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Research Symposium Gives Students Chance to Present their Ideas

Erin Fralick
Staff Writer

Get ready for a meeting of the minds because Manchester University's annual research symposium will be held on April 29. Students from all areas of study and from any year are welcomed and encouraged to submit their research to the Student Research Symposium Committee.

The symposium is also open to students from both the North Manchester campus and the Ft. Wayne Campus. The research abstracts are due on Mar. 4, and the poster PDFs will be due on April 1 as are submissions for the writing award. Keynote selection will take place the week of March 26. Students who submit their work for the oral presentation will be notified via email the week of March 28 whether they have been accepted. The symposium will be from 3 to 6:30 p.m. in the Jo Young Switzer Center.

There will be one keynote speaker, who will present his or her research for the entire university community and families of the other presenters. Christer Watson, associate professor of physics and the chair of the Student Research Symposium Committee, says that the committee looks for high-quality research that can be clear and interesting to a broad audience. Mike Martynowicz, professor of education and member of the Student Research Symposium Committee, says that he looks for a keynote speaker who can speak about their own experiences and what they've learned.

The rest of the research will be presented either through posters or through an oral presentation. The oral presentations will last for 15 minutes each with 3 minutes for questions and answers, and the posters will be put up in the Jo Young Switzer Center for about an hour. Martynowicz says the major thing he looks for in an oral presentation is whether the work can lead to more research, but it doesn't hurt for the work to be thorough and something the student is passionate about.

SEE SYMPOSIUM, PAGE 2

MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS, MAXIMUM MOTIVATION

Stratton Smith
Staff Writer

Egypt welcomed two different Manchester University January Session classes, as a communication studies class and a religious studies class embarked on a journey through the Middle Eastern country. The Language & Thought class was led by Professor Mary Lahman, as Justin Lasser simultaneously led his Rethinking God students through Egypt this January.

"We learned Korzybski's formula for happiness: minimum expectations, maximum motivation," Lahman said. "Throughout the trip, that philosophy played out every day. Minimum expectations doesn't mean low expectations, but it means when I arrive, I'll take in everything that is happening."

Though religious and communication studies are looked at as two completely different fields of study, Lasser felt that they were not so different. "One of my favorite psychoanalysts says, 'to speak is to believe in God.' So communication and religious studies complement each other very well," he said.

Manchester's contingent experienced Egyptian culture beyond the typical tourist sites. "The students got to have a real look at poverty," Lasser said. "Real, true poverty."

And Felicia Grossman took note. "What primarily stood out to me was the poor living conditions, such as the litter we saw all over the streets and in (and around) all the bodies of water," said this Manchester '14 graduate, who chaperoned the trip. "It was very sad and very run down."

Sophomore Hannah Brown, a peace studies major from Yellow Spring, Ohio, was "culturally shocked" by the new environment.



Photo by Justin Lasser

SPHYNX THINX Professor Justin Lasser holds a January Session class before the famous Egyptian landmark.

"The trip definitely gave me a new understanding of how entitled we are in the States," she said. "Egypt is a very poor country and some people had so little, yet were so grateful for what they did have."

Lahman and Lasser planned a full schedule for their students. "We had really busy days," Lahman said. "Sometimes we were up at 5 and not in bed until 10."

One such day consisted of a visit to a Nubian village, an Egyptian region along the Nile, which was a highlight of the trip for both Grossman and Brown. "We rode camels in a Nubian Village where we learned how to spell our names in their language and then we went inside a Nubian home," Grossman said. "We learned more

about the Nubian culture and history."

Brown agreed. "It was so interesting to see how a Nubian family lived," she said. "They served us traditional Nubian snacks and drinks. We got to see and hold their pet crocodile. Some of us even got henna tattoos."

This was Lasser's third trip to Egypt, but he found that the culture had changed from his first two visits. "Egypt is different now that the Muslim Brotherhood isn't in charge, so it's a bit more conservative than before," he said. "For instance, women are (to be) more covered (in Egypt), especially in Cairo."

