

Mustangs Advance



Claudia Magana/Times

Leslie Hoffmann and Emma Pisarik celebrate a pointed earned in the three set sweep against St. Ambrose University on Nov. 5. The Mustangs defeated sixth-seeded AIB on Nov. 8, advancing them to the next round of the MCC Tournament. The Mustangs were scheduled to play at Grandview on Wednesday, Nov. 12. See story, more photos, on page 7.

Stories, songs get new format for concert

By Anna Bohr
Web Editor

A reworked version of the annual concert Lessons and Carols will be presented by Mount Mercy's music department on Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Mercy.

"We're doing a little new approach this year," said Dr. Gerald Kreitzer, director of music activities. "We are teaming up with Erin Broich, who is compiling all the lessons. It's a brand new script. We decided to rewrite the whole thing."

Lessons and Carols is a concert with performances by University Choir, University Band and Handbell Choir. In between pieces, there will be breaks for readings related to the Christmas season.

"It's more than just a

concert," said Kreitzer. "It really focuses on the meaning of Christmas."

Kreitzer says that students will enjoy the variety of music, supporting students they know involved in music and perhaps listening to the Handbell Choir for the first time. Also, he says that it is a chance to be "entertained and uplifted."

The concert has grown due to the growing size of University Choir and the addition of the University Band. This year's show will also provide an opportunity for audience participation.

"It's a long standing tradition at Mount Mercy University and it has grown substantially in the last few years," said Kreitzer. "It used to be in Stello, and we outgrew it."

The event is free and open to the public.

Black Student Union approved

Voting underway now in SGA elections

By Billie Barker
Staff Writer

Shawna Clemente, coordinator of student success enrollment and student services, presented a plan to reorganize the formerly dormant Black Student Union at Mount Mercy University at the SGA General Assembly, Monday, Nov. 3.

SGA members unanimously voted in favor of reviving the club.

According to Clemente, a number of students had

approached her about sponsoring the group, and have presented an organization constitution.

"We have a group of very interested students," Clemente said. "This group won't just be for black students, but is a wonderful opportunity to add diversity and connect with a common cause, both within and outside our community here at MMU."

"The students have discussed community service. They'd love to work outside of MMU, in neighborhoods, churches, and local high schools. They want to provide high school

◆ See Harville page 2

Speaker wows MMU with hand drawn stories

By Billie Barker
Staff Writer

To describe Matt Freedman's performance is daunting.

There's this tall, understated guy kind of looks like Ted Danson wearing enormous black glasses. An extra-large sketchbook is suspended from his neck by a string and he holds a thick black charcoal crayon in his increasingly charcoal-blackened hands.

"I can't be losing my mind if I'm writing about losing my mind, right?"

Matt Freedman, visiting writer

The drawings fall to the floor like piles of leaves as Freedman rapidly moves from one idea to the next. He goes from "Tom Thumb" to "The Incredible Shrinking Man" to cancer. And a moment after it seems he's just started talking, it's time to eat a cookie, go home, and ponder.

Reading the forward to his book, "Relatively Indolent But Relentless: A Cancer Treatment Journal," makes it easier to understand Freedman's meditation on smallness: "It's remarkable what a trivial little person is revealed when everything is stripped away by drugs and pain and fear. I remember baseball statistics and family stories. I

Billie Barker/ Times

During his evening performance on Nov. 5, Matt Freedman, artist and writer, shared stories while sketching illustrations upside for the crowd.

parse the meaning of phlegm. There isn't a lot of thinking left in me now. Just a feral monkey trying to make it out of the jungle..."

In addition to his evening performance at Betty Cherry Nov. 5, Freedman spoke twice during the day—once focusing on his book and later about medical issues from a patient's perspective. Several Mount Mercy Art and English classes have read his book.

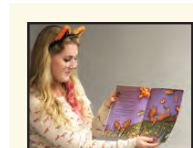
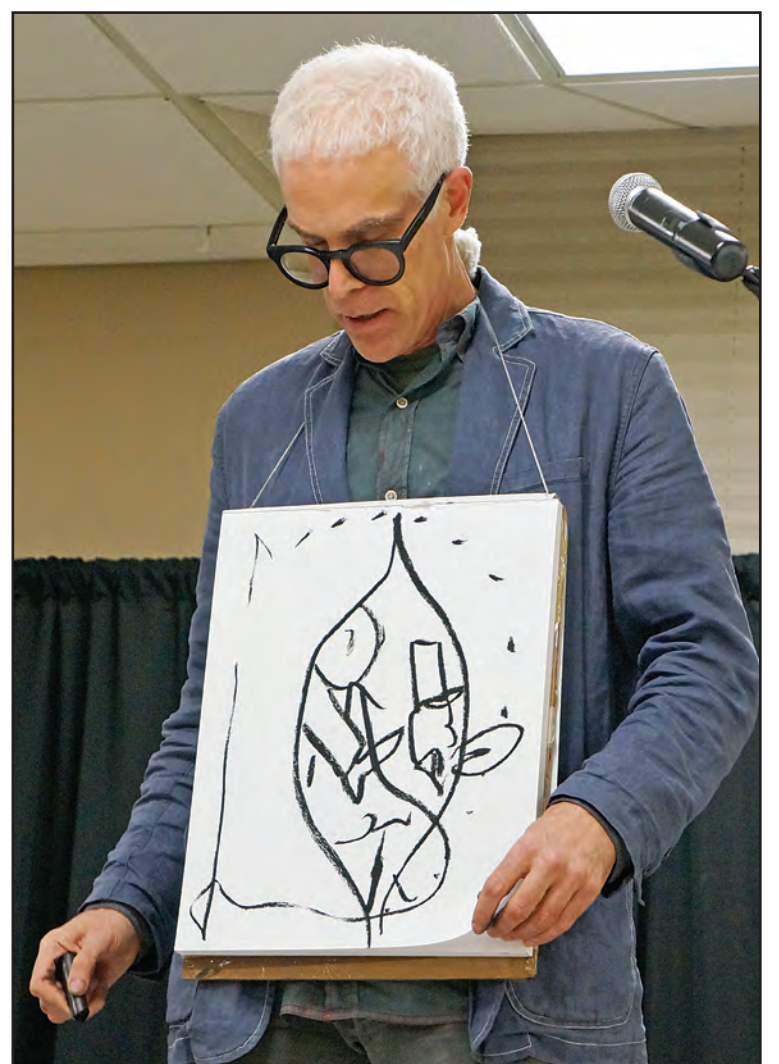
At his book session, Freedman spoke about his creative process. Before he was hospitalized to begin aggressive treatment to fight adenoid cystic carcinoma, a rare cancer affecting his throat and lungs, Freedman's colleagues and students gave him a 240-page sketchbook as a gift.

