

## Trump Catching Coronavirus Highlights Pandemic as Threat

By Courtney Hoffman  
and Veronica Jons

Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief

After downplaying the severity of COVID-19 and refusing to take necessary precautions, U.S. President Donald J. Trump received a positive diagnosis on Oct. 1. Since then, at least 10 members of Trump's family, the U.S. government, and his advisors have tested positive, though over 24 are self-

**"I am sorry to hear that he is sick, but I hope experiencing COVID-19 opens his eyes and mind to the over 200,000 people in the U.S. who have died from COVID-19 and the loss that each of their families are experiencing."**

Kellee McCrory, assistant professor of social work

isolating after close contacts with him.

At Mount Mercy, faculty and students alike are expressing concerns regarding COVID-19. Many are hopeful that this will bring the serious reality of the pandemic

back to the forefront, as some continue to ignore health and safety guidelines and irresponsibly put others at risk.

"I am sorry to hear that he is sick, but I hope experiencing COVID-19 opens his

eyes and mind to the over 200,000 people in the U.S. who have died from COVID-19 and the loss that each of their families are experiencing," said Kellee McCrory, assistant professor of social work. "We need to listen to science."

Some students echo faculty concerns that the pandemic is not being taken seri-

◆ **Student: 'COVID-19 is Out There'**  
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Veronica Jons/Times

Dr. Tim Laurent, interim president of Mount Mercy University, identifies caring for the community as his first priority.

## Indiana Native Steps In as President

Laurent's Goals: Care for MMU, Succeed This Year, Prepare for 2021-22

By Veronica Jons  
Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 9, the former provost Tim Laurent, was announced as the interim president of Mount Mercy University following Dr. Bob Beatty's departure—something not many saw coming.

After the shell-shocking news rippled throughout the MMU community, the administration wanted to make one thing very clear: Their commitment to students is as strong as ever.

Laurent started his interim presidential duties by creating three goals for the institution. The first priority is to care for our community. The second is to have a successful 2020-2021 academic year, and the last is to develop a foundation for a successful 2021-2022 year.

"Serving as interim president is a great opportunity to help the community establish stability," Laurent said. "We have great student-focused, mission-driven people who need stability to thrive."

Mount Mercy has been through COVID-19, a derecho and two presidential transitions this year.

Despite everything Laurent has to navigate through, he makes time for hiking, running and riding his bike. Something he enjoys doing is seeing the world through the life of his adult children as they start their independent lives. Laurent also has a child in college and another in high school.

Laurent grew up near Fort Wayne, Indiana, where his mother and most of his nine siblings still reside.

He graduated from Indiana University, where he studied athletic training. From there, he received his master's degree from University of Arizona, before getting his doctorate from Ball State University in education administration.

From there, he began to add a range of experience on his resume. At Winona State University, he was an adjunct professor. He then moved to Saint Mary's University and University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as head athletic trainer and faculty member.

By 2007, Laurent served as associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Lynchburg until 2012. While there, he published a book titled, "Athletic Training Clinical Education Guide" in 2009.

Laurent then travelled to University of Providence as the vice president of academic affairs. Here he focused on the academic budget, faculty development and the registrar. He also served as the project coordinator and was able to obtain several million-dollar grants.

Eventually, he came to Mount Mercy to serve as the

provost in 2018 and now interim president in 2020.

Despite all his roles, he is overjoyed to work with broader audiences to move MMU forward.

"I have always been impressed with the creativity of the Mount Mercy faculty, staff, and students," he said. "I look forward to the creativity from our community as we navigate our COVID-19 environment."

Laurent enjoys student success in the classroom, on the athletic field, and within student activities.

"In 2018, we hosted the national cross-country championship meet. Senior James Lindstrom ran his best meet ever on the biggest stage finishing sixth place in the nation. That was very special."

One of Laurent's favorite parts of Mount Mercy is the faculty. Laurent says that when he asked faculty members why they chose

MMU, they stated they chose the institution for the chance to work closely with students to guide them to success.

Laurent has yet to decide if he will put his name in to be a candidate for the non-interim presidency of Mount Mercy University.

**"Serving as interim president is a great opportunity to help the community establish stability. We have great student-focused, mission-driven people who need stability to thrive."**

Dr. Tim Laurent, MMU interim president

## COVID-19 Experience Varies for Three Recovered Students

By Donovan Grubaugh  
Staff Writer

With differing levels of severity and little knowledge about the long-term effects of COVID-19, a positive diagnosis can be an intimidating thing. As is the case worldwide, Mount Mercy students are noting a range of experiences with the novel coronavirus.

Senior journalism major Mahlon Steepleton thought he had a bad case of food poisoning when he was feeling ill and vomiting on Sept. 1.

"It all hit me a few days later," he said.

When his fever hit 102 degrees with nausea, chills and body aches, he realized that this was not food poisoning, but something more serious. He got tested for COVID-19 and stayed in his apartment for three days, waiting for his results.

When he tested positive, he was transported to the hotel that the university uses for COVID-19 cases or close contacts.

"I know I got it from a friend who also tested positive but didn't really show symptoms," Steepleton said.

While he was in the hotel, he continued having a fever and was vomiting until about day seven, when he started feeling slightly better.

"It kind of felt like the flu but worse. Day 10, all I had was a little bit of chest pain, mostly in the mornings or late at night."

Steepleton thought he was getting worse on day 11; he spiked a low-grade fever that subsided the next morning, but his chest pains were getting worse. Once he left the hotel, he went to the doctor's for chest x-rays.

"What they found out is that I have walking pneumonia, which could have been caused by my lungs being screwed up from the virus."

"Walking pneumonia" is an informal term for pneumonia with mild symptoms. Steepleton is still fighting his pneumonia but is getting better every day.

Off-campus, sophomore nursing major Emma Trimble is in the middle of her own fight with COVID-19 after a small outbreak on her floor at Mercy Hospital.

"We weren't really prepared for it because we didn't expect positive



Veronica Jons/Times

The Residence Inn by Marriott Hotels is the quarantine location for those that test positive or have had close exposure for COVID-19. The students lodge in a King suite with food provided by the school at no cost to them.

cases on my floor (orthopedic neurosurgery), so we didn't have proper personal protection equipment like N95 masks," Trimble said. "It makes me angry that I took all the precautions and still got the virus."

Trimble's symptoms weren't as severe as Steepleton's, but she still feels exhausted during her waking hours as she fights off a sore throat, chills and nausea. She echoed

Steepleton's sentiment that it felt worse than a cold.