Safety in the Middle East was a concern for some family

members. "With everything going on right now in the United State), a lot of people were really nervous about me going to that part of the world," Grossman said, "but I felt safe the entire time and I'm so glad I went."

This was another change since Lasser's last trip. "There is a lot more security in Egypt, because they want people to feel safe," he said. "We never had one issue with regard to safety."

Brown has only fond memories. "Everyone was so welcoming and excited to see and meet tourists," she said. "Many people asked to take pictures with us, and welcomed us so warmly to their

SEE EGYPT, PAGE 2



Photo by Stratton Smith

SLEEPY SELFIE Junior Stratton Smith with hypnotist chrisjones.

Hypnotist Returns

Aaron Lloyd
Staff Writer

Are you feeling sleepy? Were you feeling sleepy last Friday when hypnotist Chris Jones performed on campus? Known professionally as chrisjones, this hypnotist made his Spartan debut at Welcome Week last year but returned on January 29 to bring some entertainment to the spring semester. He succeeded in not only making the audience laugh but also getting some of the participants to regret being hypnotized.

chrisjones is one of the hottest young hypnotists around now, but it wasn't always easy work for the Chicago native. He started his career by doing stand-up comedy at bars and weddings, while he double majored in psychology and sociology in college as an undergraduate.

While in graduate school studying Therapeutic Recreation, he learned all he could about hypnosis and began to work to perfect

this craft. He did so by living on a college campus for seven years and performed different tricks on students around him each night. Now he does it for a living.

chrisjones started his show by giving the entire audience a hypnotic suggestion. He told them to make a fist with their right hand and to hold their left hand out, palm up. He asked everyone to imagine they were holding helium filled balloons in their closed hand and bricks in their open hand. Without them even noticing, the balloons raised one hand and the bricks lowered the other hand.

He then asked for male and female volunteers who wanted to be hypnotized to come onstage. He made them relax and those who could be hypnotized, were hypnotized into forgetting their names.

Later on in the show, Jones made the volunteers dance--as if they were at prom--with either a partner on stage or a random audience member.

SEE HYPNOTIST, PAGE 2

Drumroll, Please!

Meet Manchester's newest psychology professor

Sarah Farnam
Staff Writer

After trading in his drumsticks for a neuroscience PhD, Assistant Professor David Johnson is the newest addition to Manchester University's psychology faculty.

Johnson began teaching at Manchester in fall 2015 and is currently teaching four different courses. The most notable parts of his experience thus far have been both the campus and the community. "I feel very fortunate to be able to spend most of my waking hours thinking about and discussing the science of human psychology with interesting and thoughtful students and colleagues," he says.

However, he did not always know that he would end up working as a psychology professor. Right out of high school, Johnson began working as a professional musician. For about 15 years, he had the opportunity to tour around the world with various musicians and to record in New York City studios. "It can be grueling," he says, "but it's a great way to see the world. I have nothing but the best memories of those times."

Johnson stumbled into the world of psychology thanks to a freak dishwashing accident, which severed a tendon in his wrist. With his ability to play drums now limited, he picked up a book called *How the Mind Works*, by Steven Pinker. "This was my first introduction to the world of cognitive psychology," he says. "I loved it from first sight." He then shifted his focus from music to psychology. Though he is now retired from the music industry, he still gets together with friends from time to time to play.

Once Johnson discovered psychology, it was an easy decision to continue his studies. "I'm fascinated by the complex beauty of the brain and mind and never tire of studying it," he says. He completed his undergraduate program in psychology at New York University. Then, after managing a research lab at Harvard University, he earned his PhD in neuroscience at Weill

Cornell Medical College, which is located in New York City as well.

Having spent most of his life in the Big Apple, Johnson is still getting accustomed to the small-town lifestyle in North Manchester. "It's nice to live in a place where I always know how long it's going to take to get from point A to point B,"



Professor David Johnson

he says, noting that the answer is generally about five minutes.