Freedman's goal, in addition to survival, was to fill four pages of this journal a day. The resulting work, with its hand-written text and cartoon line drawings, was named for the slow growing but hard-to-kill nature of the disease.

Freedman discussed how important writing was while he was hospitalized.

"The whole experience of being sick is defined

◆ See Sketchbooks page 2



Hill Party
MMU volunteers shine
Halloween, page 6



Christmas is coming ...
'Bring it' says cartoon turkey, but not so fast answers cartoonist in column
Opinion, page 4



Then in flew Enza:
WWI helped spread deadly flu
News, page 3





Sketchbooks filled after publication of cancer journal

◆ **Speaker wows**
from page 1

by the smallness of the details," he said. "A day's work of four pages gave me focus, and assurance I wasn't losing my mind. I can't be losing my mind if I'm writing about losing my mind, right?"

"Given distance from the experience, I realize how much stress I was under, and how much bravado and denial I displayed in writing it all down."

He also gave advice on

Billie Barker/Times

Matt Freedman autographs his memoir at the conclusion of his presentation on Nov. 5.

finding inspiration. "The idea of creative block, or the way things come out of your head, is a limited view. It's important to initiate the process, and trust it to take you somewhere. If we're finding and investigating subjects with the idea we already know what we'll find, it doesn't surprise. If it doesn't astonish us, it won't astonish a reader or viewer."

"I use lists going a million different ways to get past the limits of my own imagination. The things you may think are limitations, are really just material. Limitations define you as someone who experiences the world."

When asked if he planned to keep publishing his journals, Freedman laughed. "People keep giv-

ing me sketchbooks—I've finished six now. I have no intention of publishing, but it's become an important part of my life. It's become more about what it's like to live in this strange circumstance. Figured I may as well follow this thing all the way down the drain."

From Queens, New York, Freedman teaches Fine Arts and Visual Studies at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design. In addition he is an artist, writer and curator. He's received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts in sculpture, and the New York Foundation for the Arts in fiction writing. He's also worked as a cartoonist for "The Onion."

'Visiting' artist talks type with Skype

By **Billie Barker**
Staff Writer

Unforeseen circumstances did not keep Danielle Wagner from sharing her art and processes with Mount Mercy students Oct. 29.

Speaking from a big screen above the podium in Betty Cherry, Wagner discussed her creative process. Still finishing her graduate degree at Northern Illinois University, Wagner explained how she integrates fine art with design to explore conflicts like betrayal and self-loathing.

"I really, really super love handwritten, scanned and manipulated type."

Danielle Wagner,
visiting artist

"First of all I love type," she said. "I really, really super love handwritten, scanned and manipulated type. I love experimenting with hand-made processes and old materials. My focus has been personal messages

that relate to anyone—I think things like marriage, relationships, and independent women in society are super-interesting."

Her artwork feature a mix of images and type.

"One night stands are another thing I'm currently interviewing people about for the purpose of making art, because I think they're just so weird," Wagner said.

Following Wagner's presentation via Skype, visitors could view her exhibit "Twentyfive" at the Betty Cherry Gallery. The exhibit was on display from Oct. 1 until Nov. 7.



Billie Barker/Times

Students observe Wagner's artwork at the open house held on Oct. 29.

Harville: Always schedule events before promoting them

◆ **Black Student**
from page 1

students with tutoring – and maybe bring some of those same students here to Mount Mercy as future students."

The SGA also reminded members that executive elections will be held Wednesday and Thursday over lunch and dinner at the University Center. SGA officers urged students to participate by either voting for specified candidates, or writing in their own representative choices.

In other business, Erin Harville, assistant director of institutional events, also addressed club representatives to help them make the most of their events and meetings.

Institutional Events can help with scheduling, location, and catering for meetings, fund raisers and other events. Harville asked that one member from each club be designated as events liaison to assure a smooth process.

In addition, she asked that events not be promoted until they've been confirmed and added to the master calendar.

The next SGA meeting is a Senate session Nov. 17 at 3:30 p.m. in Flaherty.

MMU to hold racism discussion

By **Taylor Zumbach**
News Editor

Roll of The Dice, the second of two events regarding the issues of race and police use of force in our community, will be Nov. 18 from 6-9 p.m.

According to Deb Brydon, associate professor and program coordinator of criminal justice, this event will be a "hands-on simulation allowing participants to discuss

diversity in the Cedar Rapids community and how that relates to institutions like policing and education."

The program, Roll the Dice, is a nationally recognized program that helps communities engage in candid dialogs. During the event, individuals will roll a dice, which will in turn determine their characteristics for the simulation.

By rolling the dice, the participants are able to put

themselves "in the shoes of others" from different backgrounds.

This event will be facilitated by the Civil Rights Commission staff of Cedar Rapids and will be held in Betty Cherry.

If you want to attend, register by e-mailing dbrydon@mtmercy.edu or calling her at 319-363-1323 x1535. Although the event is free, space is limited to 100 participants.

The Mount Mercy

University's Criminal Justice Society, Social Work Program, and Social Work Organization have come together to cosponsor these two events.

The first of the two events was held on Oct. 7 and was a panel discussion about the police use of force. The panel included the Cedar Rapids Chief of Police, the Linn County Sheriff, and the Linn County Attorney.

Old Creamery Theatre presents winning play

"Amana" is a brand name most of us grew up with. Even in Wisconsin, I saw commercials for Amana's latest household technology, and my mother swore by Amana appliances. But the Amana Colonies, just 20 miles from Mount Mercy's campus, are famous for more than washer and dryers.

The colonies are home to Iowa's oldest professional theatre company: The Old Creamery Theatre Company.

I've reviewed a play by the theater before, so when I heard the company was performing the winner of the 2013 Tony for Best Play, I leapt at the chance to review another. I wasn't disappointed.

"Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" written by Christopher Durang is the hilarious tale of siblings at odds with each other.

We meet the first two sibling characters—Vanya and Sonia—in the family home in rural Pennsylvania. Their typical day starts with coffee in the sitting room. Vanya (Patrick Du Laney) seems comfortable with his slow life while Sonia (Marquette Senters) is bored with hers; at one point she whines "I'm in mourning for my life!" Their day is only interesting when annoying cleaning lady Cassandra (Hannah Spina) makes an appearance.

Cassandra has made it a habit to foretell the siblings' doomed future, and Spina

plays the role with a convincing energy, but the siblings have learned to ignore her.

We meet the third sibling, Masha (Nina Swanson) shortly after. She is a famous movie actress and has just arrived with her much younger boyfriend, Spike (Jim Vogt). Masha announces she is there to attend a costume party only a few houses down the road and invites the bunch to join her, but only out of pity.

Their day is full of mishap—Vanya is forced to dress up in an embarrassing costume for the party; Sonia's resentment toward her sister causes her to explode; Masha has a beautiful, young rival; and Spike is the typical young man: inappropriately over sexual and glued to his cell phone—but the play ends in beauty. Without giving away surprises, the three siblings come together and silently agree to do better for each other.

At one point, Vanya is fed up with Spike's disrespect and releases every bit of hostility toward the younger generation's addiction to technology. The result is an eloquent, strong and heartfelt rant that could come from anyone not raised on computers. Du Laney nailed it. My skin was goose bumped as Vanya begged Spike to explain how a generation could be so ignorant to the world around them. It was the highlight of the show.

The heavy moments are lightened when free-spirited Nina (Natalie Schmit) is around. She is the positive-thinking next door neighbor, concerned with genuine happiness and respect. Her presence breathes life into the old house. Schmit is

perfect for the role. The tall blonde glides across the stage with an angelic innocence.

Unlike most professional theatre stage spaces I've been to, Old Creamery's tiny studio stage is in a school. But there is an unexpected beauty in the unique stage: The level of intimacy is unmatched. With only six rows of chairs, the audience is forced to pay attention to every single word and movement.

I give "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" a 4.5 out of 5—the only thing I'm curious about is Vogt. I don't know if I dislike him as an actor or just loathe his character. Given the chance, I would see him perform again, if only to make up my

mind.

Unfortunately, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" only plays until Sunday, so there are only a few days to catch the show. It is the last show of the season, so if you can't make it to this one, I strongly suggest checking out the 2015 schedule.

The Old Creamery Theatre offers student rates at \$18.50, but if you arrive 30 minutes before the show starts, student tickets are only \$12 with a valid student ID. General admission is \$28.

For more information about the theatre and show times visit www.oldcreamery.com.

Play Review



Amanda Mayotte
Staff writer

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

Christmas Club Friday: December 5th



- ◆ **Gingerbread House Competition**
- ◆ **Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest**
- ◆ **Present-Wrapping Contest**
- ◆ **Pictures with Santa**

For more information, contact Erin Broich at ebroich@mtmercy.edu



Madison Coates/Times
 Dr. Mary Tarbox details how the Great Flu of 1918 probably started when pigs and chickens mixed at an Army training base in Kansas

Death's mightiest blow

Great Flu killed more than any other illness in all of history

By Madison Coates
 Staff Writer

World War I was a time of violence and chaos for the United States. Many lives were lost on the front lines, but not nearly as many as the 100 million lost from one devastating cause—the Great Flu pandemic.

“The Great Flu was the most deadly disease event in the history of humanity,” said Dr. Mary Tarbox.

This flu had an impact of the number of lives lost in 1918, but many people aren't aware the flu even occurred. Tarbox, professor of nursing and department chair, continued the series “A Century of Glory and Shame” which focuses on how World War I has impacted today.

Tarbox spoke on Nov. 6 in the Chapel of Mercy to educate staff,

faculty and community members about the effects of the Great Flu.

The seriousness of the flu was unlike any illness experienced worldwide before. Tarbox discussed the symptoms: muscle aches, fever,

bleeding from the nose, eyes and ears, throwing up blood, blood in the lungs, faces turning a dark blue or deep purple that made the victim unrecognizable and choking. The final cause of death was pneumonia.

Tarbox focused on the large number of fatalities by comparing the death number to other experiences. She stated that the Great Flu killed 10 times more

people than were killed in the battle. A modern day illness she compared it to was Ebola. The number of fatalities from the Great Flu greatly outweighs the death rate of Ebola.

There were 50 million and 100 million deaths from the Great Flu worldwide, where as Ebola has only impacted 13,042 people in eight countries total.

Although the origin of the illness is not definitely established, Tarbox lectured on how recent evidence seems to indicate that the first wave started in March of 1918 at Fort Riley training base in Kansas. This is one of the larg-

est camps in the United States, where more than 26,000 men were training.

Tarbox explained how the flu might have spread throughout the camp because soldiers came into contact with infected birds and pigs. The virus that caused the pandemic was a cross between flu viruses that originated in pigs and birds.

The second wave of the flu was more deadly than the first. It began in late August and early September. According to Tarbox, “it (the Great Flu) spread like wildfire.” Around 25 percent of the United States population became ill.

Iowa was heavily impacted by this epidemic as well. By Oct. 11, more than 100,000 people had suffered from this illness. On Oct. 5 the hospital rooms had completely filled up. On Oct. 10,

all of the schools in Iowa closed.