She started showing symptoms Sept. 23, and on Sept. 27 she lost her sense of smell and taste—a common symptom of the virus. Now, Trimble has begun to feel like she is getting over the most severe part.

Freshman nursing major Soraya Reyes explained that she got tested on whim shortly after classes started while she was visiting home.

"I had just pulled into my driveway and I got a call saying that I was positive. My mom said to go to the basement," Reyes said with a chuckle.

Reyes, unlike Steepleton and Trimble, showed no symptoms except for a sore throat for about a day before subsiding. She was grateful that she was able to be at home

◆ **Testing Available on Campus**  
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## Heads up:

### Mound View Cleanup Planned for Oct. 10

The sustainability office is holding an event to clean up litter that was left in the neighborhood by the derecho on Oct. 10. Sign up in the Google Form link in the event details of the MMU App!

### Fall Series Sets Two Presentations

Dr. Joe Nguyen, associate professor of chemistry, is giving a speech titled "Influential American Women: Infusing Race and Culture into Politics" at 6 p.m. on Oct. 14. In-person attendance is limited, but the event will be livestreamed on MMU's YouTube channel.

Norma Linda Mattingly, associate professor of education, will be giving a speech

titled "Portraits of American Suffragettes: Troublemakers or Trailblazers?" at 6 p.m. on Oct. 20. In-person attendance is limited, but the event will be livestreamed on MMU's YouTube channel.

### Pumpkin Painting Oct. 17

M2AP Board is hosting a pumpkin painting crafts event from 3 to 5 p.m. on Oct. 17! Drop by Betty Cherry Heritage Hall to participate.

### Business Virtual Career Fair

Students who are interested in job and internship opportunities in business, finance and accounting are invited to meet virtually with employers at 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 22. The event is being held in Handshake. Students can register for their free accounts at mountmercy.joinhandshake.com.



# Am I Woman?

## Burke-Henderson Details Some of the Struggles of Black Suffragettes

By Viktorja K Heires  
News Editor

For African Americans, the struggle for women's suffrage is a current affair. Tuesday Sept. 22 marked the kickoff for the 2020 Fall Faculty Series in Basile Hall 204. Keesha Burke-Henderson, director of diversity and international student success, noted major Black women who were historic and contemporary figures in the fight for voting rights.

Although there were only eight in-person attendees, more than 20 others tuned into the live YouTube feed.

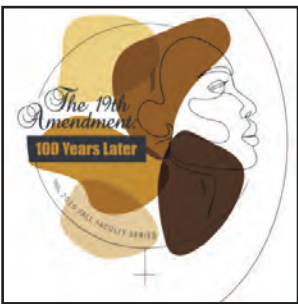
Burke-Henderson's presentation, "Am I Woman? Black Women at the Intersections of Suffrage, Citizenship, and Democracy," is available on Mount Mercy's YouTube channel.

The Fall Faculty Series

this year honors the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote in the U.S.

"When in the original documents that constitute a nation, you are deliberately left out as to your rights as a member of that nation, you are then subject to any violence—whether physical, material or mental that does not protect your humanity," Burke-Henderson explained. "And that is

the summation of Colonialism for Black people, Jim Crow and New Jim Crow."



Mount Mercy University image

The logo for this year's Fall Faculty Series, called "The 19th Amendment: 100 Years Later."

counterparts for the same rights. African Americans in the suffrage era were living a different reality than their white counterparts. They weren't thought of or treated as real citizens.



Viktorja K. Heires/ Times

Keesha Burke-Henderson (above), kicks off the Fall Faculty Series on Sept. 22, sharing the stories of Black suffragettes and the accomplishments of outstanding Black women.

Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Burke-Henderson explained that in business

leader role models," Burke-Henderson explained.

"Shirley's book Unbought and Unbossed emerged. Shirley emerged, much like

**"I really do love them all for their varied approaches, presence, histories and multidimensionality of the Black and woman narrative."**

Keesha Burke-Henderson,  
director of diversity and international student success

school, she was asked to pick someone and describe their leadership characteristics. The materials her professor highlighted were dominated by white males and included only one white female, so Burke-Henderson went looking for inspiration that was more representative of herself.

"So, I began searching for Black women

me: Caribbean roots, New York-raised with a mission, and uncompromisable."

Burke-Henderson explained that she can't rank these women on the basis of favorites because each has influenced her in a different way.

She added, however: "Right now, I've fallen in love with Stacey Abrams and her undeniable intelligence and presence and

commitment to the people. She's grassroots and savvy, much like our predecessors of Ida B. Wells and Anna Julia Cooper. I really do love them all for their varied approaches, presence, histories and multidimensionality of the Black and woman narrative."

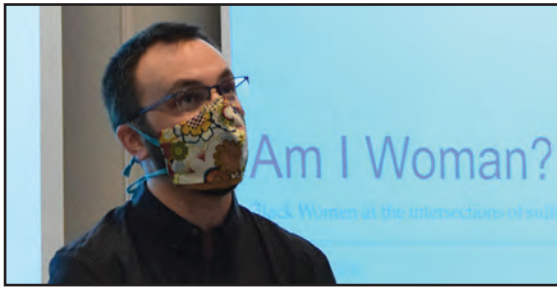
You can watch Burke-Henderson's presentation on the MMU YouTube channel at: [https://youtu.be/Po\\_SJEO3-oY](https://youtu.be/Po_SJEO3-oY). The series continued this week with "The Fight for Women's Suffrage in the Hawkeye State." The next Fall Faculty Series event is "Influential American Women: Influencing Race and Culture into Politics," held at 6 p.m. on Oct. 14 in the Flaherty Community Room. Events are livestreamed on Mount Mercy's YouTube channel.

## Seating Limited at Series Events but Speeches Available via YouTube

By Viktorja K Heires  
News Editor

This year's Fall Faculty Series is six presentations centered around the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, granting women suffrage—the right to vote.

The series has been running since 2014, when Joe Sheller, associate professor of communication, suggested that the anniversary of WWI should be commemorated. Other topics have included immigration, sustainability and the relationship between faith and reason.



Viktorja K Heires/ Times

Joe Hendryx, associate professor of English, coordinates the Fall Faculty Series.

Joe Hendryx, associate professor of English, is now the series organizer. He says the most labor-intensive part of planning happens in the spring and summer.

"This past spring, I solicited

ideas about possible themes and topics from faculty and staff with the goal of having the theme loosely defined before the end of the semester," Hendryx said.

Once the theme has been identified, Hendryx invites facul-

ty to do presentations. After this, the marketing team takes over to create the logo and other materials. This year, they also had to adjust presentations, keeping social distancing in mind.

