

## Michael Dixon Says Farewell After 9 Incredible Years

**Jarred Hubbard**  
Staff Writer

Michael Dixon, the chief diversity officer at Manchester, is moving to a new university—and state—after nine years of service. His last day of work was Oct. 18, before relocating to Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. He will be the chief inclusion and diversity officer while serving on the Cabinet.

“I will become a decision maker as well,” Dixon stated. “If I’m going to make a move, I’m going to make a move to a school similar to what I have already done.” Dixon started off his career at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and moved to St. Ambrose in Davenport, Iowa. Manchester University was his third stop.

He originally applied twice for an admissions job but was denied. “Then they handed my admis-



Photo Provided by MU Marketing.

Michael Dixon gives a speech at the ground breaking ceremony for the new Jean Childs' Young Intercultural Center.

sions material to the hiring committee for the Diversity department and they called later,” Dixon said. “I’ve

been here ever since.”

Dixon is most proud of the growth of the school—from college

to university—and the mark that he has left on students. “I still have a student that contacts me to this day,” he said. “He told me that I have had a huge impact on his life; those words still stick with me and I will continue to push myself and touch students all across the country one by one.”

He celebrated his time at MU at Manchester Madness by leading a team in a dance battle. “I wanted everyone to know that I can have fun too; I’m not always a teacher,” Dixon said. “We just do things here with a little bit more flavor and fun.”

Dixon is aware that this move can be hard at first, but he knows that it will all work out and come together in time. “I have two sons and my future life partner watching every move I make,” he said. “I have no choice but to roll with the punches and make this

move work.

“My one son, Michael III, was really scared that he wasn’t going to finish first grade,” he continued. But Dixon has come up with a solution: The boys and their mother will stay in North Manchester while he prepares their home in Pennsylvania so they can come in June. “My other son Quincy is only 3, so he doesn’t care too much,” Dixon said. “He has fun all day every day and will just have to get used to the new things and surroundings. He’s very persistent and he is ready to open the gates to his future with his family alongside him.”

What will he miss the most? “I enjoy the relationships that I built with faculty and staff but the students have all kept me motivated and kept my experience here special,” he said.



Photo by Chloe Arndt.

Michael Dixon celebrated his last week with friends and coworkers at farewell gathering.



Photo Provided by MU Marketing.

Michael Dixon in a hat and apron preparing food for the International Buffet.

## Manchester Madness Builds Excitement for the Upcoming Basketball Season

**Mackenzie Kopplin**  
Staff Writer

When a brisk wind flows through campus, leaves fall all around and people mill into the PERC, you know what that means: Basketball season is here for Manchester University. The men’s and women’s seasons tipped off on Thursday, October 17, with Manchester Madness.

Manchester Madness has been a campus tradition for the last several years. The event is presented by Manchester students who take marketing and sponsorship in sports management, or BUS 363, with Sun J. Kang, assistant professor of sports management, and also students who take BUS 369, event and facility management with Ryan Hedstrom, associate professor of exercise and sport sciences. Both of these classes are required for sports management majors.

This year the event was themed Throwback Thursday and it did not disappoint. As students walked into the PERC, they could hear the music blaring for the gym, but they couldn’t make a direct route to the bleachers. Instead, students had to first pick up a raffle ticket from down the hallway, which was filled with colorful lights and music, towards the locker rooms, and they entered the gym from the other side of the court. The gym was ablaze with colorful lights and the roar of chatter from

students in the stands. This already exciting atmosphere was enhanced with the fantastic playlist that was created with throwback tunes from the seventies to today.

Once seated in the bleachers, students were given the view of both teams with a full bench, and a projector screen that presented an introduction for both Spartan lineups with a comical view into players’ personalities. Handshakes, dance moves, creative shots, and embraces between teammates allowed students to dive deeper into who the team members really are.

Along with player introductions, the Spartans also introduced several new coaches. The coaching staff for the men’s team is entirely new with head coach Nate Conley and assistant coach Ryan Strohm taking the reins. For the women’s team, head coach Josh Dzurick remains the same, but alumna Faith-Alexis Graham has joined in the role of assistant coach. Graham graduated in 2018, and spent four years on the basketball team, where she started every season.

Once all the introductions were made it was time to get down to business. The emcees for the night, senior Christian Poole and Brandon Ego-If, took over and tried their best to bring the crowd back to attention for the rest of the festivities.