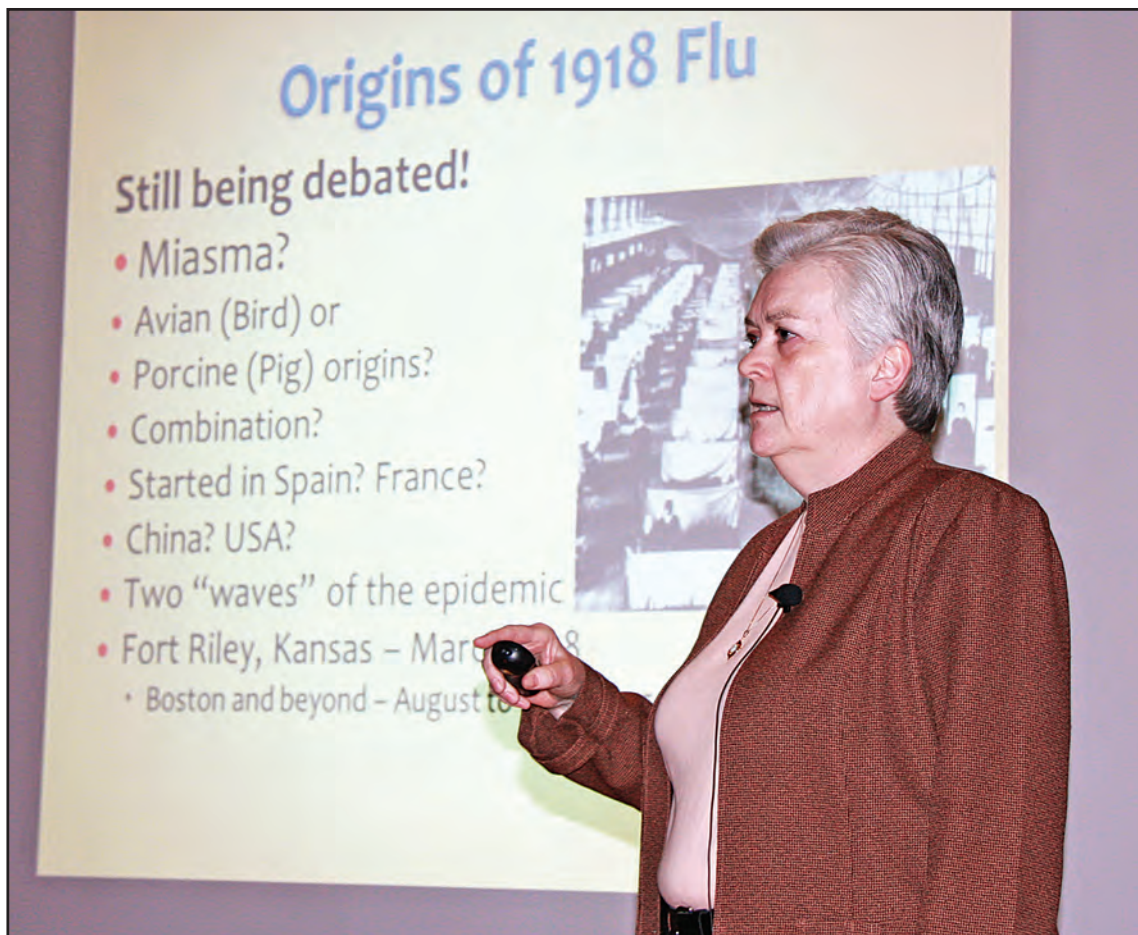
Tarbox explained that this was a difficult time around the world for people suffering from the flu, but it has had an impact on recent health care. The Great Flu brought:

More attention to contagious diseases

Influenced vaccinations
 Created modern treatments for pneumonia

Helped evolve information about viruses, antibiotics, and antivirals which are all methods used in the health care field today

This was the final lecture before the conclusion of the series A Century of Glory and Shame: Mount Mercy Reflect on How WWI Made Today, celebrating the 100-year anniversary. The finale, consisting of poetry and music, was Nov. 11.



“The Great Flu was the most deadly disease event in the history of humanity.”

Dr. Mary Tarbox,
 chair of nursing

New faces in nursing

Five faculty join MMU's largest program

By Anna Bohr
 Web Editor

Mount Mercy's largest academic department, nursing, added five new faculty members this fall. Here is information about each:

Ceanne Alvine

Ceanne Alvine, assistant professor of nursing, teaches graduate classes for the accelerated MSN program at the CRST Graduate Center.

Alvine has been a nurse for 30 years. In her time as nurse, she has worked in many aspects of nursing with both clinical and administrative experience.

Some of the experience Alvine has includes being a John A. Hartford Scholar. This means she has studied and has experience in geriatrics, the care of elderly adults. Alvine believes this is useful when teaching because there is a growing population of adults in this age group.

“It's challenging because health care changes all the time,” said Alvine.

Since 2008, Alvine was teaching at a community college in Arizona. She got a job at Mount Mercy after she saw an online ad, was interviewed and accepted to start this year. The Mission of Mercy, especially the violence against women and the social justice aspects, attracted her, she said.

Outside of teaching, Alvine has two children, ages 6 and 11. She also enjoys bicycling, knitting and reading.

Candace Chihak

Candace Chihak, RN to BSN program director, went through the same process as her students—turning her two-year nursing degree into a four-year degree at Mount Mercy in the program that she is now the director of.

“I kind of grew up in the program, and then when I finished my MSN, I talked to Lu Crary (a former nursing faculty member) and got hired on here at Mount Mercy,” said Chihak.

Chihak believes that she is a good fit to teach at Mount Mercy because of her experience in the program itself, public health and leadership aspects of her job.

Raised in the Mount Vernon area, Chihak was an adjunct professor in the RN to BSN program last year, but now is full time and will teach all the RN to BSN classes as they are offered. She has been a nurse for twenty-four years and worked as a

nurse before teaching. “With everything in nursing, you are teaching something, so this is just teaching to a different audience,” said Chihak.

Janice Miller

Janice Miller, lecturer of nursing, teaches sophomore level nursing classes and is also a clinical instructor. She received her MSN with a nurse educator tract from Mount Mercy in 2013, but

has been a nurse for 30 years. Nine of those years were spent as a school nurse.

“I really always wanted to do this, but I raised my family,” said Miller. “Due to relocations with my husband's job and raising our family, obtaining my masters had to be put on hold.”

The flexible scheduling of Mount Mercy's master program allowed Miller to work, raise her family and pursue her degree in the evenings.

Miller has been teaching for two years. She was an adjunct clinical instructor here as well as teaching at Kirkwood Community College. Last year, she also assisted in the classroom of the same level that she teaches now. Her position opened up and she successfully interviewed for it.

“I am just really interested in helping the students be successful,” said Miller. “I think that nursing is a wonderful profession. I want to pass it on.”

Jodee Reed

Jodee Reed, lecturer in nursing, teaches junior level nursing classes. She graduated from Mount Mercy's nursing program in 2009.