The Flaherty Community Room where the events are held has a maximum capacity of 20 people with current social distancing guidelines.

"In-person turnout will be limited, of course, since it's a matter of policy," Hendryx said. "We aren't able to invite community members onto campus and a lot of students might prefer to stay isolated. I am very pleased

that we are able to livestream and record this event."

Marketing is hoping to add a feature that will allow those watching via livestream to ask questions during the Q&A section.

Faculty often gets involved either directly as presenters, or indirectly by emailing students, friends and family who may be interested in attending the event. Hendryx says he would like to see newer or adjunct faculty get involved in future Fall Faculty Series events. He is open to ideas for future themes or presentations as well.

## Letter Notes Safety Concern

### SGA Leader States Personal Preference for Online Class

By Jessica Abdoney  
Staff Writer

Student Government Association (SGA) President Emma Lantz wrote an open letter to MMU administration and community on Sept. 2. In this letter, which was posted to her Facebook page, she addressed the risk of returning to campus and formally requested that classes return to online learning.

Lantz's letter does not reflect the stance of the entire Student Government Association.

"I do want to clarify that I am speaking on behalf of myself as SGA President," Lantz said in the Facebook post. "I feel strongly about the health and safety of students because I feel it is my responsibility."

Lantz was motivated to write the letter when she discovered that two of her friends had been quarantined on campus due to a close contact.

"To know that classes had not begun, and that we had multiple people in quarantine was very frightening," Lantz said.

As of Oct. 1, there have been 55 students and four employees quarantined. Linn County reported 4,173 positive cases as of Sept. 30.

Currently, Mount Mercy has no threshold of when to revert classes online and a mask mandate has not been issued in Linn County.

"Without proper precautions, we will become a hotspot much like Iowa City and Ames," Lantz wrote in the letter.

"We need to protect faculty and their families that may come in contact with students who are not practicing social

distancing," she continued. "One way we can do that is transferring classes online."

Despite precautions and guidelines on campus, the university has no authority on student activity off campus.

Lantz sent the letter to Nate Klein, vice president of student success, as a courtesy before making it public. "He respects my decision to write the letter and to post it," Lantz said.

"I always hope that students can come talk to me or anyone on campus," said Klein. "Majority of students, parents and others express great gratitude and grace that we have put together a plan where they can physically come back," Klein said.

No other Mount Mercy administrator has contacted Lantz regarding the letter at this time.

"Emma wrote the letter in the college and student's best interest," said SGA Vice President Andrea Lopez Delgado. "These are challenging times; decisions might not make everyone happy, but there are necessary precautions that we need to take in order to prevent the spread of COVID in our community."

Lantz wants to continue having an open conversation. The letter's purpose was to unite students who were like-minded as well as meet those who prefer in-person learning.

"I think my intent has shown through and it stands up for student safety without thinking about the financial consequences," Lantz said. "I think we can maintain student life while holding online lectures and upkeep the campus community through this time."

## As U.S. COVID-19 Cases Rise, So Do Unemployment Rates

By Jada Veasey  
Senior Opinion Editor

Only one other topic has been discussed as often as COVID-19 in recent months—the unemployment rate. According to a Sept. 4 report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment rate in the United States is currently 8.4 percent. While it's indeed lower than the 14.7 percent rate the nation saw in April, it is still a far cry from what it was before the pandemic hit.

Americans in all kinds of industries have struggled to find work. The hospitality industry was among the first to be impacted, as tourism slowed down when the pandemic ramped up in March.

The entertainment industry has been similarly impacted—live theater is shut down in many parts of the country, and some concerts have been indefinitely postponed. As some states cycle in and out of lockdowns that place restrictions on in-person dining experiences, servers and hosts struggle to find steady employment.

College students were uniquely impacted by the COVID-19 employment crisis, though there aren't

any official statistics or figures that prove it. Since many college students attend school in one city but live at home in another city over the summers, they take on summer jobs when they're at home.

But with a pandemic raging, many summer job opportunities completely dried up. Many swimming pools and amusement parks remained closed this year. One Mustang, junior nursing major Jadon Corkery, was unable to work the summer job she had been looking forward to.

Corkery was supposed to serve as the health officer at a Boy Scout camp over the summer.

"The camp director and board of directors decided to close the camp for summer to decrease the likelihood of a rise in COVID cases," she said. Corkery then added, "It would be difficult to run the camp as usual with social distancing rules."

In the end, Corkery ended up not working anywhere for the summer, as she didn't know of any places that were looking to hire someone for only a couple of months of work before she moved back to campus.

Of course, some Mustangs work in indus-

tries that saw a rise in job opportunities rather than a decline. Many Mount Mercy students work in healthcare and had busy summers. Some other students, including junior psychology and criminal justice major Emma Lantz, work in grocery stores, which saw huge increases in demand from consumers in the early days of the pandemic.

Lantz works in the bakery department of a local Target. She said, "Working at Target during the pandemic was different because of the adaptations that had to be put in place, but it hasn't been a difficult transition." Lantz also said that she worked more hours than usual over the summer, but some of that was driven by the impact of August's derecho, not necessarily COVID-19.

Whether someone is unemployed or working as usual, there is one thing most people seem to be able to agree on—the job market looks a lot grimmer after the pandemic than it did before. One can only wonder how long the effects of COVID-19 will linger, and how much of an impact it will have on graduating seniors who will try to enter the workforce in May of next year.





Detail of a painting in the U.S. Capitol/ Wikimedia Commons

In this detail of a painting in the U.S. Capitol, suffragettes march on Washington in 1917, three years before the right of women to vote was enshrined in the Constitution.

# Vote: Fall Faculty Series on 19th Amendment is Timely Reminder of Importance of Ballot

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, recognizing and defending women’s right to vote. The amendment’s centennial anniversary came and went in August, and now the U.S. is looking down the barrel of November at a presidential election for the history books.

This year’s Fall Faculty Series, “The 19th Amendment 100 Years Later,” is set to end with a lecture on voter turnout and the characteristics of the non-voting population—a fitting end for a series recounting the struggles of American suffragettes. But though a 2018 Pew Research Center survey found that 70 percent of Americans believe high voter turnout is important, not even 56 percent of the population voted in the last presidential election.

When the fight for women’s voting rights began, the campaign emphasized that women deserved the right to vote because men and women were created equal. Around 1890, a new generation of suffragettes began to change their approach, stating that their right to vote was rooted in their

### Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

differences just as much as their similarities.

Honestly, there is truth in both views. All humans should be treated fairly, free to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. At the same time, differences can be noted and celebrated. Everyone lives a unique human experience and should be fairly represented in a country that celebrates being a “melting-pot” of cultures.

