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# Guiding MMU's future

Strategic planning group meets to craft multi-year goals

By Vanessa Gaul  
staff writer

With innovative teaching strategies due to the pandemic last year, a new president of the college, and the old strategic plan ending, now is the perfect time for important members of Mount Mercy's community to devise a fresh plan for the coming years.

Numerous people are involved in the process of making this plan which aims to improve the university and detail overarching goals for the near future.

*"In general, the purpose of a plan is to provide a goal that we strive to achieve. So, planning helps you envision sort of where you would like to be in three to five years."*

Tom Castle, associate provost

"In general, the purpose of a plan is to provide a goal that we strive to achieve," said Tom Castle, associate provost. "So, planning helps you envision sort of where you would like to be in three to five years."

The president leads the process of creating the new strategic plan, while the vice presidents and members of the university's leadership team contribute ideas and unique

perspectives. In the past and moving forward, students are involved in the creation and solidification on the plan.

"What we tried to do was get a broad cross section of faculty, staff, administrators," said Castle. "We wanted people who have been here for a long time as well as people who are relatively new to provide a fresh perspective."

So far, MMU executives have done a lot of brainstorming on concepts the university should place more attention on. They have been prioritizing academics and making large goals, but they are still working on solidifying the big picture before they make more specific plans that could be evaluated by a broader audience.

"When we get into the specific ideas, that's where it's important for us to listen to what are the students' ideas, what are the faculty ideas, what are the alumni ideas," said Castle.

Additionally, the past few years have led to more familiarity with technology, and as the previous plan was coming to completion, it was simply time to draft a new plan. Those involved in creating the plan can learn from recent innovations and unique classroom structures, i.e., virtual classrooms, to devise unique goals and objectives going forward.

The team hopes to make significant progress on the strategic plan by the end of fall semester, but nothing is set in stone as of now. This plan can be a piece to share with the community and explain how Mount Mercy wants to proceed in the future. Once the plan is completed, students will be able to access it on Mount Mercy's website and possibly in print.

# UC Phantoms



The MMU Acapella Club appears as "Phantom of the Opera," at Halloween on the Hill, a popular annual event, came back to campus on Oct. 29. More images, and a personal reflection column about the event, are on page 4. (Times photo by Jada Veasey)

# Remembering heroic stories of 9/11



Ordinary citizens linked by tragedy

By Annie Barkalow  
managing editor

A flight attendant. A Vietnam veteran. An equities trader. A passenger on a routine flight. Ordinary citizens who didn't know each other but were linked by the same tragedy. On a beautiful, blue September day in 2001, these individuals proved that heroes don't need to know martial arts or have magic powers to combat evil: heroes simply show up and do what needs to be done.

On Oct. 27, "Heroism and Sacrifice on 9/11" was the topic in the third installment of the Fall Faculty Series "9/11: 20 Years Later," featuring associate professor of education Norma Linda Mattingly.



Associate professor of education Norma Linda Mattingly speaks as a part of the Fall Faculty Series on Oct. 27. (Times photo by Annie Barkalow)

Speaking to a small crowd in the Flaherty Community Room, Mattingly began her lecture by recalling where she was when she heard about the attacks on the twin towers, then segued into the story of Betty Ong and Amy Sweeney. Ong and Sweeney were flight attendants on Flight 11, the first plane to hit the tower. Ong was the

first to telephone her colleagues on the ground and alert them to the hijacking, giving information that proved crucial to the situation that was unfolding. Authorities were able to quickly identify the hijackers because Sweeney relayed the seat numbers of the men. Ong and Sweeney were named national heroes for their professionalism and

courage. At times choking up, Mattingly recounted the "red bandana man" Welles Remy Crowther, an equities trader in the second tower who helped guide people to safety and carried those who couldn't walk;

◆ **Attacks made professor**  
continued on page 2

# How germs divide helps us conquer them

Biology professor investigates binary fission, publishes with students

By Gwen Johnson  
opinion editor

If you've taken a microbiology course, you may be familiar with E. coli, and the fact that it replicates through a process called binary fission. This is the process that Dr. Ryan Bezy, professor of biology at MMU, is studying.

Specifically, Dr. Bezy is looking at a particular gene involved in bacterial replication called YedR. He has conducted research in collaboration with David Wiess at the University of Iowa with the help of three now-graduated Mustangs—Jeremy Cline, David Stanek and Monica Steffen. This research involved characterizing the role of YedR in E. coli cell division, and other cell division proteins with which it interacted. The group published a paper on their work in the Journal of Bacteriology in November of 2020.

"That's actually really unusual for undergraduate researchers, to contribute to a publication," said Bezy.

The team conducted a genetic suppressor screen, which goes something like this: they grow the mutant bacteria that cannot be grown and divided at high temperatures, then look for additional mutations that restore the ability to divide and then

determine where the genetic correction is located. If the correction is located somewhere unexpected, such as on a gene that isn't known to be associated with cell division, then

that is the interesting one that gets its full genome sequenced and compared to the wild type genome.

This research is useful because it can help scientists optimize ways to grow microbes, many of which are important commercially like E. coli. Additionally, since the way bacterial cells divide is different

*"The more knowledge we have on bacterial cell division, the more therapeutic targets we will have."*

Ryan Bezy, professor of biology

# Heads Up

Play pool Nov. 15

Mount Mercy intramurals will host a pool tournament on Nov. 15 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sign up through the intramurals app and then join fellow pool players in the UC game room for the chance to win a championship t-shirt.

Build a Critter set

Join M2AP Board on Nov. 16 in Basile Hall at 8 p.m. for one of the most popular events on campus. Come out with friends to build your very own stuffed animal.

Award-winning poet at UC Nov. 30

On Nov. 30, M2AP Board will host award-winning poet Ashlee Haze in the UC at 7 p.m. Join M2AP Board for a night of creative fun with friends.

Bingo Night

M2AP Board will host a bingo event on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. on the McAuley Theater. Compete for fun prizes in the last bingo event before winter break begins.



# SGA OKs new diamond painting club

By Jada Veasey  
editor in chief

The Mount Mercy Student Government Association (SGA) held an eventful general assembly meeting on Nov. 1 in Basile’s Flaherty Hall community room. Flaherty Hall is a brand-new location for SGA meetings to occur; they had to transition out of their typical space in Donnelly 300 due to a class scheduling conflict.

Among the first items on the agenda for the general assembly meeting was the presentation of a new registered student organization (RSO) idea. Student Sheridan Akers spoke on behalf of the newly proposed RSO. The new RSO will be a diamond painting club, and Akers said, “during our meetings we would work on our diamond paintings.” She also added that one of the goals of the club is to help students destress and unwind. The RSO’s current advisor is McKenzie Lansing, student engagement coordinator.