To get the ball rolling (or bouncing), the first competition was a three-point contest between two members of the crowd with rebounding help from MU basketball players. Both par-

ticipants were very excited, and both had a pretty good jump shot to keep the crowd entertained. After each different segment of the night, the emcees selected a raffle ticket out of a bucket and one lucky MU student would win some great fan gear for the upcoming season.

After a few students walked away with their new gear, the Spartettes took the court to show off some impressive dance moves and great dedication. Senior captains Jayla Sharp and Chynna Miller choreographed a great dance to show off their team’s skills and talent. However, they did not anticipate Michael Dixon to show them up in the next event: a dance competition between the two basketball teams. Two student representatives were picked from the crowd to lead a team. The men’s team started off strong and the women came back with not quite as strong but still a good performance. As both teams got more into the event, Dixon made an appearance that knocked the women’s team out of the park with extremely memorable dance moves. To try to give the women new life, assistant coach Graham stepped up and battled Dixon. However, it wasn’t quite enough, and the men took the win.

To finish off the event, there was a full-court shooting contest the consisted of making a layup, a free throw, a three-point shot, and a half-court shot. Four contestants were picked to shoot head to head and the winner was first year Rodney Mitchell. He beat senior Jordan Napier in the first



Photo by Chloe Arndt.

Nate Conley, the new men’s basketball head coach was introduced at Manchester Madness.

round then took on junior Wilson Lopshire in the championship. Lopshire beat sophomore Dori Bammer in his first appearance.

Manchester Madness was a fun-filled night to kick off basketball season. Players, coaches, and students

are all excited to see what is to come for both teams. The men’s season kicks off on Thursday, November 7, at PFW. The women’s team begins their season on Friday, November 8, at home against Adrian College.



Photo Provided by MU Theatre Society's Instagram..

Manchester Theatre Society won a custom cornhole set for having the best group throwback costume during Manchester Madness' Throwback Thursday photo contest.



Photo Provided by MU Theatre Society's Instagram..

Manchester Theatre Society won a custom cornhole set for having the best group throwback costume in Manchester Madness' Throwback Thursday photo contest.

## MU Launches New eSports Team

**Carlos Argueta**  
Staff Writer

Manchester is welcoming its first esports team and gaming arena to campus this November due to large grassroots support for the unconventional sport. The team is going to be led by directors Melanie Lawson who is also director of Residential Life and Jim Mantis, project manager for ITS.

The new esports team will be divided up in two groups, a varsity and junior varsity roster. It will host three different video games: League of Legends, Rocket League and Super Smash Bros. The university will also become a member of Nace, a nonprofit collegiate association for competitive gaming.

Manchester is one of hundreds of colleges and universities

associated with Nace, so it will compete with an array of schools across the country. "I am excited seeing this go from the ground up," Lawson said. "It happened very fast; people wanted us to make it happen as soon as possible, and there was a lot of support because we want to serve students."

The gaming arena built for the program will be located in the basement of East Hall. It will have 12 state-of-the-art gaming systems with monitors, gaming keyboards, mice, and gaming PCs. The arena is nearly finished, with the hope of starting practices next month.

The arena—and team—are designed to create a competitive space where Manchester students can play video games officially while sharpening their skills and connecting with other students. The program is hoping to start recruiting students for gaming in the years to come, in the hope of developing interest in the

program, and in becoming a more competitive team. "Students want to do this," Lawson said. "Last year we had students that were very competitive; we still do. We want to give them a place to do that."

The esports team is hoping to expand its catalog of games after its spring season. The group wants to include other popular games like Fortnite and Overwatch to expand the team, and to bring more student attention. With an expansion of games, the team will be included in more leagues and will need more students to fill those spots.

There is no set roster for the team yet. There are still going to be tryouts for students, so they can show their skills and earn a spot on the roster. The team did have a callout meeting where dozens of students went to sign up and register for games they look to compete in and tryout. "Right now, we have 28 people who signed up during our



Photo by Bonnie Wong.

The new esports arena located in East Hall includes high-processing computers, gaming mouses and headphones.

callout meeting, but not just for the games listed but for any game they would like to compete in." Lawson

said. Tryouts are going to be on Nov. 15, and all students are welcomed to come out.