Currently, Johnson is working on creating a research lab at Manchester, and is, as he says, looking forward to getting students involved in the research.

Johnson's students are important to him, which is why it troubles him to hear them discussing their stress and anxiety over the thought of failure, especially when it comes to grades. While he recognizes the importance of a high GPA, he advises students to focus on other facets of the college experience as well. "College is a great time to explore new interests, to take chances, and to find out what you're really capable of," he says. "Sure, try to keep the GPA up, but don't play it too safe!"

To learn more about Johnson and his studies, you can visit his personal webpage, <http://davidcharlesjohnson.com>.

Griffith Explores New Position

Zach Newcomer
Staff Writer

This past winter, Head Coach Shannon Griffith stepped down from the helm of Manchester football, after finishing 5-4, to take over a different position on campus. Griffith moved from the field to the Administration Building, where he is now the director of development for the University, with a primary concern of raising funds for Manchester. "The transition is going great!" Griffith said. "I'm getting acclimated and establishing a new routine and the best part is that this position allowed me to stay here at Manchester."

"The decision to move was mine," Griffith continued. "I have invested 12 years here and wanted to stay. I value what President McFadden is doing with the institution, which is moving Manchester forward on many fronts." Griffith will now be able to connect on a more personal level with alumni and donors and can work with them to help fund upcoming projects. He will work alongside Melanie Harmon, vice president for Advancement.

The new position shares similarities with coaching, which caught Griffith's eye when he was deciding to pursue a new career. "Finding an avenue to connect with people," he explained, "is no different than trying to connect with an 18-year-old kid when recruiting for football." This former play caller will be able to focus on all raising funds for all Spartan athletics and not just football, which was a big part in his decision to move to the Development office.

Projects that Griffith is working on include the Chinworth Center, a new stadium, an indoor sports complex and several updates to current buildings on campus. "The new sport facilities are still in the idea stage, while the Chinworth Center is more broad based," Griffith said.

Outside of work, Griffith



Director of development Shannon Griffith

will watch his son Isaac play his final two years at Indiana University for the football team. "I missed the past couple seasons due to coaching on Saturdays," Griffith said. His son suffered a season-ending ACL injury this past season, but looks to be in the mix for a wide-receiver spot this upcoming fall for the Hoosiers. Griffith will also spend time with his wife Kim, aside from traveling with her to their son's games.

Accumulating a 40-79 career record, Griffith led the Spartans for 12 seasons, while earning the 2012 Heartland Collegiate Coach of the Year award. The Black and Gold finished .500 or better in 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2015, while capturing HCAC runner-up finishes in 2009 and 2012. Further, 26 of the current offensive records were established under his guidance.

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"Traveling abroad in general always makes me realize how good we have it in the United States," she said. Grossman had traveled previously to Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Portugal and the Czech Republic, but never to the Middle East. "The trip definitely changed my perception of the Middle East and of Muslims in a positive way."

Lahman's experience was positive as well. "Even though I had

minimum expectations for Egypt, it seriously exceeded them, because we explored each place we visited," she said.

Lasser and Lahman were both all smiles when talking about the students they taught on the trip. "We had an amazing group," Lahman said. "Even our tour guide called us 'habibis,' which means sweethearts."

To commemorate their trip, Lasser and Lahman plan to co-author a paper that combines

their fields, employing the aforementioned Korzybski (Lahman) as well as the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan (Lasser). "It will be looking at language and its ability to create things that don't exist, such as the essence of your soul," Lasser said.

SYMPOSIUM, FROM PAGE 1

He also says that he considers whether the student took a risk, while he is evaluating the results and the design of the research.

Both Watson and Martynowicz offered advice for students planning doing research projects in the future. Both suggested that students work with a faculty mentor. Watson says that a mentor can help students learn the tools they need

to master in their subject and help them learn what they are expected to do. He also says that topics can come from anywhere whether it's work done abroad, in class, or over the summer. Martynowicz suggests that students start early so that they have more time to let their research develop. He also suggests that students look into branching out and connecting seemingly unrelated fields with interdisciplinary research.