In an ideal world, everyone would be treated fairly and equally, and discrimination would no longer exist. Though progress has certainly been made, we know we don’t live in that ideal world yet—recent nationwide movements like Black Lives Matter and Me Too show this clearly.

Of the non-voting population in 2016, 53 percent were women. Similarly, several ethnic groups had a higher percentage of non-voters than people who did vote. This includes Hispanic, Black, and Asian Americans. More than half of non-voters—56 percent—were considered lower class, despite being only one-fourth of the voting population.

These disparities in voter representation can affect the degree to which their needs are addressed—this is one

of many reasons why it’s crucial that Americans go out and vote on Nov. 3. America has been built and shaped from the hard work of suffragettes, civil rights protesters, and activists to ensure that all its citizens have an equal voice.

By monitoring the country’s strengths and struggles and electing government officials, the people of the U.S. continue to shape it. All are given a natural-born right to fight for the causes that speak to them, to fight for justice and to fight to shape the future.

While it may seem passive, a vote is a powerful thing. We urge everyone at Mount Mercy to use their power, to shape their future, to let the powers that be know where you stand in this year that we note women’s, and everyone’s right and obligation to vote.

The deadline to register to vote in Iowa is Oct. 24. We recommend that anyone who’s currently unregistered fill out a voter registration form as soon as possible. This can also be done online. Look into polls in your area, or the requirements for an absentee ballot.

And remember, it’s your future you’re shaping.

## Trump Court Nominee Stands Against RBG Legacy

If you’re one of my loyal readers (hello to my mother, my boyfriend and a handful of lovely professors), you may have read my piece in the previous issue about the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

What I didn’t outright say in that article (as it was a news piece rather than my usual opinion fare, and sometimes I try to follow the rules of journalism) was this – I miss her a lot already. Partially because she was an icon and a champion for women’s rights, but mostly because her proposed replacement scares the socks off me.

On Sept. 26, a mere eight days after RBG’s passing, President Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States. Trump is stomping on the legacy of RBG already. Barrett disagrees with almost everything Ginsburg ever advocated for.

The most significant stance that Barrett opposes Ginsburg on is that of *Roe v. Wade*. While Barrett has never formally endorsed the idea that the Court should overturn *Roe v. Wade*, she has been very open about her commitment to her Catholic faith, and very vague on how that would impact her support for *Roe v. Wade*.

Even though Barrett has remained purposefully noncommittal about her stance on the case, NPR reports that Trump said back in 2016 that “I am putting pro-life justices on the court,” and remarked that after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, abortion would become a state issue rather than a federal one.

I understand that abortion is a taboo topic. I understand that it is extra-taboo for me to talk about abortion on our Catholic campus. But it has to be done, because if Barrett is appointed to the Supreme Court, this ruling will affect everyone in America, no matter what their personal stance is on abortion. It is something we should all be paying attention to.

The issue of *Roe v. Wade* is not one that should truly have anything to do with your personal stance on abortion, especially if your stance is dependent on your religious beliefs. How do I know this? Because my own religious beliefs contrast with the idea of abortion, and yet I support the *Roe v. Wade* ruling all the same.

To base the Supreme Court’s ruling on the issue of abortion access on religion would violate the American ideal of religious freedom. *Roe v. Wade*, after all, does not state that any woman must get an abortion, it simply states that she can choose to have one if she wishes.

The existence of *Roe v. Wade* does not infringe upon any religious person’s right to choose not to have an abortion. And therefore, the current ruling should stand.

I know that may seem like an oversimplification of the issue, but this is a newspaper column, not a thesis. The bottom line is, whether you think abortions are “moral” or “right” or not should not dictate their legality. Amy Barrett sitting on the Supreme Court would endanger American women’s access to important healthcare. And that doesn’t sit well with me. I don’t think it would sit well with Ginsburg, either.

### Opinion



Jada Veasey  
Senior Opinion Editor

**Amy Barrett sitting on the Supreme Court would endanger American women’s access to important healthcare. And that doesn’t sit well with me.**

## Chapel of Mercy Provides Place of Silence for Talk with God

In college, settling into a routine is essential. However, keeping a consistent schedule is the one of the hardest things this year. Academics, athletics and jobs take up most of our time. We need to remember to take care of ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

### Faith on the Hill



Vanessa Milliman  
Columnist

place specifically for prayer and your spiritual life?

Put simply, prayer is conversation with God. Prayer can take many forms. Praying a devotional, the Rosary, praying with Scripture, and praying from the heart are all ways to hold a conversation with God.

You can use the couple minutes between class and lunch to pray. You can pray as you are walking from class to class.

The best practice that I want to share is knowing where to pray—the location is just as important as the time.

Picture your home; you have

**I go into the Chapel when I need a study break and I simply sit in the silence to relax and pray. The Chapel is a safe place where we can open ourselves up in prayer without distractions.**

different rooms for different purposes. The kitchen is the place that you prepare food. Your bedroom is where you keep most of your personal belongings and sleep.

Here at our home on the Hill, we also have places set aside for certain purposes.

Think of the Chapel in that sense; it is set aside for a specific purpose. It is the space that we are renewed in God’s presence, and it’s a spot designated for prayer and worship. We worship God during Mass and sit in His presence during the Hour of Grace.

I go into the Chapel when I need a study break and I simply sit in the silence to relax and pray.

The Chapel is a safe place where we can open ourselves up in prayer without distractions. Once inside, we give everything on our minds to Jesus.

The next time that you are going to pray, stop by the Chapel. God is waiting for you there.

Spend some relaxing time in the quiet and have a conversation with the One who loves you infinitely.



### Editorial Staff

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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. During the pandemic, meetings may be remote, at the discretion of editors.