Emma Lantz, SGA president, did a roll call vote for the diamond painting club RSO proposal. The other RSO representatives in attendance unanimously approved the proposal, granting the diamond painting club SGA funding and the other rights and privileges that come with being an official RSO.

Nate Klein, vice president for student success and SGA advisor, also presented information at the meeting. Klein spoke about the Mustang Leadership speaker series. Klein said, “it is important to engage students in leadership activities.” Klein also informed the assembly that spring semester will feature a combination of both speaker series events and workshop style sessions.

If students attend enough events in the series, they can earn blue level recognition for completion of the program. Graduating seniors who earn blue level recognition will be given blue cords to wear at commencement. Completion of the blue level requires attendance to four of the eight offered speaker events and participation in workshops in the spring.

Assembly members also observed a presentation about the campus event management system (EMS). Elizabeth Bibby, events manager, and Donna Dennis, student success administrative assistant, facilitated the presentation. The EMS allows Mount Mercy community members to reserve meeting spaces on campus. “If you can think about what you want to do, we can probably do it,” said Dennis, when speaking about the abilities of the events team on campus.



A vendor (left) sells baked goods, while a child (below) shows wares at another table. Young entrepreneurs competed for a free table at Market at the Mount at the Young Entrepreneur Fair held Oct. 22 in the U Center, sponsored by the Marion Homeschool Assistance Program and Enactus. (Times images by Bri Ostwinkle)

# Young in business

## Enactus partners with homeschoolers for Entrepreneur Fair

By Bri Ostwinkle  
Web Editor

From baked goods to bracelets to t-shirts, kids of all ages showcased their own small businesses in the University Center for the Youth Entrepreneur Fair with the Marion Homeschool Assistance Program on Friday, Oct. 22.

Mount Mercy University’s business club on campus, Enactus, hosted the Youth Entrepreneur Fair, giving children of all ages the chance to show off their businesses. The club judged the booths and offered a free table at the club’s annual Market at the Mount for the winner.

“Being able to give kids the opportunity to showcase their businesses and give them the chance to grow at our market is something we were really excited about,” said Jillian Nafziger, senior marketing major and president of Enactus.

Three finalists were given the opportunity to have a table at the 2021 Market at the Mount on campus and share their business with a much wider audience. These stands were ones that stood out the most and



were judged by three categories: product, presentation and customer service skills.

“The students had a lot of really good products, they really showed off what they could do,” Nafziger said.

There were around 35 groups that took part in the market to show their

**“The students had a lot of really good products, they really showed off what they could do.”**

Jillian Nafziger, senior marketing, Enactus president

talents and market their products to family, friends, and community members. The market had lots of visitors and the vendors were able to sell a lot of their products and market their

personal shops to keep growing in the future.

# Attacks made professor wonder at the world her son was born into

Dr. Joe Hendryx, assistant professor of English and coordinator of the Fall Faculty Series, listens. (Times photo by Annie Barkalow)



## Remembering heroic stories

continued from page 1

Rick Rescorla, a Vietnam veteran with Port Authority who saved an estimated 2,000 people and calmed them during evacuation by singing; Todd Beamer, a Flight 93 passenger and father of three whose last words were “let’s

roll,” before storming the cockpit with other passengers and taking control of the plane; and many, many more. From the rubble on the ground to the planes in the sky, people showed courage in the face of death and displayed selflessness.

Mattingly said the attacks made her wonder what kind of world she’d brought her son into, who was only a few months

old at the time. She displayed a picture of her son as an infant next to the front page of the Iowa City Press-Citizen. The headline read “We Saw Evil.”

“No,” said Mattingly, “we saw heroes.”

Mattingly concluded her presentation by asking the audience to recall to one another where they were when news of the attack reached them.

# MMU campus security log

**Oct. 28**  
Received call from staff member; they needed access to the mechanical room in Busse.

Call from a student reporting a leak in the ceiling on the fifth floor of McAuley. I placed tubs under the drips.

McAuley fifth floor stairwell door, sixth stairwell floor door, and elevator access door all ajar. I secured all doors.

Call to request pool cue and another call to return pool cue.

Lost and found item was found at the cafeteria cash register.

**Oct. 29**  
Call from Amazon about delivery, I assisted as needed. Amazon called again, I assisted as needed.

Call from a neighbor calling about students parking in his yard after he asked them not to.

Call from a student working for the marketing department requesting access to an office to pick up a camera for Halloween on the Hill coverage.

Call for a request to extend UC open hours for university event, I assisted as needed.

Found Busse Library elevator room door ajar, I secured it.

Call because Donnelly was not unlocked for an event. I successfully reset it.

A coach called to request that Hennessy be unlocked at 7:30 p.m. for arriving players. I unlocked the door.

Received a call to address a Regina Hall student lockout.

Lights in the pit were out. Attempted to reset the breaker and it kicked out both times. I contacted facilities to look at it on Monday.

**Oct. 30**  
Basile front entrance door found ajar. I secured the door.

Received a call to override the Hennessy lower door until 9:20 a.m., I contacted the director of public safety.

Warde rear entrance door was ajar, I secured the door.

Call from a student in Regina regarding bugs. Went to room to check, found it full of bugs. I sprayed for bugs, then contacted the director of residence life and the resident assistant.

Received a call on the Warde emergency phone with no one on the other end. Checked the area and found no one there.

Submitted a work order for the pit area lights.

9:08 p.m. call from a resident assistant to report “a person who does not look like they belong here” moving from the Andreas parking lots in the direction of Warde. Reported subject appears to be a homeless woman who stopped for a short time, sheltering from the wind near Warde. She was not harassing anyone or doing anything illegal. I kept visual contact on her as she put on a coat, rearranged her belongings, and proceeded northeast out of the area.

Received a call from a student asking if her car keys had been found.

Residential lockout in Andreas.

**Oct. 31**  
A few students called to report no heat in McAuley.

Some of them had moved to Lundy, looking for a warm place to study. Director of residence life and facilities on call staff contacted.

Received a call and directed them to call the business office.

Received a call inquiring about Sunday mass.

Call from a student asking if their laptop charger had been turned into lost and found.

Received a call for a vehicle jump. I attempted the jump, but it was unsuccessful.

Residential unlock in Regina.

**Nov. 1**  
Was notified that keys had been found in Basile. I gave the keys to the info desk.

Call from administrator asking if we could help pick up

the Halloween signs stationed in the parking lots. I removed the signs and cleared garbage from the lots.

Received a call from a student asking to check out ping pong paddles. Later received a call to return the ping pong paddles.

Found McAuley penthouse door ajar. I secured the door.

Got a report of a foul smell coming from the bathrooms of empty rooms. Reported to rooms and flushed toilets. Informed resident assistant to contact facilities if the problem persists.