“I actually had a professor here, who when I was in school, asked me if I ever thought about education,” said Reed. “Up until that point I never had.”

Read wasn't completely decided on education and worked as a nurse for premature infants through the age of eighteen and as a flight nurse. When she realized she liked teaching new nurses, she decided to get her master's degree. Mount Mercy is Reed's

first permanent teaching job. She believes she is a good teacher because of her experience in pediatrics and graduating from the same program that she teaches in.

“I just like working with students and getting to know them,” said Reed. “A lot of students are sponges, they just soak up information and I like to provide that information.”

Kelly Siems

Kelly Siems, lecturer of nursing, teaches in the RN to BSN program, along with classes in the traditional nursing program. She also went from an adjunct position to full time after a position opened up in the RN to BSN program.

“I like working with the student population that is new to nursing and still learning the ropes,” said Siems. “But I also like working with the RN to BSN population.”

Siems graduated from the nursing program at Mount Mercy in 2003. Since then, she has worked in different fields of nursing. Her teaching career began while she was still working as a nurse. At first she taught licensed practical nurse, LPN, classes and associate degree in nursing, ADN, classes before coming to Mount Mercy University to teach.

Siems likes teaching because she gets to learn from her students everyday just like they learn from her. She especially likes coming back to her roots at Mount Mercy.

Other than nursing, she has other hobbies such as kick boxing, reading and spending time with her three children.



Billie Barker/Times

Doug Brock in his new office in Warde Hall. He is VP of finance for MMU.

Mercy mission draws new VP of finance

Sees 'challenging times'

By Billie Barker
 Staff Writer

As new Vice President of Finance, Doug Brock holds the Mount Mercy purse strings. He keeps an equally firm grasp on the MMU mission: “I really love the mission of Mount Mercy. It's so refreshing to be a part of an organization that's focused on witnessing to the faith, and that celebrates the mission of the Sisters of Mercy.” Previous to Brock's work at Mount Mercy, he received his M.A. in accounting from the University of Iowa in 1994, followed by 20 years of service-oriented public accounting as a CPA with a variety of large and small companies.

His last position was as the President of Finance at Genova Technologies, a Software Engineering company in Cedar Rapids. He had been considering how he could use his experience in a not-for-profit organization that would fit with his desire for a more mission-oriented career.

“My wife kept saying I should apply at Mount Mercy—the position had been open for awhile. It made sense, since I'm Catholic, and wanted a job I could feel passionate about.

“I finally listened to her, and got more and more excited about the idea as the interview process went on. It was refreshingly

different—all the people I would be involved with interviewed me together around a big table. They were a pretty jovial group. I was able to spend a lot of time with Campus Ministries. I found that MMU's founding principles and mission were something I have a passion for. You wouldn't see any of this in the private sector.”

Brock's challenge at Mount Mercy is to make sure funds are used wisely, and in mission-critical ways.

“The classroom and faculty are top priority,” he explains. “I do budgets that finance operations. I work with a great team to help identify needs and wants. Right now we're working on assessment with our teams, building relationships and continuity, and working towards revenue for future growth, all without pre-conceived notions.

“It's a challenging time for all private colleges. At the end of the day, it's about meeting the needs of our staff and students, and attracting new students for enrollment to ensure the mission goes on.”

Brock lives in Cedar Rapids with his wife and two daughters, 4 and 15. He loves golf, and spends part of every summer golfing in Arkansas. Brock's dream for the future is to own and operate a vineyard with his wife.

Editor's Note: All photos with this story supplied by Mount Mercy University.



We need to give thanks in all seasons

As we reach mid-November and Thanksgiving draws near, it is apparent to us that individuals begin to express all they are thankful for. However, we do not think these expressions of gratification are truly meaningful.

Often, it appears as if people, including us on the Times staff, take most things provided in life for granted, from our easy-to-use cell phones to the shoes on our feet. How many times does the average person stop and reflect on what life would be like without these things?

When November shows up, it seems easy for people to be thankful, from the 28-day thankfulness challenges on Facebook to the prayer before the Thanksgiving feast. But, how much of these things we are “thankful” for now do we take for granted the rest of the year?

Being thankful should not just revolve

Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

around the holiday with the word “thanks” in it. Rather, we think individuals should take time throughout the entire year to reflect on how truly blessed they are and thankful they should be.

This Thanksgiving is indeed a time to be thankful, surrounded by family and friends, and might even include a delicious meal. However, it can also be a time for so much more.

After feasting and relaxing with family and friends, maybe show your gratefulness for what God has given you by donating your time. Go to the local soup kitchen and provide a warm meal for someone who may not be able to afford one, donate canned food to the local food pantry, or even donate money to the

True gratitude should include the realization that all we have is often a result of our circumstances and luck in terms of where and when we live.

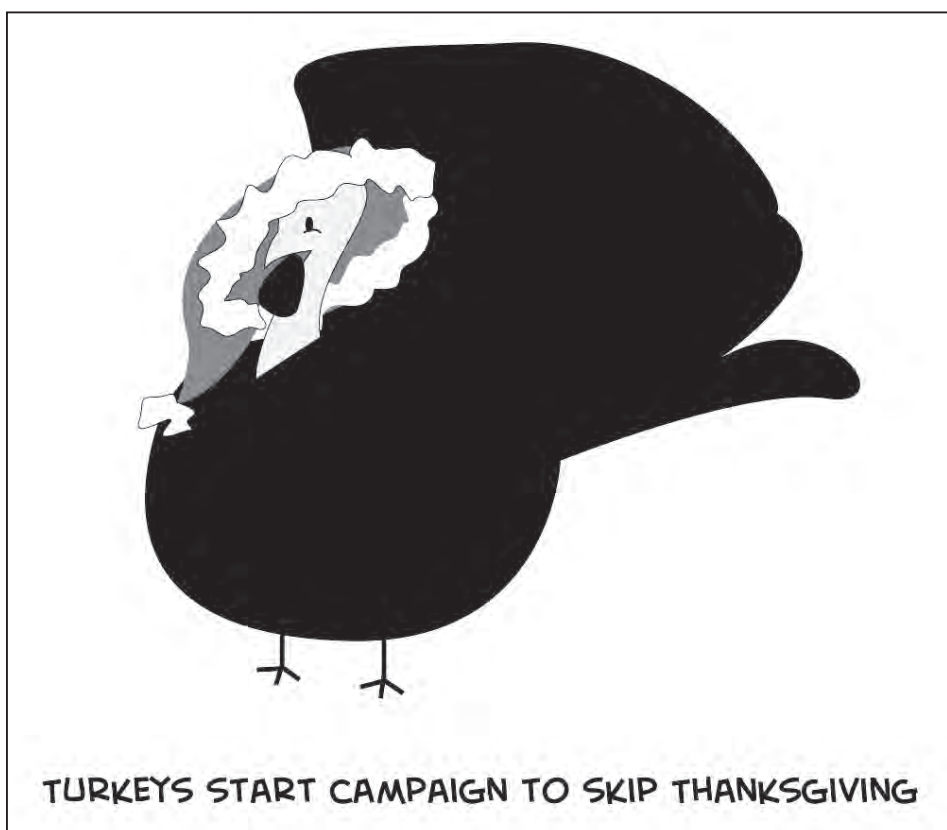
homeless shelter down the street.