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

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

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

**Web:** mountmercytimes.home.blog

**Email:** times@mtmercy.edu



# Watching From Iowa as My West Coast Home Faces Wildfires

Going to school in the Midwest after growing up off the coast of northern California was a big change. I was prepared for a different type of weather; I knew the winters in Iowa would be much colder and I would experience stronger storms. I did not expect to see

### Opinion



Dylan Campbell  
Staff writer

my home in such misery as wildfires burned through the state. As the fires burn through the West Coast, I feel so helpless knowing that people are hurrying to evacuate, and the firefighters are doing all they can to contain the fires. The area I grew up in is very wet throughout the year and has very mild weather, which means my immediate family wasn't harmed directly from the fires. The smoke was so bad on the West Coast that everyone living there has been advised to stay inside. Most of the informa-

tion I have about these fires come from friends and family. Social media has showed me the devastation these fires have caused. My mother, Rene, stated how the fires affected her during her day-to-day life, "The smoke causes my asthma to flare up and I have to use my inhaler more often than I normally do." At the time, the closest fire to her was about an hour away. My mom rarely has to use her inhaler while her asthma is under control. Many of the pictures I saw gave me an apocalyptic vibe with

red and orange skies. "The sky is dark and thick with smoke. Ash is raining down like snowflakes." My mom's take on the sky is somewhat similar to what we can experience in Iowan winters with snowflakes. Along with a global pandemic, these fires are the last thing you want to see our country go through. Rene said, "The fires, along with COVID-19 has caused some depression issues. The smoke has given me headaches and makes me so sad for those families who have lost their

homes." Wildfires on the West Coast seem to be an annual occurrence, but this year they have been extremely bad. Even though my family and I are very fortunate, there are so many other families who will lose everything. It makes me take less for granted and really appreciate what is going on behind the scenes. A lot of people have lost homes from these fires, so I try not to complain about the little things.

One of many stumps of 124 trees lost in the derecho.

## Plans Underway to Replant as 124 Trees Felled by Storm

By Annie Barkalow  
Staff Writer

Plans for replacing the campus trees lost to the derecho Aug. 10 have been put on hold, as cleanup continues to take precedence. According to Brady Klein, grounds supervisor, 124 trees were lost in the storm. Members of facilities and groundskeepers are focusing their efforts on removing debris, grinding stumps and overseeing roof repair. Focus areas for replanting include the green space in front of lower campus and Warde Hall, which were the most heavily impacted. "There's no time frame right now, but over the winter we'll possibly come up with ideas for planting the trees," Klein said. "I would like to pick spots out for planting and find good loca-

tions on campus—not too close to sidewalks or buildings." Another obstacle to landscaping is cost. "Unfortunately, a campus beautification plan will not be covered by insurance," says Dennis Gehring, facilities director. "The cost of such a plan must be determined and built into the university's budget." Gehring stated that the cost of removing the trees was \$500,000 and does not include the estimated \$45,000 to \$50,000 cost of grinding stumps—a cost that strains the budget for facilities and grounds. Insurance will only cover a small amount of the total tree loss. "The intangible cost of losing the tree canopy and individual trees that were over 200 years old cannot be assessed mon-



etarily," Gehring said. Rachel Murtaugh, director of the office of sustainability and stewardship, is applying for grants from nonprofit environmental groups to help defray the cost. One organization, Living Lands and Waters, reached out to the university shortly after the storm and is donating 50 trees. Delivery is set for Oct. 15. "As a campus, we're not sure if we're ready to receive that number of trees," says Murtaugh. "We need an adequate assessment of where we want to plant them." Right now, she says, the focus is on what to plant and where. Besides applying for

grants, Murtaugh and Klein are brainstorming ways to raise funds. "I would love to do a virtual walk-a-thon fundraiser," Murtaugh said. "I think that would be a fun way for everyone on campus—faculty, staff, students—to come together for a good cause and still be socially distanced." Klein would like to see memorial trees donated by alumni, faculty and staff. "These trees could be a symbol of many things including a memorial of loved ones, or simply to give back to the community as a reminder of the impact Mount Mercy has had on them," he said.

## Enola Is a Fun Sleuth

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most beloved fictional characters of all time. Though people still enjoy the classic Arthur Conan Doyle stories, Sherlock has been reimagined and adapted many times over the decades. From the BBC's smash-hit television show "Sherlock" to Disney's film "The Great Mouse Detective," England's most beloved detective is as popular now as he was in his heyday. The Netflix film "Enola Holmes" features the famous sleuth, but only as a supporting character. The real star of the show is the titular Enola Holmes, Sherlock's much younger but equally intelligent sister.

Netflix released "Enola Holmes" on Sept. 23. The film is based on a children's book series by Nancy Springer. The movie features an impressive cast as Millie Bobby Brown, of "Stranger Things" fame, plays Enola. Henry Cavill, perhaps best known for his role as the latest live-action Superman, plays Sherlock. Mycroft Holmes is played by Sam Claflin, who captured the hearts of many in his role as Finnick in the "Hunger Games" film franchise. Helena Bonham Carter plays the mother of the three Holmes children, and Louis Partridge plays Enola's love interest.

The film's best feature is the way it expands upon the existing Sherlock Holmes canon. Though Enola Holmes was never a part of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlockian world, this movie makes it feel as if she was. The strained relationship between the Holmes siblings and their eccentric mother seems as feasible as any of Doyle's canon storylines. Part of the film's believability is owed to the fact that it borrows some of Doyle's other canon characters, including Inspector Lestrade. Strangely enough, though, Sherlock's sidekick John Watson is not featured in the film at all. The exclusion of Watson did not make the film worse; I just thought it was kind of a weird choice, given that Holmes and Watson are among the most famous fictional duos in existence.

"Enola Holmes" is a good time. It's a whodunnit mystery plus missing-person-mystery combination that keeps you invested in the story with witty dialogue, fantastic costumes, nods to the women's suffrage movement and exciting action scenes. The film also features a great score by composer Daniel Pemberton. And there's a train scene! What else could anyone want in a movie? I highly recommend "Enola Holmes," and give it a solid four out of five stars.



Netflix Publicity Poster

# SGA Freshman President, VP Announced

The new freshman president is Ray Nyaigoti and the vice-president is Tonya Kramer! In order to run for these positions, we asked students to submit why they felt they were a good fit along with a service project or fund-raiser idea for the semester. Nyaigoti, a computer science major who is involved with both soccer and track and field here at MMU, is from Maple Grove, Minnesota. He chose

### SGA Column



Emma Lantz  
SGA President

MMU because he enjoys the small school environment and getting acquainted with professors. He also appreciates the new athletic facilities on campus. Nyaigoti expressed interest in registering students to vote for this upcoming election as it is extremely important to him and the importance of this election is clear. Kramer, a psychology major who plays the clarinet in band, is from Keystone, Iowa. She chose MMU because it's the only school that felt like home when she visited. Kramer stated that she would like to host a fund raiser to help two separate families who were both affected by

vehicular accidents in her hometown. As a reminder, each Friday SGA is hosting Leave It On The Floor Fridays with different themes. This week, we are talking about registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot, and the election that is coming up this November. Please join us if you have questions or would like to bring your own topic! The Zoom link is on the app and in your email! SGA hopes that you are all doing well and getting through this semester. Please keep in mind that we have free mental health services available to you and to please stay safe during this difficult time.