**Nov. 2**  
Faculty member called to request entry into admissions office. I complied with the request.

CRPD called inquiring about a student’s whereabouts. We attempted to contact the student with no success.

Athletics called to request access to the concessions room in Hennessy.

Student called with a request for a walk-up because they forgot their ID card and needed access.

Vandalism of first floor Andreas reported by facilities staff.

**Nov. 3**  
Noticed Hennessy door had been propped open to facilitate entry of athletes for morning practice.

A professor’s office door was found ajar. I secured the door.

Found McAuley terrace entrance rigged with a zip tie to keep it unlocked. I cut off the zip tie and secured the door.

Fifth floor McAuley door found ajar. I secured the door.

Student Services door propped. I secured the door.

**Nov. 4**  
Encountered a facilities employee who was unable to enter the mechanical room in Hennessy due to their key not working. Officer key did not work either.

# UNI punishes prof over masks

By Christine Bwanakweri  
staff writer

Steven O’Kane, a biology professor at the University of Northern Iowa, was pulled from his classroom and ordered to teach his subject online for the rest of the semester after instituting a mask mandate in his class. According to local news station WOI-DT, the professor told students that if they came to class without a mask, they wouldn’t get lab points that day, which violated the Iowa Board of Regents’ guidelines “prohibiting all public universities from requiring masks or vaccinations on campus.”

O’Kane had established a mask requirement in his class and threatened to drop pupils’ lab marks if they did not comply. “My pupils, not unexpectedly, now all wear masks since they know there will be consequences to their grades,” he said.

According to a disciplinary letter obtained by the Gazette, O’Kane, who has been at UNI for 26 years, will continue teaching his online courses this semester. “Going forward, you will be required to comply with all university and (Board of Regents) regulations, including all policies or directives governing masks or facial coverings,” wrote UNI’s Dean John Fritch, “failure to adhere to such regulations may result in additional disciplinary action, including termination.”

According to WOI-DT, O’Kane said of the decision, “it wasn’t a fight between myself and the UNI administration. My faculty chair, the president, the provost,

and the dean are all wonderful people. They are simply beautiful, charming individuals who have their hands bound.”

In a statement to Newsweek, the University of Northern Iowa said it is “truly dedicated to the health and safety of our campus community” and that students and employees are “encouraged” to get vaccinated and wear masks indoors; they cannot, however, compel anybody to do so, even in classes. (There are some exceptions, such as in a hospital procedure, location, or service, where masks are essential.)

Other instructors at his college, he told the Gazette, have enforced mask demands in their lectures as well, but he’s the only one who’s prepared to put his name out there publicly. Given his near-retirement status, O’Kane believes he can take those risks. He stated, “I’m only one, two, three years away from retiring.

“And even if I were to get fired, it would not be the end of the world.”

Despite O’Kane’s statement, UNI officials stated they had not received further reports or complaints about improper mask requirements in classes or on campus. However, the professor met with officials the day following the Gazette’s report to discuss the situation, and he stated that he was aware of the board’s and UNI’s regulations.

O’Kane said that if he had the chance to teach in person again, he would continue to need masks.

**Fall 2021 Hours:**

**Monday, 2:30 — 5 pm**  
**Tuesday, 12:30 — 5:30pm**  
**Wednesday, 2:30 — 5pm**



Staff Editorial: Opinion of the Times editors

# More than physical

Learn the warning signs to protect yourself from the problem of domestic violence, issue the Gabby Petito case raises

On Sept. 11, 22-year-old Gabby Petito went missing while on a cross-country road trip with her fiancée, Brian Laundrie. When he returned home without her, suspicions were raised. Weeks later, Petito’s body was found at a remote campground, and Laundrie disappeared. A month before Petito disappeared, a witness called 911 after seeing a physical altercation between Petito and Laundrie. The caller had driven past the pair and told the operator that “the gentleman was slapping the girl.” “Then we stopped,” the caller added, “they ran up and down the sidewalk. He proceeded to hit her, hopped in the car and they drove off.”

Petito’s case is not isolated. Hundreds of women go missing or are murdered each year, but do not receive the same coverage in the media. Most of these cases stem from intimate partner abuse. One in four women are victims of abuse and of these, college-aged women (between 18-24 years of age) have the highest per capita rate of intimate partner violence.

Intimate partner abuse is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over the other. Being a Catholic university that espouses the Sisters of Mercy critical concerns, we’d like to think Mount Mercy only attracts individuals who are like-minded in their treatment of others, particularly those closest to them. The sad truth is that abuse is sneaky and is found everywhere, regardless of socioeconomic status, religion, or education.

According to statistics from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the age bracket in which most abuse occurs encompasses our entire campus. How can you tell if abuse is occurring? Maybe you have a friend who gets nervous hanging out with mixed genders without their boyfriend because their boyfriend is “the jealous type.” While a little jealousy can be normal in romantic relationships, hearing this phrase warrants a pause and some reflection. Many people think the usual sign of abuse is bruising. But did you know there is a form of abuse just as prevalent, but not as visual? A common misconception of abuse is that it is strictly physical. Verbal and emotional abuse

are just as toxic, and because they do not leave physical marks, they are trickier to conceptualize. Here are some signs of emotional abuse:

- The abuser is manipulative and dismissive. Uses guilt trips, withdraws affection, ignores/excludes, makes you doubt yourself when you’ve done something they don’t like, makes fun of your achievements and dreams, says you are “too sensitive” or are “over-reacting” when you confront them.
- The abuser is hyper-critical or judgmental. Humiliates or puts you down in front of others under the guise of “just kidding,” uses sarcasm or jokes to make you feel bad about yourself, has an opinion on most things you do, gets upset if you don’t agree with them.
- The abuser is possessive/controlling. Separates you from family or friends under false pretenses-- says your friends are “a bad influence” or “they don’t understand you like I do.” Gets upset and “punishes” you for wanting to hang out without them. Monitors what you do/where you go, constantly texts to check up on you, blocks exits so you cannot leave, uses blackmail to maintain control, is extremely jealous, controls finances to keep you dependent on them, threatens to hurt themselves if you break up.
- The abuser calls names, is patronizing, uses condescending “pet names,” regularly explodes in anger or screams at you.
- The abuser does not take responsibility for actions. How they act is always someone else’s fault (e.g., “you made me mad”).
- The abuser crosses boundaries. Invades privacy and checks your texts and social media without permission.

Sometimes what makes abuse confusing to recognize is the behavior of the abuser following an incident. The abuser may show remorse for what they have done—cry, say things like, “I never meant to hurt you,” or “I won’t do it again.” The abuser may “love-bomb” their significant other with affection or gifts, casting doubt on the situation and causing the victim to question themselves, i.e., “maybe it’s my fault,” “I’m being too hard on them,” “they’re just having a bad day,” “they can’t help it,” or “they’re just young and immature, they’ll grow out of it.”