True gratitude should include the realization that all we have is often a result of our circumstances and luck in terms of where and when we live. God and the uni-

verse doesn't reward us because we are superior in any way. As scripture says, it “rains on the just and the unjust.” And if we have more, we are called upon to do act of behalf of those who have less.

Giving thanks isn't hard to do, and it is definitely something that is not just limited to the month of November. With that being said, we encourage everybody to take time out of every day to reflect on what they are thankful for, and maybe even share that thankfulness with others throughout the entire year.

Just Kidding



By Mariah Kidd

I love Christmas: So I don't want it now

I don't want Christmas. Yet.

Christmas is my favorite time of year; family, food, presents, decorations straight out of the 1800s, and the most important thing: the birth of Jesus.

Although Christmas is awesome, when I start hearing “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” in November, I tend to be sick of Christmas by the time it actually comes.

I don't want Christmas celebrated for half the year for the same reason I don't want my own birthday celebrated for half the year: It becomes commonplace and loses its specialness.

On the other hand, I do think that we should celebrate Christmas for more than one day. Other than Christmas time being exciting and joyful, Christians celebrate the birth of Christ, which is more significant and deserves more attention than our

Staff Opinion



Mariah Kidd
Graphics Editor

own birthdays.

I think that Thanksgiving is a good setup for Christmas, and yet it is getting overlooked in our excitement for Christmas. Thanksgiving, if you do it right, gets us in the giving mood. It kicks off a season of family, good food, and thankfulness, as the name implies.

I wish stores and their commercials wouldn't look over Thanksgiving in their rush to push Christmas sales. Are any stores running Thanksgiving commercials this year? If they exist, they are rare and most likely focus on Black Friday.

Wouldn't it make good business sense to first remind customers of everyone they might buy a gift for (family around a Thanksgiving feast) before hammering us with all the gifts we could buy them?

I wouldn't think Christmas commercials this early would make the average shopper buy more anyway. It doesn't make me buy more. Of course, I'm a broke college student.

If you must celebrate Christmas early, can you do it a little quieter please?

Time for a change

Students seek LGBTQ group

There are people all around the world who are bullied, discriminated and even threatened, all because of their sexuality. The United States is one of the most advanced countries when it comes to defending same-sex marriage and supporting anti-bullying organizations.

However, most people don't really realize how hard it can be living in a world that doesn't accept you, or even if it does, it sees you differently. Nowadays, at least here in the U.S., when asked about the LGBT community, most people would say they don't have a problem with it. Some people are against it and some people support it, but most of

them categorize themselves as indifferent. Are they really indifferent though? Or are they afraid to admit they are against it due to a fear of being thought of as “bad people” or “haters”

Or even the other way around, are they afraid to say they support it due to fear of

Staff Opinion



Mila Machnicki
Opinion Editor

being thought of “gay” or “queer”?

However, what these people don't realize is how much their indifference harms a human being. Some young kids would rather take their lives than to face the pain of being ignored or rejected. Other people chose to “change” who they are and try to live a “normal” life because they are too afraid of the consequences of accepting who they are.

It is very hard, almost impossible to describe how hard it is to be different, rejected, hated for something you can't really change. It is the way we were born, the way God made us. Can you change your eye color or how tall you are?

It is hard, very hard to be brave. But it is up to us, yes us, Mount Mercy students. We can make a change, we can chose to stop being indifferent and support our family, or community, our brothers and sister.

We are trying to form a new SGA organization, an LGBTQ Alliance group, and we need your support. Believe it or not, you can change a life. I know that my friends

changed mine and now it is time to change others.

It is very hard, almost impossible to describe how hard it is to be different, rejected, hated for something you can't really change.

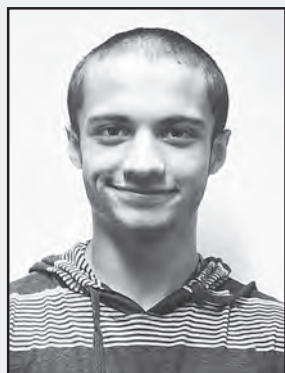
Heard On the Hill

By Madison Coates

What people are saying on topics of interest

Is that time of year to celebrate Thanksgiving, and it is tradition to state what one is thankful for. So the **Times** asked:

What is an everyday thing people take for granted that they should be thankful for?



Eric Stevenson, freshman, computer science major

“I think people take the kindness of others for granted”



Eleanor Rizer, freshman, computer science major

“People in the U.S. should be more thankful for the opportunities we have to get a good education”



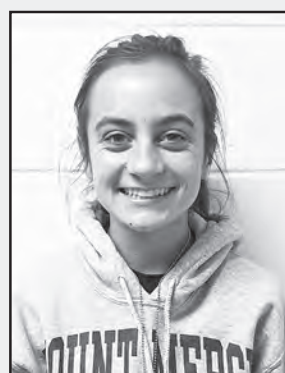
Leslie Hoffman, sophomore, graphic design major

“One thing people take for granted is their health and realizing that there are other people a lot worse off.”



Abbey Kilburg, junior, healthcare administration and human resource management major

“Something people take for granted is their family and friends”



Molly Pruett, freshman, biology major

“People take communication with others for granted. You would be so lonely without talking to people”

MOUNT MERCY TIMES

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The Mount Mercy Times is a bi-weekly student publication serving Mount Mercy University 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 about joining the staff.