# First Woman in Congress Helps MMU Student Return to College

It was shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, that Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin found herself locked in a phone booth attempting to escape an angry mob. She had just cast the sole negative vote against U.S. involvement in World War II, and people were not happy. Rankin had to wait for a police officer to escort her back to her office, and that vote made her so unpopular that she opted not to run for reelection in 1942. However, Rankin was no stranger to controversy—far from it.

A professional lobbyist with the National American Women's Suffrage Association, Jeanette was the first woman to argue for women's suffrage in front of

### Opinion



Annie Barkalow  
Staff Writer

the Montana state legislature. Setting her sights higher, she ran for the House of Representatives in 1916 and made history when she won by a margin of 7,500 votes. She was 36 years old and the first woman elected to Congress. Jeanette lobbied fiercely to give women access to the ballot box during her term. "I want to be remembered as the only woman who ever voted to give women the right to vote," she said. In 1920, the 19th Amendment passed, giving women the right to vote. During her term, she also supported measures to protect female workers, mothers and children. She died in 1973 at age 92, leaving her estate to help "mature, unemployed women workers." Jeanette's close friends used the proceeds from her estate as seed money to start the Jeanette Rankin Foundation (JRF). Honoring her wish to help older women, the foundation gives scholarships



U.S. Congressional Image  
Rep. Jeanette Rankin.

Happily, I am one of the recipients. When I decided to return to school in my mid-30s I already knew I would be a minority in my age group. An internet search for scholarships proved this—most of the financial opportunities were limited to the 18-21 age bracket. I could count

on one hand the number of scholarships available to moms returning to school. Receiving the JRF scholarship helped me earn an associate degree in liberal arts, and now I am pursuing a bachelor's in communication. Ultimately, I'd like to achieve a master's in library science. This is a foundation that truly cares for its scholars. When COVID-19 hit and funds became tight for many of the recipients, the JRF sent a monthly stipend of \$100 until they could go back to work. Jeanette Rankin's legacy lives on in the lives of women who have found success in achieving their academic goals, conquered poverty and realized their dreams of a better life. To find out more about the JRF scholarship, you can visit <https://rankinfoundation.org>.

## Student: 'COVID-19 Is Out There, We All Need to Be Safe'

### ◆ Trump Catching Coronavirus continued from page 1

ously. While we've just learned that not even the most powerful man in the U.S. is safe from the virus, Mount Mercy students are continuing to test positive. "It seems for some people this is a 'political' issue," said senior journalism major Mahlon Steepleton, who is currently recovering from the effects of COVID-19. "It is not. It's a human rights and pandemic issue. I mean, our very own president got it because he didn't follow the precautions, and he has one of the best safety and security teams in the world. COVID-19 is out

there, and we all need to be safe and precautionary." At Mount Mercy, there are currently 21 students who are quarantining from a positive test result. To date, there have been 66 total positive tests with approximately 101 students are quarantined due to close contact, making up 6.02 percent of the student population. The increase in numbers is partially due to negligence with students attending large social events over the past few weekends. Several students have expressed concern over the blatant disregard of health and safety regulations from both leaders and fellow students. "My reaction is that of confusion," said Connor Christopherson, an MBA graduate student. "With everything else

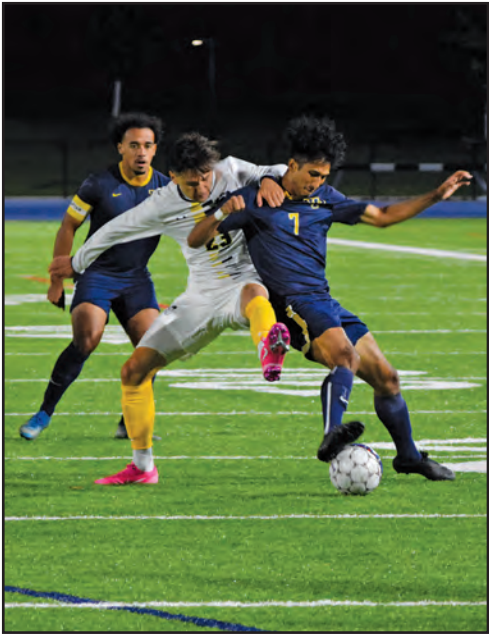
going on in this world right now, I feel like COVID-19 is getting pushed aside in favor of other issues. This may be causing society to fear it less than they potentially should which may put more of the population at risk." "As of now, people just seem to fear the penalties of the virus policies more than the virus itself, which just seems odd during a pandemic," he continued. Other students feel similarly, believing that there are many other issues that people are more focused on. Junior psychology major Cassy Forsythe said, "All of us are getting used to COVID-19, but that doesn't mean we should forget about health and safety guidelines. We should be treating today like when it was a crazy ordeal in March."

## Testing Available on Campus

### ◆ COVID-19 Experience continued from page 1

when she got her results. "I live out in the country and it was great to be able to spend time with my cows and not be stuck inside," she said. Reyes is happy to be recovered and back on campus, ready to take on her first year of college. Though these three students had the same virus, they have three vastly different stories. Even when taking all the precautions necessary, COVID-19 can still wreak havoc on the body. Students who suspect they may have the coronavirus can be tested on campus for free after filling out the Iowa COVID-19 Assessment and scheduling a testing time with Health Services. Time slots are available between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.





Josh Harmon/Times

Oguzhan Bozkan (above) fights to get control of the ball from a William Penn opponent. Mount Mercy athlete Adin Turanovic (right) headbutts the ball away from the Statesmen.



# Mustangs Get Steered to Loss by the Statesmen

By Josh Harmon  
Senior Multimedia Editor

Mount Mercy University Men's Soccer season record is now (1-2-2) after losing 3-1 in their Heart of America conference match against William Penn University on Sept. 29.

The competition's pace was set early on by William Penn as they gained the first corner kick of the game, five minutes into the first half. Mount Mercy matched the Statesmen's high intensity offense by playing fast and physical on the defensive side. Both teams were scoreless after the first half of action (0-0). Tensions began to rise between teams when play-

**"When we play them again, a big focus for us will be on staying mentally locked in."**

Jordan Webb, team captain

ers from both sides tried to rally their teammates on the way to the locker rooms for halftime.

Less than five minutes after coming out the gates to start the second half, William Penn was first to get on the scoreboard with a shot that just outstretched the hands of MMU goalkeeper Jose Perez Piqueras, sophomore from Madrid, Spain. William Penn led the Mustangs continuing the goal for close to 15 minutes until Itsuki Ishihara, junior from Hyogo, Japan evened the score 1-1.