Relationships are sticky and when we’re close to someone, sometimes we don’t see things as they really are. It’s helpful to have an outsider’s perspective, which means keeping family or friends close. And if you think your friend may be a victim of abuse, don’t stay silent. Emotional scars are harder to see, but they’re there.

If you think you may be a victim of intimate partner abuse, call Waypoint’s domestic violence crisis line at 1-800-208-0388.



Red Delicious apples displayed in a local grocery store. (Times photo by Annie Barkalow)

Opinion, by Annie Barkalow, managing editor

## Rotten to the core: Red Delicious apples are a disgrace



There is a pervasive lie in this country that many of us unwittingly perpetuate—a form of false advertisement that we have become accessories to because of our quiet tolerance of it. Grocery stores sell the public this bold-faced lie openly and without shame. Unfortunately, I have seen this transgression on campus in our own cafeteria—an offense glaringly red, yet unobtrusive at the same time. That’s right—I’m talking about Red Delicious apples. This joyless pome fruit has been passing itself off as “delicious” for years, despite screaming evidence to the contrary. Tasting like a cross between a Styrofoam cup and sadness, it infiltrates every revered American institution. It shows up in gas station baskets next to bruised bananas, lurks in school cafeterias, plagues hospitals and prisons, speeds along the deaths of residents in nursing homes (I actually don’t know this, but it seems plausible), and occasionally shows up in Halloween treat bags. I’m sure it’s happened to you as a kid—you ring the doorbell, hold out your bag, give your toothiest grin ever and are rewarded (punished?) with a Red Delicious apple. It’s like getting a tract in your trick-or-treat bag, only worse, because you can throw away a tract without feeling guilty for wasting food. Is it a coincidence that these fruits are offered in places where people are at the mercy of the institution? I’m not the only one who has questioned the continued existence of the Red Delicious apple. A sanguine headline for the New York Times declared “The Long, Monstrous Reign of the Red Delicious Apple is Ending,” while the HuffPost bluntly explained “This is Why Red Delicious Apples Suck So Hard,” and Vice skipped the niceties altogether and spewed vitriol: “Red Delicious Apples Can Rot in Hell.” A family friend enthusiastically asserted that Red Delicious apples picked from an orchard were pretty

decent. I was skeptical until my daughter came home from a lark to the local orchard and brought some home with her, and...they actually weren’t that bad. I was kind of disappointed in being wrong. My gag reflex stayed gagged. So what gives with the commercial apples? To quote the HuffPost, why do they “suck so hard?” And why do we export billions each year? To better understand the present-day Red Delicious, it’s helpful to take a step back in time to its roots. In the 1870s, a farmer named Jesse Hiatt discovered a rogue tree growing in his orchard in Peru, Iowa (yes, our state has the wonderful distinction of being the birthplace of the Red Atrocity). After several unsuccessful attempts to cut it down, he let it grow, and discovered red apples streaked with gold. He sent some samples to a contest held by the Stark Brother’s nursery. When C.M. Stark bit into it, he said “My, that’s *delicious*.” And thus it got its name. Over time, the apple was cross-bred to get its attractive, red color, and cross-bred again for its tough skin, which helped prevent bruising and increased shelf life, and once more cross-bred to retain the dimpled bottom that made it easy to stack and transport, and so it went. Along the way, looks took precedence over taste, and the unfortunate grocer experiment produced a pretty, but crappy apple. To quote Dr. Ian Malcolm from Jurassic Park, “Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn’t stop to think if they should.” So, there you have it. The Red Delicious apple’s long evolution to notoriety started innocently enough. With its long shelf life and cheap exportation, it’s the go-to apple for places that need fresh fruit but also need to stay on a budget. The apple left over from Halloween that’s still on your counter doesn’t need to go to waste—Christmas is coming up, and I hear Red Delicious Apples make great ornaments on holiday wreathes.

Opinion, by Jada Veasey, editor in chief

## John Deere strike reminds us of the importance of unions



My hometown is Rock Island, Illinois. It’s one of the four (or five, or six, depending on who you ask) cities that make up the region known as the Quad Cities that straddles the Illinois and Iowa border of the Mississippi River. For many people, the words “Quad Cities” are synonymous with “John Deere.” John Deere has made national headlines in recent weeks as workers have gone on strike to protest their contracts. The striking workers belong to the United Auto Workers (UAW) union, and they are operators of the machines Deere uses to build its tractors and farm equipment. The strike began on Oct. 14, after the union and Deere failed to

negotiate a contract. The contract Deere proposed was rejected, with workers citing unfair work schedules and lack of appropriate wage increase. The strike is still going on. Union employees at 14 of Deere’s company facilities have been picketing. They are receiving strike pay from the UAW and Deere is sending in scab workers--workers willing to cross a picket line for financial compensation--to construct its machinery.

Whether you agree with the specific demands of the workers or you don’t, you have to admit that the strike is an impressive thing to watch happen in real time. I remember being in high school and reading about the picket lines and looking at grainy black and white photos of workers from the 1800s and early 1900s. It is interesting to see it all go down in my own hometown. Both of my parents work in public education and work right

alongside union teachers. That fact, combined with the fact that I grew up in an area so full of John Deere employees (including, before his retirement, my own grandfather), means that I smile when I pass a yard displaying a sign that reads “proud union home.” I think there is strength in numbers, and that unions really do protect the rights of workers. The strike at John Deere serves as a reminder that unions are still important today, even though there are people who believe they are things of the past. UAW members working for Deere are far from the only people striking these days. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified and worsened labor condi-

tions; workers are expected to work longer hours to compensate for reduced staff and are often not compensated appropriately. West Coast members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) union have been on strike since Oct. 18. Nurses’ unions across the nation have staged strikes and walkouts to protest unsafe working conditions in recent months. As the pandemic rages on and life shows no real signs of stopping, workers are discovering that they have power. And I commend them for the work they’re doing.

**Whether you agree with the specific demands of the workers or you don’t, you have to admit that the strike is an impressive thing to watch happen in real time.**



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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.

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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

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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: mmutimes.org

Email: times@mtmercy.edu



# Halloween on the Hill brings joy to kids and students



Members of Mount Mercy’s SGA pose in the UC while dressed as the Scooby Doo Mystery Gang (right). A group of people from the community have SGA president Scooby Doo Lantz take their picture (above). (Times photos by Jada Veasey).



Children streamed into the University Center on the evening of Friday, Oct. 29, to go trick or treating and make crafts at each club’s table.