HYPNOTIST, FROM PAGE 1

At first they slow-danced, and then the dancing got more freestyle when he switched up the song to something faster paced. After that, he had them break into groups, male and female, and each group tried to demonstrate how the other sex danced.

While the volunteers were split into their groups, Chrisjones moved into the next skit, Family Feud. He would ask the "players" questions and they would answer with absurd responses. Chrisjones would then tell them where that answer landed on the board in terms of how funny the response was.

As Chrisjones had spoken about how people often tell him how much he resembles the rapper Drake, it was only right for him to include that element in his show. For his finale he made the hypnotized people on stage believe that he was the famous rapper and that they were at his concert. He sang one of Drake's songs and danced

to it while the "concert goers" bounced all around him, snapping pictures with him and hugging him.

Storm Shortt, a first-year sports management and marketing major from Laporte, Ind., had a good time at the event. "Coming into the show, I was afraid it'd be too much like the other hypnotist we had, but he blew me away and I didn't want the show to end," he said. "He was very likable and funny and I cannot wait for him to come back!"

Shortt was not the only first-year student who had a strong reaction to Chrisjones' show, as classmates Emma Clark and Leah Spain both also enjoyed the performance. Clark, a first-year English and art education major from Whiteland, Ind., actually attempted to become hypnotized by Jones, but the power of suggestion could not take hold of her.

"He was kind to me when I did not get hypnotized on stage," Clark said. "It was great when he allowed me and the other kid to be

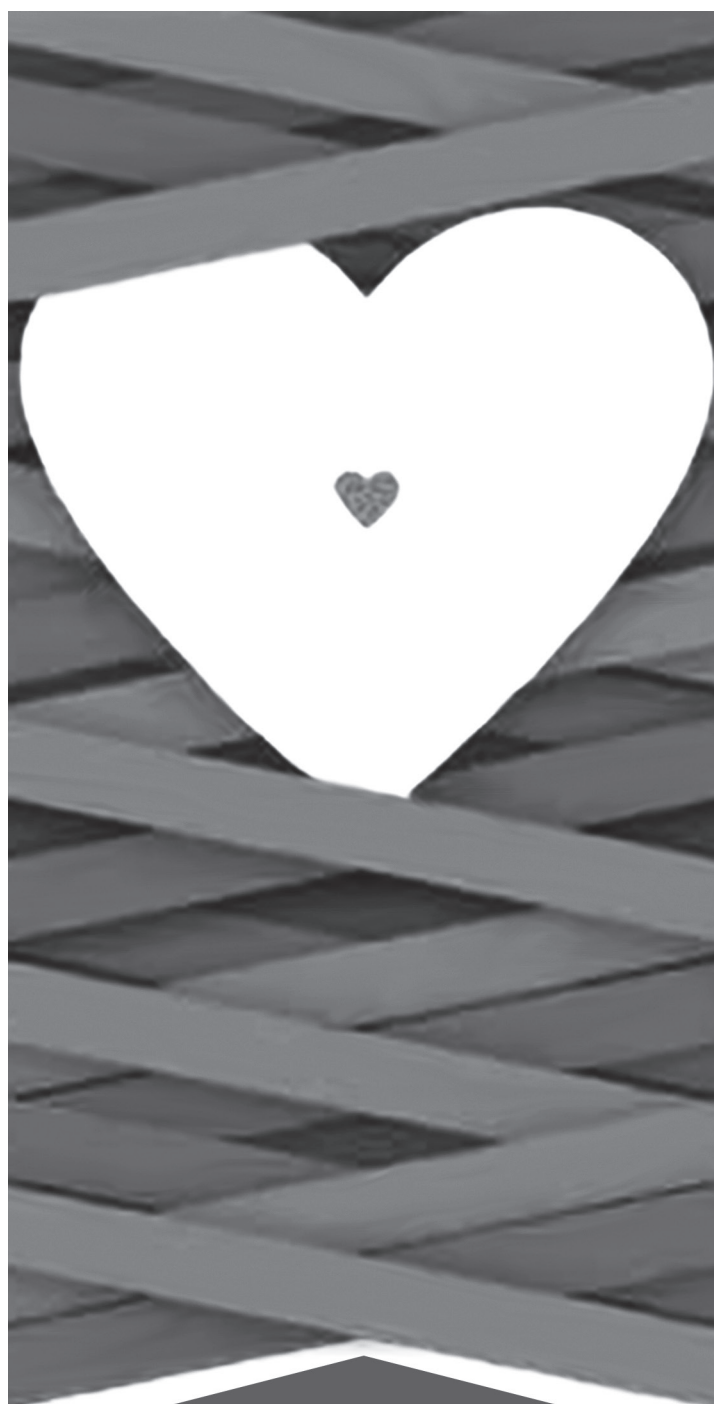
Last year's keynote speaker Rachel Ulrich, sociology major in the class of 2015, who presented "Peace-Making Embodied: Dance as a Connecting Thread Weaving Senegalese Ethnicities." Her presentation explored the role that dance played in promoting peace among different ethnicities. Ulrich's faculty advisor was Dr. Abigail Fuller, associate professor of sociology