## Pete McClean Discusses Healthy Masculinity

**Carly Greaves**  
Staff Writer

Students were offered a unique VIA experience on Oct. 15 by Pete McClean, a speaker whose mission is to spread the values of honesty, sincerity and interpersonal connection.

The VIA, titled "Thinking Deeply About Healthy Masculinity," took place within the pale green walls of the Lahman Room, situated on the upper floor of the Jo Young Switzer Center. As the students arrived for the event, they sat on black fold-up chairs set in front of a simple wooden podium. Settling in for what they thought would be a lecture, the attendees looked at their phones or chatted with neighbors until McClean was formally introduced to the crowd.

McClean quickly proved himself to be different than the average VIA speaker. Instead of a fancy suit, McClean wore comfortable-looking jeans and a green long-sleeved shirt. Where most speakers would give a general greeting to the audience, McClean said hello to spe-

cific people, asking for their names in a friendly tone. While most speakers would dive right into their topic, McClean asked the attendees about VIAs they had enjoyed in the past. Many of the students were surprised but intrigued by McClean's sheer casualness. "Most speakers that come for VIAs are very proper," said Madison Haines, sophomore. "But he's really trying to engage in his audience and what we're doing."

This engagement continued as McClean explained what he hoped to accomplish that day. While most VIAs were lecture-based, this one would be guided by discussion without any given topic or goal in mind. McClean began by asking what the students would like to not care about during the conversation. Answers slowly spilled out of the audience, mainly desires to not be judged by their peers. McClean listened to these responses attentively, then requested his audience to do something quite unusual for a VIA—stand up and come to the front of the room.

Doing as they were told, the students shuffled to the front of the room, trying to find space between the walls, podium and each other. As

soon as they were assembled, McClean stood atop one of the chairs in order to be seen and announced that they would be performing an activity for the rest of the VIA. The first part of this activity would involve the attendees "milling" through the crowd, not stopping until they heard a given signal. After this, the attendees would halt and partner up with one of the people they were standing next to. The partners would then be provided with questions that they would have to ask each other. McClean requested the participants be as honest as possible. "I want you to take risks," he said. "If you feel up to it . . . risk connecting with each other."

So the activity began, students wandering through the crowd, selecting partners when asked and discussing the given questions. The process was repeated three times, each with a different question based on the requests given to McClean earlier in the presentation. Partners discussed topics such as when they first started caring about their appearance and times when they were judged for expressing themselves. Participants were encouraged to be understanding and sincerely listen to their partners, building connections with new people. "I got to talk to people that I wouldn't normally talk to, and speak to them about their experiences," Haines said.

After half an hour of discussion, McClean once again mounted his chair and thanked everyone



Photo provided by True North.

Pete McClean lectured at VIA about healthy masculinity.

for coming. The students disentangled themselves from the crowd and headed for the door, talking about this unusual but enjoyable VIA. "I thought the concept was cool," said Makayla Combs, first-year. "It got people to come together and see each other's point of view."

Fellow first-year student Riley Hogenson agreed. "The pre-

sender had a good way of opening up the floor to conversation and participation," he said.

While it was certainly different from the typical VIA, McClean's discussion-driven talk gave students a chance to practice taking, as McClean puts it, "little baby steps of asking, listening and being sincere."

## MU Symphony Orchestra Hosts Halloween Concert

**Erin Hickle**  
Staff Writer

After a few years without a family style Halloween concert, the Manchester Symphony Orchestra (MSO) will provide a night full of spooky music, games and family fun on Monday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. in Cordier Auditorium. The MSO invites community members, students and faculty to join them as they perform Halloween-themed music and host numerous activities for audiences of all ages during the Family Fright Night concert.

A unique collaboration between the university and the community, the Symphony invites students and community members to perform alongside each other in an intergenerational ensemble. This also includes faculty on campus. Dr. Kathy Davis, a professor of chemistry, is the principal flute for the orchestra. Dr. Mark Huntington, the dean for natural and health sciences, also joins them as a clarinet player. Along with the students and faculty from Manchester University, professional musicians are also hired in specifically for the performance. Anyone can at-

tend the event and enjoy the collaboration within the MSO along with the festivities.

The performance is not only about the music, but also about the family and festivities there. Before the performance, there will be two food trucks on campus with options to eat either inside the lobby of Cordier or outside. In addition, there will be six different games in the lobby, face painting, treat bags, decorations made by elementary school students and a costume parade during the concert. The parade will provide concert-goers with the opportunity to dress up and march around the auditorium.