Members of each club dressed up in costumes, such as pirates, witches, and Batman, and handed out candy to young members of the community that were also dressed up for Halloween. I decided to dress as a magical slime fairy, as SGA class of 2025 decided to allow children to make their very own slime.

Community members also dressed up as clever and adorable characters. I saw parents who dressed as farmers and put their toddler in a chick costume, mermaids, Spiderman, sharks, and countless other outfits.

For over an hour, my table was swamped with kids of all ages wanting to make slime. Different colors of food coloring allowed kids to make the slime whatever color they wanted, many of them deciding to match their outfits. Although slime is interesting to play with, it can be quite messy, so my group was ready with paper towels and plastic bags to clean and contain the slime.

In previous years, children went

trick or treating in the halls of the dorms, but due to safety precautions the event was held in the UC. Condensing the event showed just how many people came through to experience the music, pumpkin painting, slime, costumes, and candy. I heard children squealing with delight when they saw their favorite candy or character, as they bobbed from table to table.

The UC became relatively loud and chaotic with so many children running everywhere, but everyone I saw was smiling with excitement or contentment. As an added bonus, there was no rule against students snacking on the candy, so many people including myself maintained a sugar high from chocolate and fruity candies, adding to the energy in the atmosphere.

Following the table trick or treating, a movie was held in Donnelly 300, as it was too cold for an outdoor movie. At 9 p.m., a horror movie was played for Mount Mercy students to celebrate Halloween.

As a freshman, this was my first experience with Halloween on the Hill, and I plan to participate every year from now on. It was more fun and rewarding than I ever expected.

***In previous years, children went trick or treating in the halls of the dorms, but due to safety precautions the event was held in the UC. Condensing the event showed just how many people came through to experience the music, pumpkin painting, slime, costumes, and candy***

Review by Annie Barkalow, managing editor

# Netflix’s MAID explores struggles of single motherhood



Netflix’s new series MAID is an unflinching look at a single mother’s struggle for independence while battling poverty.

Based on the memoir by Stephanie Land, MAID follows introverted, no-frills Alex Russell (Margaret Qualley) as a single mom struggling to find stable housing and employment after leaving her abusive, alcoholic boyfriend Sean (Nick Robinson). The series starts with the anxiety-riddled scene of Alex sneaking out of Sean’s trailer in the middle of the night with their two-year-old daughter, Maddy (Rylea Neveah Whittet).

Alex, who is restarting her life with nothing, navigates the frustrating world of bureaucracy and all the red tape that goes with government assistance.

There’s a darkly humorous scene in which a social worker is explaining how to qualify for subsidized housing. Alex needs a check stub for proof of employment to qualify, which means she needs a job, but she can’t work unless her daughter has access to daycare. The good news is that grants are available for daycare, but it requires proof of employment. “I need a job to prove that

I need daycare in order to get a job? What kind of f---y is that?” she demands.

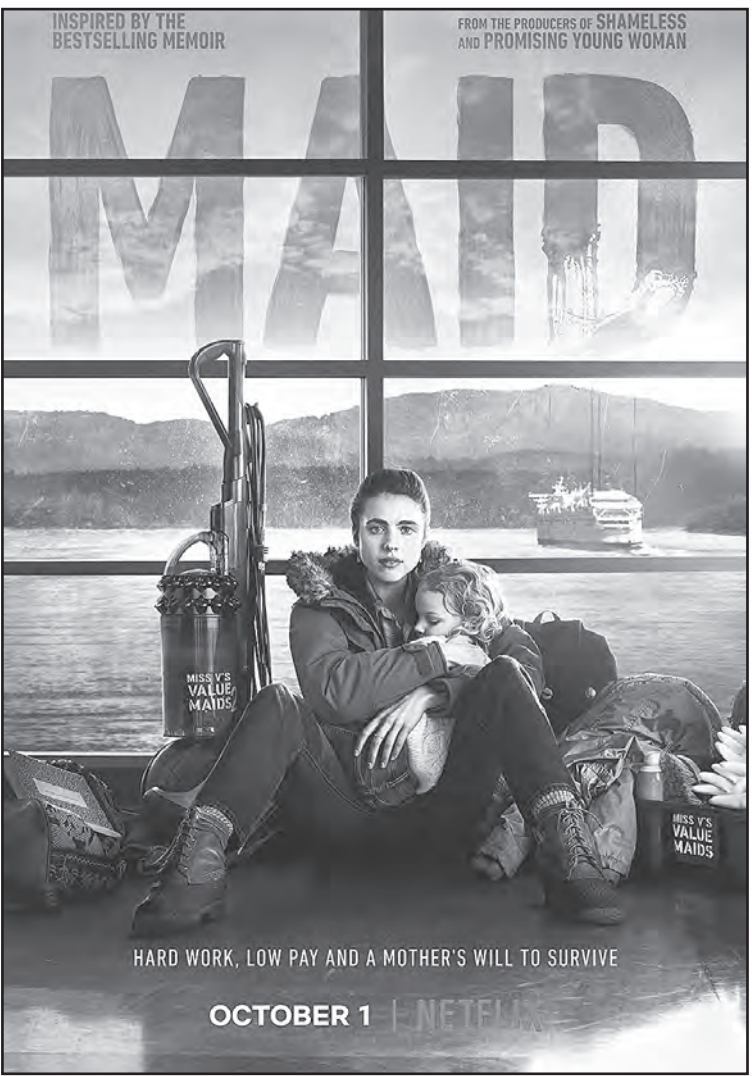
As it turns out, Alex can find sanctuary in a domestic abuse shelter, but needs proof that abuse happened. This means going on record by calling the police, which the social worker offers to do. “And say what?” Alex asks, “that he didn’t hit me?” Part of what’s so brilliant about this series is that it shines a spotlight on the hard truth many abuse victims suffer: while a black eye can be documented and photographed, the emotional scars are harder to see.

Her bipolar, bohemian artist mother (played by Andie MacDowell, who is Qualley’s mom in real life) is charismatic and free-spirited, but flaky. With a camping trailer to call home and a revolving door of boyfriends, she offers Alex no stability. Her father (Billy Burke) is an ex-alcoholic-turned-Christian with a new family and acts as a mentor to Sean, sympathizing with him, which is why Alex can’t trust him: her own dad turns a blind eye to what’s going on. A particularly poignant moment that shows how alone she is is when she lines up Maddy’s My Little Ponies on

a table and talks to them about Sean, as though talking to a therapist.

Alex gets a job with Value Maids and takes on the hard task of scrubbing the toilets of well-fed butts. She daydreams what it would be like to sip chardonnay and wear cashmere sweaters as she vacuums wealthy customers’ homes. As she works, she is inspired to start writing about her job and the types of homes and people she comes across. You find out that before things went downhill for her, Alex was accepted on scholarship to study creative writing at a university in Missoula.

