

MU Community Comes Together in Celebration of Culture, Diversity at International Fair

Avis McGovern
Staff Writer

Manchester University celebrated its biennial International Fair from 12-4 p.m. on Sun., April 15, in the Physical Education and Recreation Center.

The International Fair was put on by the Intercultural Center and promoted by Michael Dixon, MU director of Intercultural Services, who served as chair of the event. "Our office is always looking to spread awareness of diversity on campus and the International Fair is an opportunity for the students to discover and celebrate the various cultures we have here on campus, Dixon said. "It also gives the community outside of campus a look into our diversity."

The event featured booths that served food, displayed clothing and offered information about different cultures. MU is home to students from 20 different nations. Students were also given \$5 in tickets that they could purchase food with at the event.

Zander Willoughby, a senior who works in the Intercultural Center Office, volunteered at the event. "The International Fair



Photo by Hermela Mebrahtu

From left to right: Dagmawit Alemu, Elias Abdu, Tobechukwu Nwaelugo and Naomi Yilma. Front: Epherata Molla.

represents Manchester's commitment to diversity, a global view of the world and how so much of the Manchester experience is having fun and learning at the same time!" he said.

"It is a great opportunity for both international and domestic student alike," he continued. "For international students, it's an

opportunity to share their foods and culture. For domestic students, it's an opportunity to learn from the amazing cultural resources we have on campus."

Victor Banks, a first-year student, said: "It was great to be able to see my peers express a part of themselves that they do not get to do daily on campus. The fair really

allowed me to discover the cultures that are present on campus and gave me an opportunity to learn about different foods and heritages."

The International Fair is not put together overnight. "Planning for the International Fair begins months before the event," Willoughby said. "So many people

are involved, in the end, it becomes more than just an Office of Multicultural Affairs event, but truly a Manchester community event. My favorite part this year was managing the kitchen over the weekend. I got to help cook food from Albania, Palestine, Haiti, Ethiopia and more!"

Tammy Baker, assistant director of Intercultural Services said: "I was honored to have a small part in it this year." She continued: "The biggest challenge with doing the International Fair was getting volunteers. We spent three days total to set up for the International Fair. The volunteers cooked food Friday and Saturday.

There were even a few surprises. "Saturday we decorated the gym only to find some of the balloons that we aired up had fallen to the ground," Baker said. "Luckily, we had time on Sunday to fix that and do a run through before opening the doors."

Students will be able to explore more about the various cultures on campus by checking out the new Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center that is going to be up and running next fall while they wait for the next International Fair in April of 2020.



Photo by Maraki Shigzaw

Glodie Lubiba serves a traditional dish from the Congo, a country in central Africa.



Photo by Hermela Mebrahtu

Some participants of the International Fair with many flags to represent the many cultures that MU students originate from.



Photo by Maraki Shigzaw

Arpan Paul and friends serve an Indian meal of Paul's choice.



Photo by Maraki Shigzaw

Dr. Elton Skendaj with Fotini Kristuli.



Critic's Corner: A Review of 'Spring Awakening'

OPINION

Evan Harris
Staff Writer

"Spring Awakening" was a must-see for fans of plays with teenage drama, or just musicals in general. If you hate reviews and spoilers, however, you might want to turn the page immediately.

Composed by German playwright Frank Wedekind in 1891, "Spring Awakening" was reimagined as a rock musical in 2006 by Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik. As presented by MU's talented cast, "Spring Awakening" was a dramatic comedy that had its audience full of laughter one minute and tearing up the next.

Director Kira Lace Hawkins and assistant director Hannah Wales took the audience on an emotional roller coaster throughout the two-hour musical. With its sensitive subject matter such as homosexuality, abortions, open conversations about sex, religion, teen pregnancy, sexual abuse and how these issues are still relevant today, the musical did not shy away from what could be difficult dialogues; rather, it presented them as crucial.

I attended opening night on April 13, and I was confused at first by the fact that the play was performed backstage at Cordier Auditorium. Once backstage, I noted that the scenery (the stage) was nicely set up, and that the different

colored lights and music, directed by Dr. Debra Lynn, added more of an atmospheric effect. The energy in the crowd before the show was very positive; everyone seemed excited to see what will unfold (not to mention, it was a full house). The energy from all the cast members and musicians was exuberant; it almost made you feel as if you were right in the middle of the action (and the late 19th century, too).

The singing from the cast was phenomenal, but Clayton Marcum (Melchior) and Addie Nether (Wendla) were the stars of the night, with their bold "romantic" scene atop a platform on center stage. Several of the older audience members covered their faces, seemingly in shock and surprise, as the scene played out.