a part of the show instead of just instantly sending us back to our seats after the hypnosis didn't work on us."

Spain, a first-year biology-chemistry major from Dayton, Ohio, said that the show was one of the best that she has ever been to. "He was not only good at the hypnosis aspect of the show, but he was also funny and not your ordinary hypnotist, which kept me on the edge of my seat for the entire show," she said.

Whether Chrisjones was making people think that they're zombies ready to feast on the audience in front of them, making them think that they're political figures, or making them bite the shoulder of an audience member, he always did so in a humorous way that made the audience fall out of their seats from laughing so much.

"What was so great about the show was that Chrisjones really seemed to absolutely love what he did, which made the show so much more enjoyable," Shortt said.



Happy
Valentine's
Day

From The Oak Leaves



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New Transportation Available from Campus

Karen Kanyike
Staff Writer

Although North Manchester is a small town, it can feel large to students because it does not have a reliable public transportation system. How do students without their own vehicles find their way around the town and areas beyond? How can these students gain access to grocery stores and restaurants?

The answer was “by foot or bicycle”—until now.

The Office of Admissions recently created the Spartan Shuttle service to help solve the issue of transportation. Shanon Fawbush, director of Student Activities and Orientation is responsible for coordinating this program.

“The Spartan Shuttle service is a free transportation service for MU students,” Fawbush said. “[It was implemented] to assist and serve students on campus that do not have access to their own mode of transportation although it is also available to students that do have their own vehicles.”

The Office of Admissions introduced a pilot program in fall 2015 and eight students took advantage of it. The program provided transportation to places such as CVS Pharmacy, Casey’s, New Market, Dollar Store, and restaurants like McDonald’s and El Mezquite. “This semester we are offering many more trips to a wider variety of locations,” Fawbush said. “Hopefully the response will be positive.” Walmart in Huntington, Glenbrook Mall in Fort Wayne and Panda Express in Warsaw are some of the new locations that have been added to the transportation schedule.

“I admire the fact that Manchester provides such a service to its students,” said Darlene Melvin, a first-year secondary education major from Fort Wayne, Indiana. It’s great to know that I won’t always be at a loss if I don’t have a car on campus.

“Furthermore,” Melvin continued, “carpooling in general saves money and reduces the amount of pollution that multiple cars would produce in the same trip, which is a big plus. I think if more people knew about/utilized

All departures below are from the Jo Young Switzer Center parking lot.

Walmart, Huntington

Feb. 22; March 7, 28; April 11, 25;
May 2

Depart 5 p.m.; Leave Walmart 7 p.m.

