used as a multi-cultural room, in the hopes it will be named in honor of Sister Billings after getting the proper funding and permissions. Be on the lookout for cabinet voting applications that will be sent out before the 2020 year is over, it is open to all students!

Heard on the Hill

What people are saying
on topics of interest

By Josh Harmon
Senior Multimedia Editor

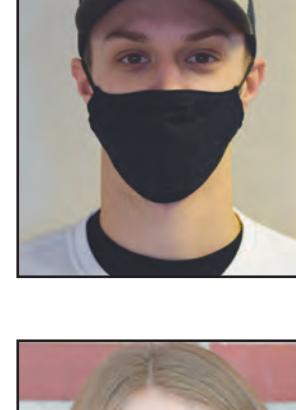
Despite COVID-19, a derecho storm, election strife and social justice upheavals, it seems fitting that we remember that Thanksgiving is on its way. In this taxing year, the Times asked students: "What are you grateful for?"

Becca Francois,
junior, nursing.

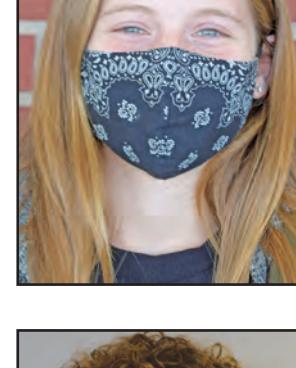
"My family and the births of my newborn nieces and nephews."

Cecilia Bwanakweri,
sophomore, liberal studies.

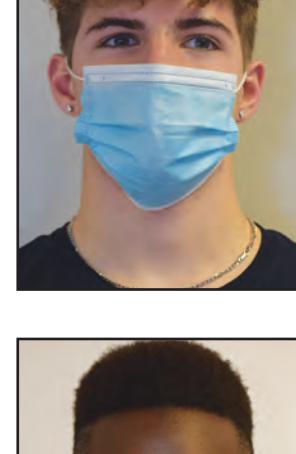
"Surviving 2020, God and my family."

Ethan Hunt,
freshman, nursing.

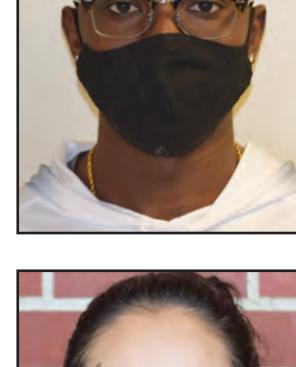
"My dad. He made a lot of sacrifices for me to be where I am today."

Lili Gaulrapp,
freshman, nursing.

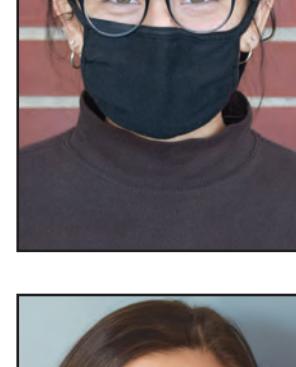
"To still be on campus attending classes and competing in cross-country."

Luke Munsey,
freshman, finance.

"My mom. She has always cared for and supported me."

Ray Nyagoti,
freshman, finance.

"My aunt and uncle. They would watch me and my siblings as kids when my parents were in college."

Ruth Cobieya,
junior, biology.

"Being able to safely travel and arrive at Mount Mercy, adjusting smoothly to my new school and the well-being of my family."

Sarah Schneider,
sophomore, education.

"Having a roof over my head and my strong support system."

SGA Seeks Applications for 2021 Leaders