I also cannot forget Moritz Stiefel, played by Jake Svay, whose already dysfunctional life takes a turn for the worst as he spirals down the road of misery and unfortunately commits suicide. Finally, no one can forget the jaw-dropping scene where Hanschen (Anthony Vega) shared a passionate moment with Ernst (Quinn L'Heureux) on a quiet evening, leading to a kiss ... or a few.

Despite its innocent title, "Spring Awakening" dealt with serious, sometimes socially progressive, sometimes troubling scenarios. It treated each issue with care, and the performers dazzled the audience with their acting and musical skills.

Speaker Explores the Topic of Gender Identity at VIA

Teresa Masteller
Staff Writer

Dr. Kand McQueen presented "Gender Identity: Two Are Definitely Not Enough" as part of Manchester University's Values, Ideas and the Arts (VIA) series at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 12 in the upper level of the Jo Young Switzer Center.

McQueen, a senior lecturer at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, discussed western society's view on gender—gender is either male or female, and everyone can easily be put into these two categories. But, as McQueen said, "It just isn't quite that simple."

McQueen explained transgenderism as "a blanket term that refers to people who either permanently or periodically do not identify with the sex they are assigned at birth." He further explained many terms that fall under this blanket term, such as cross-dressers, drag kings/queens, genderqueer, transsexual and intersex individuals.

In order to convey how the world has been unkind to intersex people, he used the "micropenis" as an example.

"This is a condition characterized as 2.5 standard deviations below the average phallus when stretched at birth," McQueen said. Up until the early 2000s, he said, the standard medical corrective procedure was to "amputate the penis and raise the child as a girl."



Photo by William Southern

Dr. Kand McQueen presented the VIA focused on gender identity on April 12.

Alternately, McQueen remarked that 2.5 standard deviations above the average would likely be no problem, a fact that critiques the dichotomous and unequal areas of gender.

McQueen noted the discrimination toward transgender individuals Tyra Hunter and Robert Eads, whose deaths were caused after they were refused medical attention because they did not fit the gender binary. "Historically the world has not been kind to transgender people," McQueen said. "Quite literally, Tyra was the casualty of our dichotomous ways of looking at gender and sexuality."

After explaining the historical look at gender in western society, McQueen told of his own story of his struggle with gender

identity. When at age 3 he told his mother that he wanted to be a boy, her response—to dress him in frilly clothes and throw away his "boy" toys—sent him into denial. McQueen was 40 years old when his denial finally came crashing down, but he eventually recovered that childhood memory. He shared vulnerable pictures from his past, including one of him looking uncomfortable in a prom dress, in order to tell his true story, and how he was made to be somebody that he isn't.

McQueen ended the presentation by telling the audience to focus on the good. His final PowerPoint slide read "This is your world, don't be afraid to change it. This world is big enough for all of us."



STUDENT CONCERNS COLUMN

Executive Board Announcement!

Your Student Senate has a new e-board for 2018-2019 school year. Student Senate has also added a new position to the e-board. We added a historian to help Student Senate clubs keep records of past events, meetings, and etc. Below are the new members of Student Senate Executive Board! Tell them congratulations when you see them!

- President: Gabby Anglin
- Vice President: Carson Fort
- Treasurer: Tabby Lanning
- Secretary: Victoria Hupp
- Historian: Alex Downard

Have a student concern?

Send an email to tawooding2018@manchester.edu or contact one of your senators.

Alley Encourages Students to Get Involved on Campus

Kaity Collins
Staff Writer

Samantha Alley is on the Avenue—604 East College Avenue—as she becomes Manchester's new Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development. A Manchester graduate from 2011, Alley has already been working at the university since 2016 as an admissions counselor. "This is where I wanted to be," Alley said. "It's a very accepting place; it's like home."

Being a part of the MAC (Manchester Activities Center) team, Alley is happy to encourage students to get involved with any events taking place on campus. "I think they're an excellent group of students," she said. "We try to do a variety of events to pique a lot of students' interests."

Upcoming events are already in the works, with one more in April and three in May to wrap up the spring semester.

"We try to do events that will hit a good range of students," Alley said.

Today, April 20, a MAC on the Mall event, in collaboration

with Spartan Choices, will take place with various games and activities, including soccer darts, nine-square, spike ball, rock climbing and water pong. The event starts at 5 p.m. and lasts until 9 p.m.