Unable to gain momentum following the Mustangs' goal, William Penn answered back with another goal of their own, reclaiming the lead 2-1.

"Instead of playing our own



Josh Harmon/Times

The Robert W. Plaster Athletic Complex's soccer field was this fall named after men's soccer coach, Amir Hadzic.

regulation.

"When we play them again, a big focus for us will be on staying mentally locked in," Webb said at the end of the game, adding: "In a conference like the one we play in, if we don't move on quickly to prepare for the next match, we will get left behind."

The MMU men's soccer match against Graceland University, Central Methodist University, and Evangel University has been postponed due to COVID-19 precautions. Their next match is scheduled for Oct. 17, against MidAmerica Nazarene University if the pandemic allows.

# Mustang Gallop: Cross Country Women Win, Men Place Second

Morgan Ingwersen/Times

Junior Kelsi Huhndorf races alongside alumni runner, Annie Ertz, who independently runs at collegiate cross country meets.

## Huhndorf's Win in 5K Leads Way for Team

By Morgan Ingwersen  
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy cross country team was finally able to hold their season opener on Friday, Sept. 25. The Mustangs were able to open their 2020 cross country season, hosting the 27th Annual Mustang Gallop at Seminole Valley Park against Hawkeye Community College.

Junior Kelsi Huhndorf's victory in the 5K lead the Mustang women to the team title. Huhndorf crossed the line in 19:05.3, edging former teammate Andrea Ertz by .02 of a second in the women's 5K.

"Annie and I ran several workouts together over the summer, so it was fun getting to compete together at the gallop and see



our training pay off," said Huhndorf. "She's great, friendly competition!"

The team totals for Mount Mercy women were 27 points, and 28 points for Hawkeye Community College.

On the men's side, senior Cameron Steffens lead their squad to a runner-up finish at Seminole Valley after finishing third in the men's 8k (27:36.7).

Freshman Noah Cokel battled Ryan Moore, from Hawkeye Community College, in the last 200 meters of the race. Cokel edged Moore by .05 of a second in the men's 8k and finished with a time of 32:11.2.

"I was not expecting that kind of finish," stated Cokel. "I passed him early in the race, so I was surprised to see him again at

the end trying to pass me. I decided to sprint past him in the final 200 meters. I felt so sick, but I just kept up the fast pace to leave him in the dust."

The team totals for the Mount Mercy men were 32 points and 23 points for Hawkeye Community College, taking the win over the Mustangs.

"The Mustang Gallop was a good, low-key tune-



Morgan Ingwersen/Times

Freshman Noah Cokel (right) pushes through the race to stay ahead of runner from Hawkeye Community College.

up for the meets to come. It was a good chance for our team to get on the course and get to compete again, as most haven't competed in over six months and others a bit longer," said Tad Hulst, coach. "It was also a good tune-up in getting volunteers set to help run future meets smoothly, efficiently and safely."

"As a team, we want to take another stride forward together from the last meet. Day by day, week by week, we are working together to be the best we can be and use the competition to get there. I love the team we have and the unity and work ethic they have shown already, and I am excited to see them compete each chance we get," said Hulst.

The Mustangs plan to host the Seminole Valley Stampede on Saturday Oct.10, this meet will host about 30 teams.

**"As a team, we want to take another stride forward together from the last meet."**

Coach Tad Hulst

## Upcoming Home Games:

### Saturday, Oct. 10

Women's Cross Country v. NAIA Seminole Valley Stampede at 11:30 a.m.  
Men's Cross Country v. NAIA Seminole Valley Stampede at 12:15 p.m.

### Sunday, Oct. 11

Women's Volleyball v. Graceland University at 2 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec. Center

### Tuesday, Oct. 13

Women's Soccer v. William Penn University POSTPONED

### Wednesday, Oct. 14

Men's Soccer v. Evangel University POSTPONED

### Tuesday, Oct. 20

Women's Volleyball v. Clarke University at 7 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec. Center

### Wednesday, Oct. 21

Women's Soccer v. Grand View University at 5 p.m. in the Plaster Athletic Complex  
Men's Soccer v. Grand View University at 7:30 p.m. in the Plaster Athletic Complex

## Sports In Short

### Women's Golf

Sept. 26, Mustang women were rewarded for their third team championship title in a row. Valarie Davidson carried the team with a lead of 79. The team ended the golf meet with a total score of 336 (+48).

Sept. 28 and Sept. 29, Women's golf placed fourth overall at a collegiate showcase that included a NCAA DI school, a few NAIA institutions, and a NJCAA school. Their final score was 707 (+31).

### Men's Golf

Sept. 28 and Sept. 29, Men's golf placed top 5 with a score of 624 (+56) at the TPC Deere Run.

### Men and Women's Soccer

Games for both MMU soccer teams are postponed this week. Women's soccer is postponed for their Oct. 10 and Oct. 13 games as well.



# Heard on the Hill

By Josh Harmon  
Senior Multimedia Editor  
What people are saying on topics of interest

Whatever else the new coronavirus has done, it has certainly changed our social lives. So the *Times* asked: “During social distancing or quarantine, how did you pass the time?”



Annie Leopold, freshman, nursing major.  
“I played video games and watched a lot of movies with my brothers.”



Lexie Johnson, sophomore, psychology major.  
“I got to spend quality time with my 2-year-old cousin.”



Sarrive Rukakiza, senior, criminal justice major.  
“I started an in-home workout routine, and I went on a walk everyday, something I don’t usually do.”



Skyler Postel, senior, psychology major.  
“I started watching the ‘American Horror Story’ on Hulu and got into re-reading fantasy novels.”



Joey Ragona, junior, education major.  
“I practiced ‘prison tattoos’ with a sewing needle on myself and my roommate.”

Annie Barkalow (right)/ *Times*, Clare Heinrich (below)/ contributed  
Clare Heinrich (right) wears a message showing her passion to be kind to bees. She notes (below) that the “girls” she works with (worker bees are all female) are gentle as one is crawling on her finger.



Clare Heinrich shows her unmasked face (right). She removes a hive section of honeycomb and bees from one of her hives (far right).