Scott Humphries, assistant professor of music, director of instrumental studies and music education, and director of the symphony orchestra and bands at MU, has picked music that families will be able to recognize. Pieces include selections from "Harry Potter," "Night on Bald Mountain" from Disney's "Fantasia" and "This is Halloween" from "The Nightmare Before Christmas." The MSO will open the concert with a performance of music from "Phantom of the Opera."

The MSO is supported by the board of the Manchester Symphony Society. Joanne Case, the pres-

ident of the board, noted they did a lot of outreach to the local schools with this concert. The decorations that will fill the Cordier Auditorium lobby will include scarecrows and pumpkins that were painted by the kindergarteners through third graders from local schools. They also have helped to arrange for a group of student musicians to visit the elementary school during lunch to provide the children with a 15-minute performance of spooky music during their lunches. They will allow the children to learn about the performance, such as what makes music scary and what instruments are being used.

"The performance is meant to be musically rewarding for both the student musicians and adult musicians, and entertaining for the audience at the same time," Scott Humphries said. "With it being so close to Halloween I wanted to make it an accessible concert for everyone. It sounds cliché but I wanted to make it for all ages."

Family Fright Night kicks off the 81st year of MSO for the 2019-2020 season. The performance on Monday night is free to all Manchester students and faculty and will be worth VIA credit.



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INCORPORATED

## 'Sweet Life and Other Dying Matter' VIA Encourages Students to Think Critically about Life and Death

**Chloe Leckrone**  
Staff Writer

A VIA titled "Sweet Life and Other Dying Matters" will be held in the upper level of the Jo Young Switzer Center on Thursday, Oct. 31, and will teach students about death, as well as encourage them to think about how they want to be remembered.

The VIA was organized by Beate Gilliar, professor of English, and is connected to her First Year Seminar course titled "Death and Other Endings." Gilliar chose to research the topic of death because she believes it should be brought to the forefront of people's minds. "Everyone should learn how to engage and discuss a topic that is usually taboo," she said.

Indeed, Gilliar has long been interested in the subject of death. She has noticed differences in the ways death is discussed in the United States as opposed to other parts of the world. In her hometown, located in Germany, death was brought into the public eye via a museum. She also loves visiting cemeteries and has done so since she was young. One of the first cemeteries she visited was in East Berlin when the wall was still standing. She found it to be a nice space to contemplate when sad, as well as a place full of stories. "They cultivate the legacy of persons," Gilliar said. "These are just spaces for continued living by commemorating the legacy of their lives."

Gilliar took that fascination with death and brought it to her "Death and Other Endings" class, which she is currently teaching for the second time. Students of the class learn about death rituals and visit funeral homes, among many other activities. Gilliar wanted to include "other endings" because there are many things that happen in life that can signify "endings" other than

death. Her class discusses being diagnosed with a sickness, learning about the impending or sudden death of someone close to you, ending a relationship to name a few topics.

The VIA will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and will feature a panel of speakers who will discuss experiences dealing with life and death. The panel includes Kelly McKee and Joe Egner from McKee Mortuary in North Manchester, Daisy Schmidt, a social worker who will speak about grieving and hospice, Rebekah Houff, University pastor who will represent Counseling Services, and Mark Spalding, a friend of Gilliar's living with cancer.

"Sweet Life and Other Dying Matters" is just one event on the topic of death that will occur on campus in the coming weeks. Along with the VIA, there will be activities throughout the week and into November that relate to death, including a digital image series put together by students of the corresponding FYS class. On Oct. 31, from 9:30 to 9:50 a.m. in Funderburg Library, Spanish Professor Arturo Yañez will speak about the significance of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and Archivist Jeanine Wine will tell stories that celebrate people from Manchester's past. There will also be an initiative called "How Do You Want To Be Remembered?" where people can record what they hope to leave behind once they are no longer alive.

According to Gilliar, "Sweet Life and Other Dying Matters" is an important VIA to have on campus. "Students should embrace the gift of life more by recognizing that death does not need to be the enemy," she said. She hopes that by the end of the event students will not be as fearful of death and will be moved by the stories they hear from the panel. "I wish for everybody to learn how to embrace the stories of their own by listening to the voices all around," Gilliar said.