The annual May Day events will take place the first weekend in May. That Thursday features a bonfire, starting at 8:08 p.m. On Friday, May 4, the trike race kicks off at 5 p.m., followed by air band at 9 p.m. Saturday, May 5, offers the popular MU mud volleyball competition to wrap up May Day weekend at 10 a.m., lasting most of the day.

In addition to working with MAC, Alley also encourages students to pay a visit to the SAC (Student Activity Center), located in the basement of Calvin Ulrey.

"I am always trying to get more people to the SAC," Alley said. "It's a place where people can come and hang out." This space is complete with comfy couches and chairs, a pool table, poster board and paper for any project, and much more. Many clubs have meetings in the SAC, but Alley encourages everyone to take advantage of the commodities: "It's open for all



Photo courtesy of MU Marketing

Samantha Alley, director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development.

students any time," she said.

Alley is a part of other projects and activities, as well. "I'm always involved in the Inter-Mural Program and am hiring for all positions," Alley said cheerfully. "Any student inputs are welcome."

Alley is excited to once again be a part of Manchester University, and wants everyone to remember that she's ready to listen and, as she says. She's here to help.



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Photo by Caraline Fearheller

Members of MAC welcomed alumna Sam Alley '11 as the new Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development in the SAC. As Alley's office is located there, she hopes to encourage more people to visit the basement of Calvin Ulrey.





Photo by Maraki Shigzaw

Students celebrate their hard work at the annual International Fair.



Photo by Hermela Mehbratu

A booth at the International Fair advertises a progressive view toward refugees.



Photo by Maraki Shigzaw

MU welcomed members from the Fort Wayne Chinese Family and Friends Association at this year's International Fair. The women performed multiple traditional dances in representation of their culture.



Photo by Hermela Mehbratu

Epherata Molla, Dagmawit Alemu, Tobechukwu Nwaelugo and Sambo Amaza with flags.



Photo by Hermela Mehbratu

Accompanying the Fort Wayne Chinese Family and Friends Association was a traditional Chinese dragon, similar to those used in the traditional Chinese dragon dance.



Photo by Hermela Mehbratu

Several students began a parade of flags last Sunday, April 15.



Students!

Do you need help in a class or with a paper? Do you like free stuff?

For the remainder of the semester, all students who attend study tables or the Writing Center will be entered in a weekly drawing for prizes.

The Writing Center Hours are:
Monday – Thursday: 9 am – 10 pm
Friday: 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday: 5 pm – 10 pm



SPARTAN SPORTS

Spartan Track and Field Squads Impress at Little State Championships

Kody Smith
Freelance Writer

Sophomore Hannah Wappes continued her successful second-year as a member of MU's track and field program, securing the title of Athlete of the Meet honors at DePauw University on Saturday, April 14. The efforts of Wappes, combined with strong performances from field participants, led to a second place finish for the women's team.

For the second time during the 2018 outdoor season, Wappes won the 800 and 1500 meter events. In the 800-meter contest, Wappes crossed the finish line after 2:19.76, which was first in the HCAC, and a time of 4:58.62 in the 1500-meter run.

On the field side of the Little State Championships at DePauw, senior Jacey Cauhorn stood atop of the discus standings, hurling a distance of 123 feet and five inches in route to a first place finish in the category. Cauhorn also impressed in the shotput, tossing a distance of 38 feet, 6.75 inches to take a second place finish. A mark of 151 feet, 11 inches launched senior Kara Breuckman to a first place finish in the hammer throw. Sophomore Austin Jones impressed

with a hammer distance of 144 feet, nine inches to secure second place in the contest. Cauhorn concluded the Spartan sweep of the top three positions of the hammer throw, launching a distance of 141 feet, seven inches to secure third place. Senior Paige Keller rounded out the solid afternoon for the field squad, secured a runner-up spot in the pole vault, as her second place finish was capped off by a throw surpassing 10 feet, eight inches.

On the men's side, senior Harrison Hollis had a first place finish in his grasps in the 100-meter dash, clocking in a time of 10.83 seconds. The time broke the record in the category at Blackstock Stadium, but his new record was short-lived, as five-hundredths of a second separated him and the first-place winner, securing a second-place finish for Hollis in the 100. Hollis returned later in the afternoon to the 200-meter contest, finishing third with a time of 22.19 seconds.

72 points in the field events led the Spartans to a fourth place finish as a team, including a second place finish for freshman Landon Balch in the high jump. The first-year member of the track and field team surpassed a career best jump, clearing six feet, two inches. Senior Drew Foster concluded the



Photo provided

Senior sprinter Paige Keller runs at the 2018 HCAC Indoor Track and Field Championship.

hammer throw with a fifth place finish, launching the hammer a distance of 144 feet, four inches to round out the fourth place team finish.