There’s an undercurrent of urgency as she lives day-to-day, never knowing what will come next. There are many tender moments though: going for walks with Maddy, snuggling after a long day at work, jumping in puddles. You can see that Maddy drives Alex to do better. There are even soft moments with Sean—Alex has flashbacks of Sean helping her mom when she was on a bender, cooking her dinner, encouraging her. You can see why she is sometimes conflicted in her thoughts about him, a kind of cognitive dissonance between his Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personalities. And when she shuffles from place to place with a toddler, never knowing when they will eat next or where they will sleep, it’s easy to see why going back to her



abuser stays Plan B.

MAID is not a depressing movie. It’s filled with day-to-day hope—a small sliver of sunlight battling the darkness, but battling, nevertheless. No matter if

she goes three steps backward, Alex keeps moving forward, striving to break the cycle of poverty and abuse, and you can’t help but cheer for her.

Faith on the Hill by Vanessa Milliman, columnist

# Mustangs should aim to be more saintlike



In the Catholic Church, November is the month celebrating the saints. Before the Church officially declares someone a saint, two miracles with the person’s intercession have to be approved. This does not limit them from already being in heaven, it gives us the assurance that they are with God.

Blessed Carlo Acutis is on his way to sainthood. There has been one confirmed miracle from his intercession. He was born in 1991 and lived in Milan, Italy. He died from leukemia at the age of 15.

Acutis had a big heart for his fellow students, especially those with disabilities. He was not afraid to defend them from bullying. When students’ parents were going through a divorce, he invited his fellow students

over to his house for a break from the stress. He showed his care through these ordinary acts.

Throughout his short life, he loved computers and taught himself coding and how to build websites. He combined this hobby with his love for Christ in the Eucharist. He built websites for local churches and started a project of his own. He built a website that documented Eucharistic miracles from around the world. Although his parents were not especially devout, Acutis would frequently pray before Jesus in the tabernacle at his parish church. He said, “The more we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven.”

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian faith. It is central to our spiritual lives. Instituted at the Last Supper, the Eucharist contains the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus. The Eucharist is a beautiful gift to humanity. Jesus is giving a gift of himself, and we are united to him in the most intimate way. Through the Eucharist, Jesus promises to never leave us and to always fulfill our needs.

This campus does a great job of coming together as a community. My hope for us all is to become a community whose focus is our love for Christ. Acutis said, “If we go out in the sun, we get a suntan ...but when we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints.” Let us follow Acutis’ example and become saints through a deep relationship with Christ in the Eucharist, our true source and summit.

***The Eucharist is a beautiful gift to humanity. Jesus is giving a gift of himself, and we are united to him in the most intimate way. Through the Eucharist, Jesus promises to never leave us and to always fulfill our needs.***

# Flashback

## Memories from the MMU Times

**20 years ago, Nov. 15, 2001**

At either end of the Billboard top 10 pop albums are Michael Jackson’s “Invincible,” and the “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” soundtrack. Monica Schmidt says that ““Disney’s Monster’s Inc.” is an excellent family film, but it doesn’t reach the bar that “Shrek,” has set.”

**Ten years ago, Nov. 16, 2011**

The drama club’s performance of “Scapino,” is called “a great experience,” that offers audiences “many laughs and memorable lines,” in a review by Jennifer Koehnighan, campus editor.

**Five years ago, Nov. 3, 2016**

The Donnelly chemistry labs and the McAuley Penthouse are being renovated. Dr. Joe Nguyen, associate professor of chemistry, says the remodel of the former “brings tremendous benefits for the chemistry major.”



# NAIA not requiring vaccine

By Casey Ray  
staff writer

With 2020 being a year filled with COVID-19, the Black Lives Matter Movement, and the presidential election, one corollary in the latter half of 2020 was the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine has caused controversy among everyone in the nation. People on both sides of the line have tried to convince the other side that it is either worth or not worth getting it.

Joe Biden is mandating that federal workers get the vaccine. Following Biden's mandate, many private sector businesses are requiring their employees to get the vaccine or be terminated. As of now, Mount Mercy, according to its COVID-19 vaccine page on its website, highly encourages employees and students to get the vaccine, but is not requiring them to do so. So, what about the organization that Mount Mercy is associated with, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)?

Jason Furler, Mount Mercy sports information director and athletic facility manager, works closely with all the teams and makes sure stats are up to date after each game. Furler's job is also to enforce the policies put in place by the NAIA, the Heart of America Conference, and Mount Mercy to all student athletes and coaches.

NAIA is not requiring vaccines for student athletes. According to Furler, "NAIA has given universities the autonomy to make this decision as does our conference in determining the safety we put in place." Furler does not believe NAIA will change its policy. The NAIA, according to its website, oversees 250 schools across the country and 21 conferences. With 77,000 student athletes, NAIA has to make sure all 250 schools follow protocols and policies.

To help combat new variants of COVID-19, the CDC has recently approved the vaccine for children ages five to 11. For more information on COVID-19 and vaccines, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.



The Mount Mercy women's basketball team lost their home game against St. Ambrose University on Nov. 6, taking the Mustangs' record to 0-3. (Times photos by Jada Veasey)

## 'Stangs succumb to the sting of the Bees

### Women's basketball falls in home matchup against St. Ambrose

By Jada Veasey  
editor in chief

Though the Mount Mercy women's basketball team fought hard in their matchup against St. Ambrose University on Nov. 6 in Hennessy Recreation Center, the Mustangs were ultimately unable to secure a win.

The Mustangs gave the St. Ambrose Bees a run for their money but fell behind from the very beginning. At the end of the first quarter, the Mustangs were down seven points with a score of 19-12. The end of the first half found the Mustangs still losing, this time by a bigger margin of ten points, with a score of 33-23.

After regrouping at halftime, the Mustangs looked like they may have a fighting chance. The halftime break clearly inspired the Mustangs, and they came

out of the gate with an increased level of ferocity. The level of aggression and drive for both teams became clear in the second half as the Bees and the Mustangs both saw more offensive fouls in the third quarter. Suddenly the gameplay seemed like an intense game of cat and mouse, with turnovers occurring frequently. The end of the third quarter still saw the Bees on top with a score of 53-40.

The fourth quarter saw the Mustangs slide even further down the score board, and in the end, the Bees reigned victorious with a score of 76-59.

The game's result came down the Bees outperforming the Mustangs offensively, performing well with both their outside jump shots and their work inside the paint. The Mustangs had to shake up their defensive strategy a couple times, switching it up between a man-to-man defense

and a 1-2-2 zone as they hustled to keep up with the Bees. Though the Mustangs didn't manage to win, the team's potential is there.