Glenbrook Mall, Fort Wayne

Feb. 12; March 11

Depart 5 p.m.; Leave Mall 9 p.m.

Jefferson Pointe, Fort Wayne

April 16

Depart 2 p.m.; Leave Mall 7 p.m.

Buffalo Wild Wings, Warsaw

Sunday, Feb. 14, 28; March 20

Depart 5 p.m.

Applebee’s, Huntington

Feb. 21; March 6

Depart 5 p.m.

Panda Express, Warsaw

Sunday, March 13; April 3

Depart 5 p.m.

Culver’s, Wabash

Sunday, April 17

Depart 5 p.m.

Hacienda, Warsaw

Sunday, April 24; May 8

Depart 5 p.m.

the Spartan Shuttle service, trips to the mall would be more like a field trip than a chore.” Melvin is a Resident Assistant for East Hall and is planning to use this service to take her residents to Glenbrook Mall today.


Jiwoo Park, a sophomore psychology major from Irvine, California, appreciates the convenience of Spartan Shuttle. “I like this program because it makes it easier for me to travel,” she said. “It’s especially useful for international students, [most of whom] do not have cars.” During the fall semester of her first year, she walked with a friend of hers to McDonald’s and it took them one and a half hours to get there.

Anthea Ayebase, a first year biology-chemistry major from Kampala, Uganda, agreed that the shuttle benefits international students who have no way to bring a vehicle to campus.

Fawbush now takes on the task of preparing a transportation schedule that features the various locations, travel dates and times. The travel dates were determined based on student feedback from a recent survey. In order to participate in the program, students need to sign up prior to each trip by sending an email to Fawbush at slfawbush@manchester.edu. “It is a work in progress and I am very open to feedback,” she said.



**Disclaimer: this is an artistic interpretation of the MU shuttle service.



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Women Shoot for Playoffs

Keith Berry
Staff Writer

The Manchester women's basketball team has been fighting for its playoff spot for the last couple of weeks and it is almost there. Determination, discipline and teamwork are needed to get a spot in the Heartland Collegiate Conference Tournament as the last games in the regular season begin to take place.

The Spartans have not seemed like themselves this season compared to previous seasons. Despite the struggle, the Spartans are one game out of a 3-way tie for 6th place with Hanover College and Defiance College in conference play. The Spartans, who are 6-15 overall, 4-10 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC), have lost their last four games to Franklin College (14-7 overall, 10-4 HCAC), Mount Saint Joseph University (7-14 overall, 6-8 HCAC),

Bluffton University (19-2 overall, 12-2 HCAC) and Hanover College (9-12 overall, 5-9 HCAC).

Their most recent loss was to Hanover Panthers (9-12 overall, 5-9 HCAC) losing 71-59 despite a second half comeback. The Spartans were down 23 points at the half and closed the gap to 11 points with 3 minutes left in the fourth quarter. Senior Justine Kruger (Francesville, Ind.), led the way with 14 points and 6 rebounds. Junior Jennifer Lee added 11 points while freshman Beth Schaefer had a MU career high effort of 10 points and 9 rebounds. The Spartans rank 7th after a 6th place tie between Hanover and Defiance. They will face off against the Yellow Jackets on Feb. 17.

Sophomore Torrie Christlieb (Culver, Ind.) is the team's leading rebounder, snatching 6.0 rebounds per game, and she voiced her opinion about the team's season. "We all need to reflect and re-



Photos by Savannah Riley

WALKING ON AIR Sophomore Katie Byers gains control of the ball.

visit the goals we set as a team at the beginning of the season," she said. "Our coach is really good at setting goals for the team and telling us what we need to do for us to win. We just have to do it."

What was the difference for her between this season and last season? "We lost five seniors from last season who made a difference for us," Christlieb said. "Their experience and efforts produced a lot for us."