The final pre-conference outdoor meet of the season will take

place tomorrow, Saturday, April 21, as the Spartans will travel to Ohio Northern University to participate in the Polar Bear Invitational.

Track & Field

April

- 21 @ Ohio Northern
- 27 @ Heartland
- 28 @ Heartland

May

- 4 @ Billy Hayes Invitational
- 10 @ North Central
- 11 @ North Central
- 16 @ North Central
- 17 @ North Central
- 24 vs. 2018 NCAA Championships
- 25 vs. NCAA
- 26 vs. NCAA



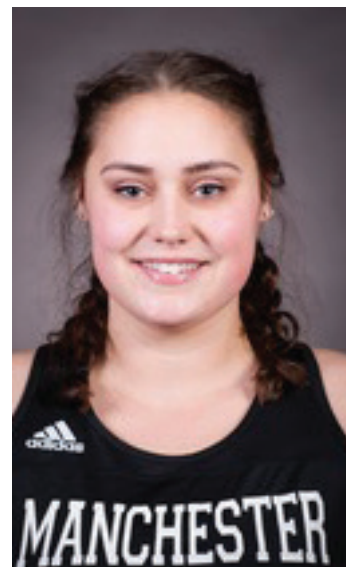
Hannah Wappes



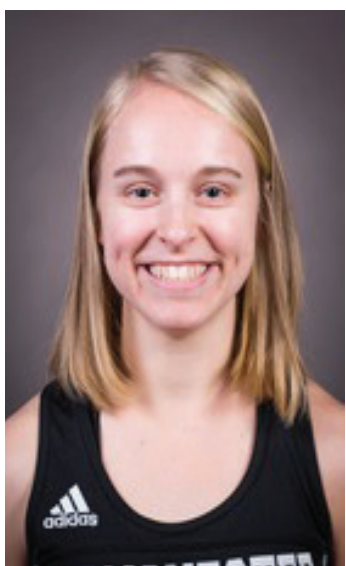
Jacey Cauhorn



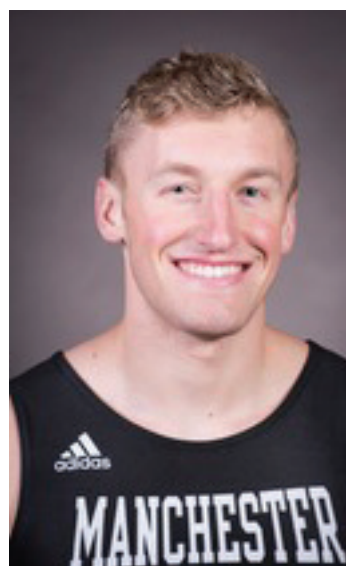
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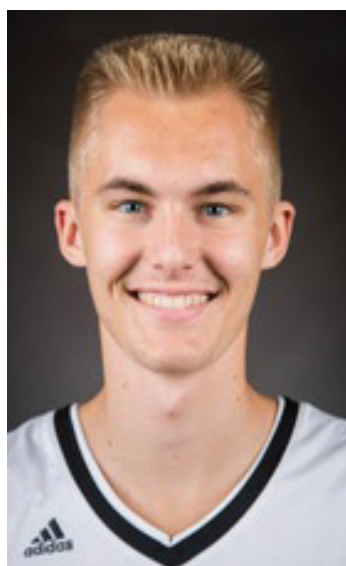
Austin Jones



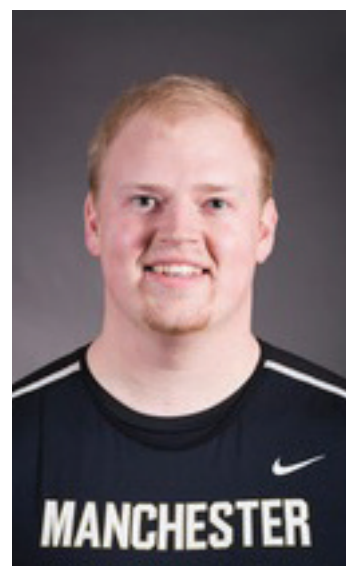
Paige Keller



Harrison Hollis



Landon Balch



Drew Foster



Photo provided

Senior Tod Oram goes for a spare at the Unified Bowling Championship on April 8, 2018.



Photo provided

Juniors Beth Schaefer and Anjel Clemente sit with team members of their Unified Bowling team at the Championship on April 8, 2018.