Three Mustangs posted individual scores in the double digits. Sammy Mia, junior, Sassy Coleman, junior, and Madison Dreckman, sophomore, scored ten points apiece. Dreckman also led the Mustangs in total rebounds, with seven.

Dreckman, sophomore forward, kept her head up despite the Mustangs' loss. "I think the effort is there, the energy is there," said Dreckman. "We have new people, young people, and returners. I think we believe in each other enough to work it out."

The loss puts Mount Mercy's record at 0-3.

# Dual athlete says communication and hard work are key



Lotte van Malsen poses with a basketball and the flag of her home country, the Netherlands. Van Malsen is a two sport athlete who plays both basketball and soccer for MMU. (Contributed image by Dan Kampf)

By Grace Ries  
staff writer

It takes a strong mentality to play a sport in college while juggling classes and school-work. But can you imagine someone doing not one but, two sports in college? One individual who has been doing this a few years is Lotte van Malsen, a senior from the Netherlands. Van Malsen is a part of the women's soccer team and the women's basketball team.

"It is super hard to do both sports while keeping up with school. I think a lot of people don't realize I actually do both since they aren't at the same time. But in order to be able to do it, you need to work hard and make sure you communicate well with teachers and listen to your body," van Malsen said.

Van Malsen has played basketball since she was around 10 years old. However, she only started playing soccer in August 2020.

"In my idea it all started as a kind of joke which got out of hand. Amir Hadzic, head coach of men's soccer at Mount Mercy and international coordinator for recruitment, asked me to play because my country is famous for soccer. So, I told them I would if I could," van Malsen said.

Her contribution to the teams is admired by both of her coaches: Alen Kudumovic, head coach of the women's soccer team, and Tim Schuring, head coach of the women's basketball team.

"Lotte is a great young lady and a great teammate. The energy she brings to our program is second to none. She's just an awesome young lady to be around!" Schuring said. Schuring went on to say how big

of a commitment it is to do such a thing and how it can help you be organized in the long run.

"It takes great commitment, mental resolve, physical endurance, and excellent time management to be a multi-sport athlete at any institution of higher learning. There are so many factors involved in being a multi-sport athlete, it really depends on the individual athlete themselves. It's doable, but really, really, difficult," Schuring said.

Van Malsen enjoys her time with her teammates on both teams equally and works hard to keep herself in the right mindset to keep everything in control.

"If you are ever thinking about being a multi-sport athlete, know that it takes discipline, hard work, willpower, hyperactivity and determination. But, if it is for something you're passionate about, do it—because if I can, you can," she said.

## Sports in Short

### Women's basketball loses away games

The Mount Mercy women's basketball suffered two losses on the road. The first game saw the Mustangs lose to the St. Ambrose University Bees 70-56, and the second saw the Mustangs lose 68-56 at Vitebro University in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

### Men's basketball finds success

The Mount Mercy men's basketball team found its way to two victories. The Mustangs won big in their home opener on Oct. 30, beating Marantha Baptist 106-62. The Mustangs won again on the road, beating Iowa Wesleyan 87-63.

### Men's cross-country finishes 7<sup>th</sup>

The Mount Mercy men's cross-country team finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams in the Heart of America championships on Nov. 6 in Cedar Rapids. Chase Kress, senior, led the Mustangs by placing 23<sup>rd</sup> individually.

### Huhndorf places 2<sup>nd</sup> for women's cross-country

The Mount Mercy women's cross-country team placed fourth out of 14 teams in the Heart of America championships on Nov. 6 in Cedar Rapids. Mustang Kelsi Huhndorf, junior, led the team and placed second individually.

### Women's soccer suffers defeat

The Mount Mercy women's soccer team fought hard on Oct. 30 in their match away at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois, but ultimately lost 5-0.

### Women's volleyball loses away games

The Mount Mercy women's volleyball team took two losses in a row on the road. They played at MidAmerica Nazarene on Oct. 29 and lost 3-2. The next day they played away at Park University and lost 3-0.

## Women's bowling sweeps podium

By Casey Ray  
staff writer

It's no secret that Mount Mercy's women's bowling team had a great season last year, despite a shortened schedule due to COVID-19, finishing number one in the nation. This year, they are hoping to keep first place going into sectionals.

The Five Season Classic is the Mustangs' home tournament, with the men competing at May City Bowl and the women competing at Cedar Rapids Bowling Center. Ayra Nur Jehan Aminuddin, senior, leads the

women's bowling team. So far, the team has placed in the top three. At the tournament this year, the varsity women took third place, while the junior varsity women took first and second place. Aminuddin's favorite part of the tournament was walking onto the approach with her teammates and with head coach Richard Diercks and his wife, Makala.

Junior varsity bowler Megan Kitzmiller also bowled in the Classic. Kitzmiller, a junior, started the weekend struggling to figure out the lanes, but came back on Sunday to help the junior varsity team finish strong at the event. Her favorite part

of the event was in match play, coming down to who would get first and second places. It was a battle of the two junior varsity Mustang teams. In the end, it came down to one pin.

"In the end, it was fun because we were on the same pair and got to cheer each other on!" Kitzmiller recalled.

The next tournament for the women's bowling team is the Leatherneck Classic in the Quad Cities on Nov. 13 and 14.

## Men's bowling climbs to 3rd place

By Ayra Aminuddin  
staff writer

The Mount Mercy men's bowling team finished as a runner-up at the sixth Five Seasons Classic that was held at May City Bowl in Cedar Rapids on Oct. 30 and 31.

The team climbed to the third spot after finishing fifth on the first day to make the top four cuts going into match play in the varsity bracket.

"The most challenging part was the lanes played so different from practice, we thought we had a good idea of what was going on. We soon found out that we needed to make some big changes after day one and we had the best scores in the build-

ing on the second day," said Jared Durant, senior.

St. Ambrose University lead the qualifying with 8,281, Lindenwood was in second with 7,919, Mount Mercy University was third with 7,789 and William Penn University ranked fourth with 7,786 total pin-falls.

The Mustang men won 2-0 in the semifinals bracket against Lindenwood University, to go against Saint Ambrose University in the final match. They lost to St. Ambrose University 2-0.

"We learned from our mistakes and gained a ton of experience for the rest of the season. I truly believe this team is something special because we are not defined by our

successes, but rather our ability to bounce back after failure," said Kai Yamada, sophomore.

All-Tournament Team was given to the top five bowlers from the first day. Dakota Salonka and Zach Greim of St. Ambrose finished first and second. Troy Owens from Lindenwood University finished third, Jayson Miner of William Penn University fourth, and Brendan Holl of Clarke University ranked fifth.

The next team tournament the Mustangs will compete in will be the Leatherneck Classic in the Quad Cities on Nov. 13 and 14.