Injuries have also taken a

toll on the team just like most teams at this part of the season. "We are not all 100 percent," Christlieb noted. "We're also hurting from the loss of our starting point guard and captain Kelcey Daughtery." Daughtery (Greenwood, Ind.), a senior, is out for the rest of the season due to a knee injury.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, Senior Night, the Spartans will host the Rose-Hulman Engineers at 3:00. The seniors will play their last home game at Stauffer Wolfe Arena.



Coach Nate Jensen

Familiar Face Becomes New Football Coach

Kody Smith
Staff Writer

A familiar face to the Manchester University Spartans football program is returning to campus in a big way during the 2016 season. Nate Jensen, who coached under former head coach Shannon Griffith from 2004-2008, was named the 15th head coach in the program's history.

"We had 80-100 applicants for the head coaching vacancy," said Director of Athletics Rick Espeset. "We narrowed it down to three potential candidates, and Nate was obviously one of them. Even though we knew him the best, Jensen, overall, was the best candidate to lead our program moving forward due to his coaching experience."

Jensen was a former student-athlete at Defiance College, serving as the starting defensive end for three seasons. Following graduation, he served five years on the Spartans coaching staff. "Coach Griffith gave me my first opportunity in the coaching ranks," Jensen said. "He has always been a great mentor throughout my whole entire coaching career. It is a big honor to take over for him."

Jensen returned to Defiance College as the defensive coordinator with the Yellow Jackets in 2009. The Spartans' conference rival saw great success with Jensen on the coaching staff, ranking second place in the HCAC in scoring defense during the 2009 and 2010 seasons. Following a three-year stint with his alma mater, Jensen moved on to the defensive coordinator role at Alma College in Michigan, where he coached for four years.

The new head coach has taken no time while acclimating back into the culture of Manchester University, as well as developing relationships with his players. Jensen also wants to integrate his player into the MU in the wider sense. "One of my goals is to build a community atmosphere through the team," he said. "The football team is showing up at basketball games to support their fellow student-athletes."

Jensen chose Manchester to begin his coaching career in 2004, and immediately built relationships with coaches and staff on campus. His goal for the Spartans this season is to grow the football program as a school-wide phenomenon that gains the Manchester community's interest. "I want to create a culture through the team that not only do the players want to get behind, but the student body as well," Jensen said. "It is a huge asset for any college campus for the athletic programs to be tied together with the rest of the University."

Jensen and his wife, Missy, a former soccer player for the Spartans, are excited to return to the school that they each once called home. "The only reason I left Manchester in the first place was due to an opportunity to move up in the coaching ranks," Jensen said. "This place is pretty special, and, to me, it is an honor to return as the head coach of the Spartans."



LONG ARM Sophomore Samantha Bolen outreaches her competition.

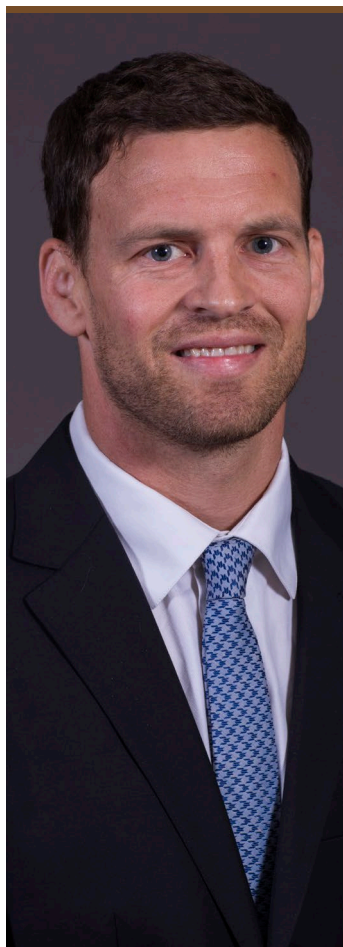
Coach Lake Brings Flavor to MU Wrestling

Kody Smith
Staff Writer

It's a fight with rules with a little art thrown into it; that's how head coach Kevin Lake describes the sport of wrestling that he loves so very much.