Staff Writers are listed by name on the stories they write, photographers are credited on photos.

Content in the Times represents student writers, and is not official communication from Mount Mercy University. Editorials express the opinions of the Editorial Board and may not be the opinion shared by the university nor by individual staff members. Bylined commentaries and cartoons reflect the opinions of the writer or artist.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Letters should be concise and preferably e-mailed. The author's name, phone and address must be included. The name is published with the letter.

The Times reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. Letters may be sent to the Times via e-mail, campus mail or brought to the Times office in the lower level of the Busse Library.

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 comment on matters of public interest are encouraged.

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



David Mione/Times

“Crimes of the Heart” centered on the dynamics of three sisters who confront lingering family problems after the youngest sister is released on bail and awaits trial for shooting her husband. Randi Tumilty (standing, right, seated at left above) played Babe Botrelle, the accused shooter. Julia Simons, above, was Lenny Magrath, a sister celebrating a lonely 30th birthday. Gwyn Wiese (seated at right) played the third sister, Meg Magrath. The actors were photographed on opening night, Friday.

Abrupt ending to an overall enjoyable play

“Crimes of the Heart” was an overall funny and witty play, yet there were some flaws.

Coming into the play, I saw the set, which was a kitchen scene with a fridge, table, counter, and a window. The set did a good job at preparing me for the idea of a domestic story of three sisters and the very different lives they lead:

Lenny is the eldest sister and the only one still living at home taking care of her grandfather.

Meg who is the second oldest was the wild child who went to California to try and pursue a career in singing, and Babe, the youngest, who shot her husband and is going through a trial where she will most likely be convicted of attempted homicide.

I found it a little confusing as to which of these women was the main character.

The plot itself was believable despite

Play review



Mariah Kidd
Graphics Editor

the fantastic scenario of the seemingly innocent younger sister. Transitions and the ending, however, were somewhat awkward.

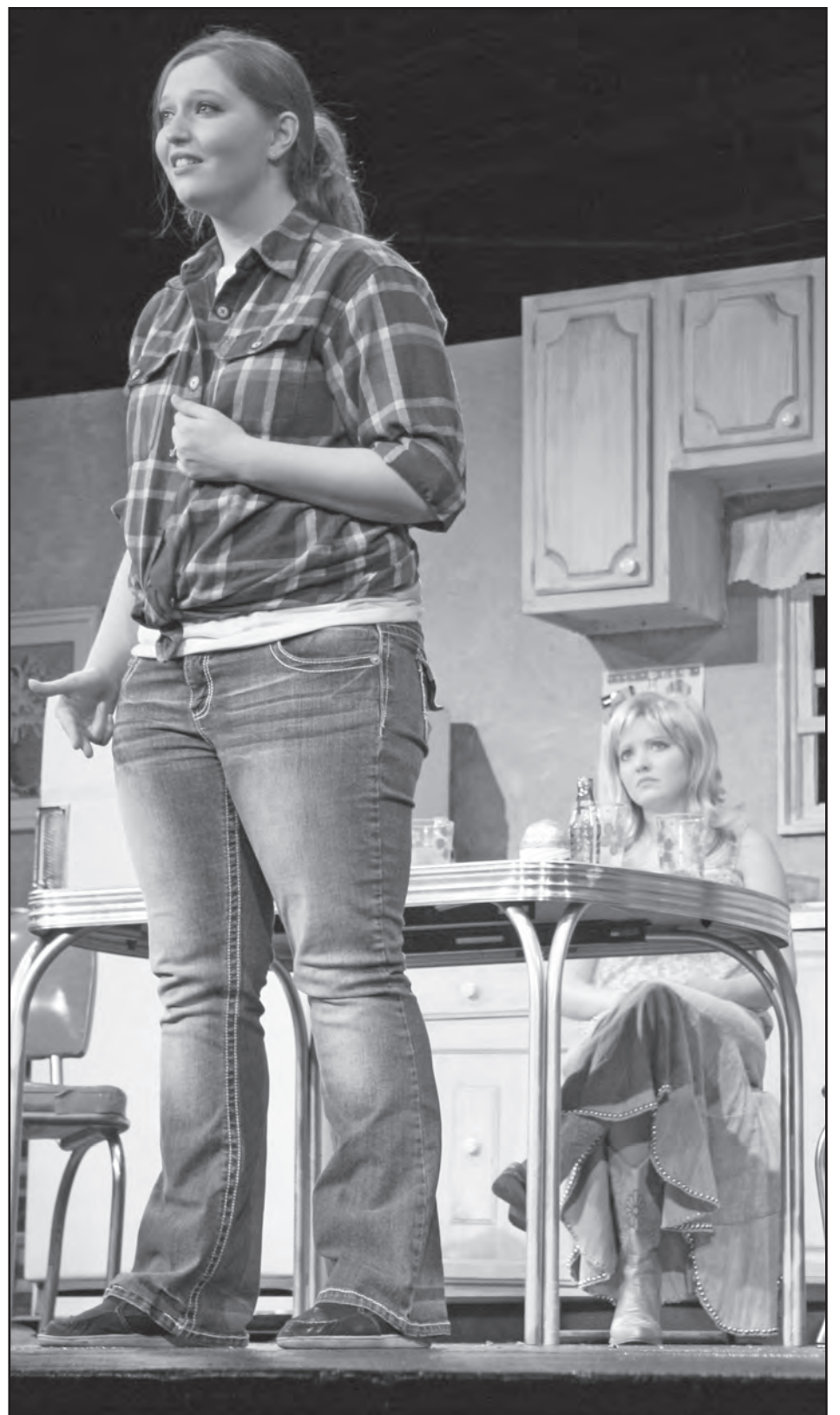
At the intermission, I was confused about whether it had ended or gone into an intermission, because it was so abrupt.

One successful element of the transitions was that there were subtle changes to the set to indicate that time had passed, such as the window having different lighting for different times of the day and props being changed or moved.

The ending, like the intermission was abrupt; I expected things like the trial to be resolved, and yet they were not. This could have been due to the constrictions of it being a play, such as time and set. Nevertheless I was expecting some sort of resolution to the subplots.