### SWEET LIFE AND OTHER DYING MATTERS— La Vida Dulce y los Dulces de la Muerte Monday, Oct. 28-Sunday, Nov. 17

#### Event Description

This thought-provoking Manchester University event explores the often ignored and taboo topic of death from several cultural, professional, personal and autobiographical angles, with opportunities for reflection and commemoration.

#### MONDAY, OCT. 28 – SUNDAY, NOV. 17, FUNDERBURG LIBRARY, 1ST FLOOR

##### Altars Honoring the Day of the Dead - El Día de los Muertos

Created by faculty, family and staff from MU, N. Manchester campus. Historical individuals from MU's past will be commemorated with a special altar designed by archivist Jeanine Wine.

##### Digital Image Series

"Perspectives on Life and Death" exhibits created by FYS students from "Death and Other Endings" taught by Prof. Beate Gilliar."

"Death: A Global Glance through an array of faith traditions," prepared by students in Sociology of Religion taught by Prof. Jared Friesen.

"How Do You Wish to Be Remembered?" initiative inviting everybody to record responses.

Contemplation Niche with Casket: An opportunity to experience a casket in a semi-private and respectful atmosphere.

#### THURSDAY MORNING, OCT. 31

##### FUNDERBURG LIBRARY, 1ST FLOOR, 9:30-9:50 A.M.

Day of the Dead-El Día de los Muertos: Associate Professor of Spanish Arturo Yañez will address the tradition and meaning of this important Mexican holiday. Following this presentation, Jeanine Wine (Archivist of Funderburg Library) will tell stories related to MU's altar that celebrates individuals from Manchester's cultural past. Authentic Mexican holiday food and beverages will be offered throughout the day while supplies last.

#### THURSDAY EVENING, OCT. 31

##### JO YOUNG SWITZER, UPPER LEVEL, 7-8:30 P.M.

Panel Discussion on "Sweet life and other dying matters" will focus on experiences honoring life and death with panelists who include a person living with cancer and professionals from funerary, grieving and counseling services. Excerpts from Chapters on Life, a compilation of stories will be read spanning childhood memory to living with cancer since 2012, stage IV and beyond 120 chemo therapy treatments.

SPONSORED BY MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY: FUNDERBURG LIBRARY, OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES and by MCKEE MORTUARY, INC.

## Cultural Connections

### La Masculinidad Tóxica

**Ava Barefoot**  
Guest Writer

Sí, el machismo existe en E.E.U.U., pero el nombre y el significado es diferente. Cuando pienso en el machismo en Los Estados Unidos, pienso en una palabra que aprendí en mi clase de sociología: la masculinidad tóxica. Esta palabra es para los hombres que tienen un complejo sobre la masculinidad. Ellos piensan que ellos no pueden llevar ropa rosada o llorar porque estas características son solo para las mujeres.

La masculinidad tóxica es un gran problema en los Estados Unidos hoy en día. Es muy triste aceptarlo pero algunos hombres no expresan o pueden, o saben expresar sus emociones de una manera civilmente aceptada. Frecuentemente, usan la violencia o la rabia en lugar de expresar sus emociones de otra manera.

Pero, es importante dejar claro que la masculinidad tóxica no es lo mismo que la masculinidad "regular". Los hombres con masculinidad "buena" pueden ser fuertes y les encantan los deportes, pero la diferencia es que estos hombres no se sienten amenazados por lo que muchas personas, tanto hombres como mujeres, consideran regularmente una característica femenina. Un ejemplo de esta actitud machista son los prejuicios sobre quién debe usar el color rosado y qué emociones acompañan la selección y uso del mismo. Muchos hombres de los Estados Unidos, la nueva generación, están trabajando en este problema. Pero, en líneas generales, se puede afirmar que aún hay gran resistencia sobre todo de las generaciones mayores. De la misma manera, se puede afirmar que el futuro es prometedor en cuanto a esta manera de pensar y ser. Esperemos que el machismo en los Estados Unidos

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## Personal Victory for Manchester Cross Country at Inter-Regional Rumble

**Ryan Daine**  
Staff Writer

Nine Spartans from the men's cross country team carried themselves to personal victory as they crossed the finish line at the Inter-Regional Rumble, hosted by Oberlin College, this past Saturday.