**Andrew Lorig** smiles in the Academic Center for Excellence. Lorig is employed as a writing and content tutor in the Academic Ceter for Excellence, in addition to many on and off campus commitments. (Times photo by Jada Veasey).

# A Man of Many Talents

Mount Mercy junior shines as an artist and an athlete

By **Jada Veasey**  
editor in chief

Student athletes are often dismissed as ‘just’ being student athletes. Some people forget that they are interesting, awesome, multi-layered people. Andrew Lorig, junior and member of Mount Mercy’s track team, is certainly a student athlete, but is also much more than that.

Lorig came to Mount Mercy after graduating from high school in Pearl City, Illinois. He settled on Mount Mercy after visiting several other colleges. Lorig found himself drawn to Mount Mercy’s chemistry program, and was particularly dazzled by Dr. Kristopher Keuseman, associate professor of chemistry. “I thought, ‘this guy is awesome,’ and now he’s my professor and mentor,” said Lorig.

Lorig wasted no time getting involved on campus. In addition to running track, he sings in the show choir, serves as the treasurer

of Science Club, and recently joined the campus improv group, Begging for Mercy, by accident. “We had a show choir practice and I lingered afterwards,” said Lorig. “It turned into an improv meeting, and now I’m in it.”

Show choir and improv are not where Lorig’s creative pursuits end. He has also played guitar since the age of 15, after taking inspiration from his father. “My dad wanted to be like

the Mount Mercy jazz band. In addition to his academic, creative, and athletic pursuits, Lorig also manages to juggle employment. He works in the Academic Center for Excellence on campus as a writing tutor and as a chemistry content tutor. Off campus, he works as a barback at a local restaurant.

Of course, his sport is a big part of Lorig’s life as well. He runs mainly 200-meter and 400-meter races. Due to a head and neck injury he sustained in his freshman year, Lorig has yet to compete as a Mustang. He had

two surgeries to repair the injury, the second which happened in May 2020. “This will be my first year competing, I’m excited,” said Lorig.

Lorig is a shining example that Mustangs can have it all. You can be involved in academics, athletics, music, and more, and still make it all work.

## SNAPSHOT

Meet the people  
on The Hill  
**Andrew Lorig**

Bob Dylan when he was younger,” said Lorig. “He recorded two albums!” Though Lorig hasn’t recorded an album of his own, he has performed locally at open mic nights, some of them at Brewhemia, a Newbo coffee shop popular among students at Mount Mercy. He also contributes his guitar talents to

**“We had a show choir practice and I lingered afterwards. It turned into an improv meeting, and now I’m in it.”**

**Andrew Lorig, junior, on joining improv**

SGA Notes by **Zoey Paone**, SGA PR director

# SGA is looking for new members



In an effort to increase SGA’s following on Instagram in order to keep students current on all its happenings, SGA held an Instagram contest. The contest encouraged students to follow our page and “like” a prompted post to receive a clue and instructions in their direct messages. The provided clue led students to various places around campus where they would find a prize and maybe even learn of a new place they have not yet visited. Students could then post their prize and tag SGA to be entered into a drawing for a Mount Mercy swag bundle.

This contest was very beneficial for SGA and for students, since we gained many new followers and had great participation in the event. Thank you to all students who participated! If you missed this contest, follow our Instagram @mountmercysga to stay up to date on any future contests and events!

Our SGA term is quickly coming to a close. With this, we are looking for new executive and cabinet members for the 2022 calendar year. Executive applications were sent out on Nov. 3 by Nate Klein, SGA advisor and vice president for student success, so check your email for the

application and details about the election.

Applications will be due at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 12. Please keep in mind that there are eligibility requirements for executive officers. However, if you do not qualify for an executive position, we encourage you to keep an eye out for other SGA positions that will become available. Executive officer elections will run from Monday, Nov. 15 until Friday, Nov. 19. For any questions regarding the application process, please email sga@mtmercy.edu or Emma Lantz, current president, at elantz2660@mtmercy.edu

# MMU Alum wins city council seat

Mayoral runoff election also set for end of month

By **Greg Suthers**  
staff writer

Dale Todd, Mount Mercy University alum, won Linn County’s District 3 City Council election with 63% of the 4,809 votes during the election on Nov. 2.

The Linn County District 3 City Council election was one of the two contested races for city council, the only other one being the Cedar Rapids mayoral race which went into a runoff. Todd was this position’s incumbent, meaning he had previously held this position in the recent term and was running for reelection. He was able to keep his seat by winning the election with 3,008 votes to 1,760 against the new runner Tamara Marcus.

Dale Todd’s position is a

four-year term that pays \$19,420 a year and starts on Jan. 1, 2022. According to the campaign disclosure reports from the Linn County website, Todd had the most fundraising of the district council candidates with \$38,817.31 which helped him win his reelection.

Todd graduated from MMU with an undergraduate in criminal justice and political science after formerly attending Coe College in 1974.

The other contested race was the Cedar Rapids mayoral race had four candidates and went into a runoff as it requires majority votes while the highest candidate, Tiffany O’Donnell had 42% of votes. The other candidate in the runoff voting is Amara Andrews, who surpassed Brad

Hart by only 24 votes. Currently there is no set date that the runoff election will take place. Since the second and third place were so close, they can call for a recount until Nov. 10. If there is a recount, the Linn County Auditor Joel Miller cannot print ballots for the runoff until the recount is completed, which will delay the runoff election.

Brad Hart, the incumbent of this race, was the third-place finisher with only 24 votes behind Amara. Hart did not call for a recount. The longer the wait for the runoff election, the lower voter turnout is expected. For this election it was at 28%, about half of the turnout received during the presidential election. The runoff election will take place on Nov. 30.

# Heard on the Hill

What people are saying on topics of interest

By **Brianna Huegel**, staff writer

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. With the holiday coming up, the Times asked Mustangs: Who do you think you need to say “thank you” to this Thanksgiving and why?



**Grace Ries**, sophomore, public relations major

“Probably my mom, because she has motivated me to work hard for myself and my own happiness. She just helps me with everything I do on the daily and makes sure I am okay.”



**Jzonei Jones**, sophomore, criminal justice major

“I would probably say my parents, specifically my dad. He is the one that always checks in on me during the semester to make sure I am doing OK.”



**Olivia Conrad**, freshman, nursing major

“I would say my parents because they have been very supportive of me.”



**Dominic McCain**, freshman, business major

“I would say my friends and family because they are always there for me. They always reach out and make sure I am OK.”



**Bryan Young**, freshman, finance major

“My teammates because my captain asked me to.”



**Kaleb Hagge**, senior, marketing and sports psychology major

“I would say my friends, my family, my teammates, and my professors. They are supporting me through everything and college.”