## Feeling a Buzz

### Hive Hobby Leads Student to Conservation

By Annie Barkalow  
Staff Writer

Five years ago, senior Clare Heinrich found her calling at the Iowa State Fair. Her family was listening to a presentation on beekeeping and she was intrigued. At the end of the lecture, she applied for a youth scholarship which provided the winner with items necessary for beekeeping. “I think they didn’t really think I had a chance on getting it,” Heinrich said, laughing. To everyone’s surprise, she did and was paired with a mentor and bees. Right away, there were challenges. Urbandale, Iowa, Heinrich’s hometown, has no ordinance on beekeeping; therefore, the bees were designated as “live-stock” by the city, which forced her family to move them or pay a heavy fine. Thankfully, some friends lived nearby on a vineyard and were happy to host the colonies. Heinrich has learned a lot over the years: how to extract and process honey, how to protect a colony against pests, and how to successfully keep colonies alive and healthy over winter. Another major thing Heinrich has learned is the nature of bees. “Many people are afraid of bees because they don’t want to be stung, but when you actually spend time with

them, they are very docile and rather peaceful,” she said, noting that bees will not fight you during the honey extraction process as long as they are made to feel comfortable and safe. During the extraction process, a fume hood or fume board, is placed on top of the hive and spritzed with a substance that repels the bees and sends them further down the hive. From there, the box the bees are sheltering in can be removed and the rest of the hive can be taken to her mentor’s house, where the honey extractor is set up. This is done every August and Heinrich keeps a tally of how much is harvested. This year her family gathered 114 pounds. Though the amount of honey produced isn’t enough to be commercially viable, they do sell to friends and family. The name of their brand is “Outlaw Honey,” a cheeky nod to the ordinance that kicked them out. Heinrich’s dad also takes an active interest in beekeeping, and the two have bonded over time spent taking care of the colonies. Sometimes, she says, they

bring their lawn chairs near the hives and listen to them hum. Heinrich credits beekeeping with her decision to double major in outdoor conservation and English. “The bees influenced me to keep researching and learning more, because the more I learned about my girls (bees), the more I wanted to study them,” she said. She carries this love of the outdoors to campus, where she helps maintain the native biodiversity garden near the University Center’s stairs and has participated in ECO club. Her primary involvement is with the Iowa Honey Producers Association and she looks forward to manning the bee booth at the Iowa State Fair every year where she tries to “keep an eye out for young people who also have an interest.” For Heinrich, the ultimate lesson beekeeping has taught her is that all life is precious and valuable. Referencing the symbiotic nature between bees and their keepers, Heinrich points to everyday life, asking, “If we apply this cooperation to other relationships, what else can we accomplish?”

“Many people are afraid of bees because they don’t want to be stung, but when you actually spend time with them, they are very docile and rather peaceful.”

Claire Heinrich, senior, English and outdoor conservation major

#### SNAPSHOT

Meet the people on the Hill

Clare Heinrich

# Campus Recyclers Asked to Sort Materials at Campus Stations

By Viktorja K Heires  
News Editor

Big changes are happening with Mount Mercy’s recycling program for 2020. In prior years, facilities collected recycling and student employees would sort it. That is now not feasible. Due to COVID-19, Rachael Murtaugh, director of sustainability and stewardship; and Deb O’Hara, facilities operations manager, saw a need to change how MMU waste is disposed of. “Students and faculty will need to be responsible for their own sorting,” said Murtaugh. “We have invested in bins for every building, dorm, and housing complex on campus.” There are signs at each sorting station showing what goes in each bin, and proper sorting is important. One item put into the

wrong container can contaminate an entire batch of recyclables. When this happens, Murtaugh says that load ends up in the landfill. “If you’re in doubt, put it in the trash rather than risking contaminating an entire load of recycling,” she says. The rules for recycling differ from town-to-town, so guidelines for how you recycle at home may be different from MMU. To help avoid risks, there is a feature in the MMU App with information. Go to the MMU app, click on “Community Information,” and then look for “Recycle Right.” The app is specific to Mount Mercy University and can tell you exactly how to dispose of almost anything. For example, greasy pizza box? Put it in the garbage, not the recycling bin. Small appliance broken? The app will guide you to places in

### List of Recycling Sorting Stations

Here is a list of all the locations for the sorting stations on campus:  
Regina - Trash and sorting stations are in the laundry room  
McAuley - Trash to dumpster at loading dock. Sorting stations are by the back stairs by the loading dock  
Lower Campus - Trash to the dumpster. Sorting stations are in laundry room  
Andreas - First and third floors; Trash to dumpster. Sorting stations are in the North hallway  
Second floor - Trash to dumpster. Sorting station is in the

kitchen  
Warde - Recycling room by 107  
UC - Hallway by ACE  
Donnelly - Second floor  
entrance  
Hennessey - Second floor deck  
Lundy - First floor entrance  
Basile - Hall by Basile Beans  
Busse - Lobby near piano  
Wendt - Main hallway  
Grad Center - First floor by vending machine  
RAC - Hallway near vending area  
RAC offices -First floor entrance near parking lot

the area that can take it off your hands and refurbish or recycle. If you have medical “sharp” such as lancets or syringes, use the app to find out where and how to dispose of those. Do not

put them in the garbage or in the recycling bins. What if what you want to get rid of isn’t on the app? Enter the name of the item and then hit “suggest item.” The app will

send an email to Murtaugh, who can then investigate how to dispose of the item and add it to the database. Straws are not recyclable and should go into the garbage. Additionally, any soft or stretchy plastics, like sandwich bags, can’t be recycled in the usual way. They clog up the equipment. Instead, take those to the University Center where you will find a large green and white bin near the info desk that says “build with bags.” Clean, soft plastics belong there. Using special equipment, they will be made into picnic tables, park benches and playground features. “We would love to see people use the app more, and in general take a little more care in how we waste is disposed,” Murtaugh said.

## MMU Writers Learn of Roles at Paha, Times

By Ekaterina Rangelova  
Staff Writer

Writing scholarship recipients got a chance to learn about The Mount Mercy Times and Paha Review on Sept. 30. Dr. Mary Vermillion, professor of English and Paha advisor, hosted the meeting via Zoom. Other attendees included Joe Sheller, associate professor of communication; Veronica Jons, editor-in-chief of the Times; and Jada

Veasey, senior opinion editor. Other returning writing scholars and new writers also attended. Each of the current writing scholars shared their love for reading and writing. Vermillion noted that by joining either publication, students get the chance to expand their abilities as well as explore the various ways in which they can get involved with the publications. Both offer various posi-

tions for students and are open to new writers joining. The Times and Paha offer not only positions for writers, but also seek those with passion for photography or media studies in general. “One thing that is going to be new, the university bought good equipment for a video lab, and we want to do more video stuff, and we will have additional opportunities,” said Sheller.

Other opportunities available include managing positions, layout and promoting as well as proofreading for Paha. Deadlines for Paha submissions typically fall in winter term. “Any publication involves lots of editing work beyond writing; writing is the key but getting Paha and Times experience with editing positions is very important for students,” Sheller said.