The yearly event, which sees fierce competition from some of the most respected and competitive NCAA Division III cross country teams, was the last regular season meet for the men before they enter tournament competition. This meet comes rather slowly off the heels of the Spartans' last varsity matchup, which occurred on Oct. 5, when the team placed 26th out of 40 total teams at the Louisville Classic, in Louisville, Kentucky.

The improvement was clear, as the Spartans were able to place within the top half winning bracket of the present teams, eventually edging out to finish 18th out of 39. In addition, several school records, as well as individual personal records were set for the team,

as the morning races moved forward with the easygoing fall skies.

The mild temperature, welcoming sunshine, and a cool breeze was a welcome sight and reprieve to many runners, as the fall weather has been firmly locked into place. While the climate remained cool, however, the competitive heat was turned up, as the runners worked to outpace and outlast their fellow runners. Their efforts would be rewarded, as the team placed 18th out of a total of 39 other competing colleges who were also in attendance for this large showdown of endurance.

Placing within the top bracketed half at such an intensive and grueling conference meet is a huge positive to take away from the regular season, as the Spartans look to run, head first, and with a sustainable pace of course, into tournament competition in early November. In addition, many more positive on a personal level were also highlighted from this meet in Oberlin, Ohio from over the weekend.

Three varsity runners, including junior Lucas Fontanez, senior Samuel Barnard and senior Daniel Baker all set new PRs, as

well as shattering previous school records. Fontanez, who placed first for the team, in the 55th spot, set the 21st fastest time for the school's record books. Barnard, who placed 82nd, ranks as the 28th fastest time in school history. Lastly, Baker, who finished 94th, moved up to the 29th fastest rank overall for the college.

In addition, two other runners also set their own PRs during the midmorning run on Saturday. Varsity runners included senior Cameron Walton and freshman Enrique Salazar.

The men's cross country team will have a bit of a reprieve and some time for rest, as October winds down. With the regular season out of the way, the Spartans will look forward to early November, as tournament meets will begin to take place. Three tourney meets will take place, with one occurring under the discretion of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, and two others under the discretion of the NCAA Division III section. The tournament will officially kick off on Nov. 3, in Terre Haute, Indiana.



Photo Provided by Manchester Athletics.

Cameron Kimmell, Dylan Leininger and Kole Kelly run in cross country meet.

## Manny Creates Hype at Sporting Events, Promotes Manchester Spirit

**Alex Baker**  
Staff Writer

Manny the Spartan, MU's ever-present mascot, does more than bring hype to all sporting events he attends; he promotes Manchester University in a positive way. Dressed in his yellow-and-black Spartan uniform, with his giant yellow helmet, Manny is immediately recognizable, though his identity is concealed.

Although Manny has a good time at events and leaves smiles on other people's faces, his job is not necessarily easy. Indeed, just wearing the Manny costume can be somewhat difficult. For instance, the helmet limits Manny's sight. "He has no peripheral vision," said Glenna Castillo, Success Center support specialist, and Manny's scheduler. "Manny's handler is there to help him not run into anything." No matter the event he attends, a handler is always present to help Manny navigate, as he can never take his helmet off when he is in the public eye.

To keep him comfortable during hot afternoons, the helmet is equipped with a battery-operated fan inside of it. But it does not cool off Manny well enough, so his costume guidelines include a recommendation to wear a headband, which will help prevent sweat from dripping down. Further, Manny wears a vest under the

jacket that contains icepacks. Whether the sporting event is inside or out, Manny remains hot inside the suit. "I try not to have them in the Manny suit for more than two hours at a time," Castillo said. "If they are in there for longer, then they need to take a break."

As part of the obligation to be Manny, the mascot must be prepared to stay until halftime at the bigger sporting events like football games. Then, Manny himself makes the decision to whether to stay longer or not. Manny attends both men and women's sporting events on campus.

Manny takes off-campus trips as well. "He goes to the Tin Caps and Mad Ants games when they have nights dedicated to celebrating mascots," Castillo said. The Spartan will also be in local parades. Castillo believes that going to these events outside of North Manchester are great for showing off the university. "Basically, wherever he goes, he promotes Manchester," Castillo said. Manny can be seen as a marketing tool; he idealizes what it is like to be a passionate Spartan. He gives people that are not aware of Manchester an idea of what the Manchester community is like as these outside events rarely happens.

Seven students form team Manny. One of their most important qualifications is that they have to be a certain height. "You have to be ideally five-feet, ten-inches to six-feet, two-inches," Castillo said. The only

prerequisite for weight is that a member of team Manny has to be able to fit in the costume.