Lake took ownership of the Spartan Wrestling in October 2015 and has lifted the program off the ground since his arrival, but this is not Lake's first time stepping foot inside the PERC on MU grounds.

"What brought me back to Manchester was the fact that I have been here before and that I wrestled here," he said. "Manchester just means so much to me because I was an athlete here. It means a lot to my family: my father went here, and my sister went here, so my Manchester roosts are pretty deep."



Coach Kevin Lake

Lake brings his own flavor to Spartan wrestling; indeed, one of the biggest things his wrestlers can take away from his coaching is the ability to be successful not just on the mats but within the classroom as well. It's a standard that Lake has created for his athletes: he wants them to help build a culture of excellence at Manchester.

Lake had a successful career wrestling collegiately for the Spartans before he graduated in May 1998. He went on to earn a MA in Sport Administration from Central Michigan University in December 2004, but always thought of Manchester as home.

"To have the opportunity to come back to your alma-mater and lead the program you were a part of is just a really special opportunity," he said.

It has been a season full of ups and downs for the Spartans, but Lake has seen a lot more good moments than bad. "The hardest part is the half way point because everyone is tired," said Raekwon Gathright (South Bend, Ind.), a first-year athletic training major. "If you ask any of the wrestlers they will say coach Lake has made us all better. We all have an aspect of wrestling."

One of Lake's most memorable moments was how senior heavyweight Dustin Kult stepped up as a leader after announcing that he would not return to the mats for his final season after a football-related injury. "It takes a pretty special person to do that," Lake said. "One thing I will remember this year is Dustin, and what he has done for this team."

Gathright thinks that Lake has got the wrestling program off to a good start. "He knows what to expect from his athletes," he said. "Coach pushes us all to work harder. In the sport of wrestling you will always be uncomfortable, and He has taught us to stay strong and to learn with being uncomfortable because in wrestling you always will be that way."



HUDDLE UP The men's basketball team gets a pep talk before the game.

Men's basketball suffers loss; Looks ahead to end of season

Caitlin Doyle
Staff Writer

A chilly start to the spring semester brings a couple of losses for Manchester men's basketball. The team has an overall record of 10 wins and 11 losses. Of the 14 conference games that they have played so far, they have won seven and lost seven (7-7). These are fairly even win-lose ratios that show how hard the Spartans fought throughout every game.

Since the end of fall semester, men's basketball has had 13 games. Of these, only six had final scores resulting in losses. The game on Feb 3, at Bluffton, was fairly evenly matched. Both teams had the same overall record, but Bluffton's conference record had been slightly worse. Their record was 5-8 after their win. The first half of the game ended with scores of 38-42 in favor of the Bluffton Beavers, the second half showed the Beavers running away with that lead to an ending score of 92. The Spartans fought hard, but after shrinking the lead early in the second half, they could only manage to score a total of 71 points for the game.

The game on Feb 6 at Hanover also resulted in a loss for the Spartans. This game, however, had more even scoring across both halves. The Spartans were behind in the first half by four points and managed score only one point less than Hanover in the second half. Hanover

won the game with a final score of 78-73. This game was close until the end and showed how equally matched Hanover and Manchester are this season.

The rest of the season is made of three more conference games. Senior physical education major Matthew Brown said that this may be the toughest part of their schedule, but that they "are ready to make the moves necessary" in order to win those games. "We [the team] hope to finish within the top six and play in a conference tournament ring," he said.

The others on the team think this scenario is still possible. "We try to take it one game at a time," said Junior Anthony Wright-Lake. "We know if we take care of our home games and play with energy and confidence on the road, then we will have a great chance to win these last three games." Both Brown and Wright-Lake agree that the team will have to improve how they have been playing for these last few games. The team just needs to push through and end on a good note for the season.

The season is quickly drawing to a close and the last three games are all for conference standing. Tomorrow there is one home game left for this season: On Saturday, February 13, the men's basketball team will close out the regular season against Rose-Hulman.