Manny's team prepares for a game just like any other sports team. "They do go through some training," Castillo said. "Mainly we go through guidelines, what to do and what not to do." Team Manny meets once a month to go over scheduling and expectations.

One member of Team Manny, known here as "Manny A," sees the ups and downs of being this prolific character.

Manny A does like the feeling of putting a smile on someone's face. "It always makes me happy when people want to high-five Manny or take a picture with him," Manny A said.

However, this Manny's favorite part has nothing to do with sports. "Being at games and hyping up the crowd is great, don't get me wrong, but that's all he does at games," Manny A explained. "But in marketing videos or other like events where Manny is in the spotlight, there is the ability to do more than just clap when someone scores."

For this Manny, there is actually one clear problem of being the mascot: the heat. "Being Manny is enjoyable for like the first 30 minutes," Manny A said. "Then it gets really sweaty and you do not want to be in the suit anymore."



Photo Provided by Manchester Marketing.

Manny displaying Manchester strength.



Photo Provided by Manchester Marketing.

Manny even hyped students up for Avengers: Endgame on Manchester's Instagram and Facebook.



Photo Provided by Manchester Marketing.

Manny poses with a basketball to promote the upcoming basketball season.

## Food, Teammates Make Life on the Road Tolerable

**Erica Mohr**  
Staff Writer

An early morning alarm goes off: you roll over, wanting to slam the snooze button but knowing you set it for the last possible minute. You crawl out of bed, throw on a ratty sweatshirt, and eat the closest thing to a healthy breakfast you can find. You walk over to the PERC, load the bus with all the equipment, and board the bus for yet another long ride. This story is a reality for many student athletes at Manchester.

Living on the road means spending days of quality time with teammates. The golf, cross country, football, and soccer team have all traveled three and a half hours for tournaments; and then they still

have to compete and drive three and a half hours back to campus. This leaves for lots of times for the athletes to form friendships while on the road. "The road trips absolutely help us form better bonds as a team," said Nathan Hunley, a junior on the men's soccer team.

Of course, the trip back depends on how the teams compete. "If you lose and you've got a long bus ride back, it's pretty rough but if you get a win it's pretty nice," Hunley said.

Spending such a large amount of time on the road can affect a student-athlete's college experience. "Freshman year I was really excited about traveling and long meets, but now that I'm used to it, I think it heavily affects my social life," said Kelsey Tyler, a sophomore on the cross-country

team. "It's hard to be close with people off of the team because everyone hangs out with each other on weekends, and we don't have a free weekend because we need to use our free time to catch up on school and sleep."

Reid Kammerdiener, a senior defensive lineman on the football team, agreed. "I don't really talk to anyone all weekend," he said. "Pretty much on Friday and Sunday I'm locked in my room dead tired and Saturday I'm not around because I'm at games. So, it affects my social life because being that I don't go out and do anything on the weekends."

Mary McGuire, a sophomore on the golf team, offered up how she makes sure she's able to maintain her relationship with non-teammates. "I had to do a lot

of reaching out to my friends to make sure we stayed up to date with each other," she said.

Although some students use the weekend to catch up on homework, student athletes do not have the luxury of 48 straight hours to do this. While one may guess that they catch up on homework on the long bus rides, that is not usually the case. Hunley, Tyler, Kammerdiener and McGuire all agreed that they very rarely did homework on the bus, all citing various reasons. "I get headaches and stuff if I work on homework while on a moving vehicle," Hunley said.

Tyler said: "I get too distracted by everyone else and I'm just in a more nervous environment."

When on the road, stu-

dent-athletes have a variety of different delicacies to fuel them for their competitions. The golf team often eats out at Steak and Shake or Papa John's pizza and gets provided with snacks such as fruit or Pringles. "The best part of the road trip is the free food," McGuire joked. The football team gets snacks before the game and afterwards is given food from local restaurants after the game. The soccer team often goes out for Mexican meals to Salsa Grille, and if it is a long trip, they get pre-made sandwiches. Lastly, the cross-country team will get pre-race snacks such as peanut butter and jelly, fruit, chips and granola and jelly, fruit, chips and granola bars. When they go on overnight trips, they usually eat somewhere like Olive Garden the night before, and they usually eat Subway after their race.