Despite the flaws, I genuinely enjoyed the play. The Mount Mercy actors did well in bringing a sometimes-flawed script to life.

It is harder to critique something that rings true than something that falls flat.



In The News

Improv group to perform Wednesday in McAuley

Begging for Mercy, the MMU improv group, plans a ... oh, wait. They never “plan” anything.

“If laughter is the best medicine, then the doctor will be in the house when ‘Begging for Mercy’ takes the stage,” said Bill Krebs, catering manager and group advisor. The show is set for 8:30 p.m. in the McAuley Theater.

Iowa recognizes MMU for veterans’ programs

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad recently recognized Mount Mercy as one of three colleges named a “Home Base Iowa Certified Higher Academic Military Partner (CHAMP) on Oct. 27. The recognition is part of a state program designed to connect veterans with local resources to aid a smooth transition to civilian life.

League apparently thinks that hills are bike friendly

MMU has earned an honorable mention as a Bicycle Friendly University from the League of American Bicyclists. Mount Mercy is one of two Iowa colleges taken to be more bike friendly include:

- Adding a bike rack.
- Hosting bike safety events.
- Participating in local program such as Bike to Work or Bike to Lunch.

The university has two bicycles that students can check out at the Sisters of Mercy University Center desk.

“Our goal is to encourage students and employees to consider bicycling as a form of transportation when possible,” notes Brenda Steinke, director of recreation and wellness.

Psychology Club collects winter clothing, shoes

There are 11 blue bins located around campus to donate warm clothing, coats, shoes and boots. The clothing is being collected until Nov. 25 by the Mount Mercy Psychology Club.

Knapp lecture series brings speaker Nov. 19

Audrey Boone Tillman, EVP and general counsel for Aflac, will speak on “Life Beyond the Diploma: Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone” in the Sisters of Mercy University Center Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. The speech is part of the Barbara Knapp Speaker Series.

Who there has grown the best MMU facial hair?

“No Shave November,” a program to raise awareness of testicular cancer, will conclude with beard judging on Nov. 21 from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Sisters of Mercy University Center. Watch the electronic signs in the U Center for images of this year’s participants.

Finding friends can take a little time

Dear Mustang Sally,
Why is it so hard to make new friends?

Signed,
Looking for college buddies

Dear Looking for college buddies,

Transitioning into new environments is difficult for most people. Not everyone is comfortable meeting new people and joining in new activities. Give yourself a little bit of a break—sometimes it takes time to form new relationships.

But if you are really looking to meet people, start looking for opportunities to connect—invite some students from your floor or a class to attend Club Friday with you (3 p.m. in the Sisters of Mercy University Center), ask someone to play a game of pool, or go to a fitness

Dear Mustang Sally



Tricia Hansen



Karol White
MMU counselors

class and start a conversation with someone.

When eating in the cafeteria, ask to sit with a group of familiar students. Catch a ride on the bus to the mall or Target on the weekends. If you live in the residence halls, keep your door open for an inviting atmosphere that shows you want to be social. Walk in floor mates’ rooms—see what they are up to! These are all just ideas—whatever you do, make it something you’re comfortable with.

Dear Mustang Sally,
Do students pay to get into athletic events?

Signed,
Want to be a fan but short on money
Dear Want to be a fan but short on money,

The quick answer is “no.” You do not have to pay if you have your Mount Mercy University student ID card.

However, if you are attending an athletic event at the opponent’s institution, then yes, you would need to pay.

Next issue Dec. 11

Due to Thanksgiving break, the next issue of the Times will be published Dec. 11. Submissions are due by Dec. 5. This will be the final edition of the fall semester.



David Mione/Times

A story reader dressed as a cat provides some of the entertainment for Halloween on the Hill on Nov. 2. Students from a course taught by Dr. Norma Linda Mattingly read books during a story time between a meal, games and trick or treats.



David Mione/Times

Monica Shelton, Liz Gonner and Bianca Kesserling (above) were among MMU students aiding in games in the gym, which included (right) a toilet paper mummy wrap.



Play time

MMU student volunteers help guests enjoy games, treats

By Steve Worthington
Video Editor

A plethora of ghost, ghouls, princesses, and super heroes visited the campus on Nov. 2 to take part in Halloween on the Hill. Corridor area families enjoyed pizza and carnival games in the Hennessey Recreation Center's gymnasium, and some spooky stories in Donnelly before heading to Regina and McAuley residence halls for trick or treating.

But the event is more than just a party.

"We're giving an opportunity for kids that maybe aren't allowed to trick-or-treating around their neighborhoods where it's not safe for them," Isaiah Corbin, coordinator of volunteerism and service learning

said. "We're giving them an outlet to play games, make crafts, to interact with our students and go trick-or-treating on campus."

Mount Mercy partners with several local organizations to organize Halloween on the Hill every year including Jane Boyd, Tanager Place, Children of Promise, the Cedar Rapids Dance Marathon families and Big Brothers-Big sisters.

Shelley Sweet, a Big Brothers-Big Sister volunteer, she brings her "little" to the event every year.

"It's just a great community service to bring the kids up here, my 'little' really enjoys it," said Sweet.

Organizers also say it's a great opportunity for Mount Mercy students to learn about service



David Mione/Times

Freshman Stephanie Horton holds the football target in the gym.

by giving back to the community. Mount Mercy volunteers participated in every part of the event from helping with crafts, to reading stories and working the carnival booth. In McAuley

and Regina some students volunteered to hand out candy to the kids as they were led through the dorms.

"I think little kids look up to people closer to the same age

as them," said freshman Sarah Girik, who sat outside her dorm room passing out candy to the kids. "If they see those people volunteering, kids are going to grow up to think volunteering is a good thing."

And service to the community is one of the most important lessons that Isaiah Corbin says he hopes both volunteers and participants take away from the event.

"Service is a part of Mount Mercy, it's a part of our identity. As a sisters of Mercy institute it's important that we serve others."

Editor's Note: A video report from Halloween on the Hill will be posted soon at the Times web site, times.mtmercy.edu.



Anna Bohr, Times

Before Halloween, students had a chance to pimp their pumpkins using various art supplies in the Sisters of Mercy University Center.



Claudia Magana/Times

The MMU Mustangs advanced in post-season play Nov. 5 by defeating Saint Ambrose University, a victory all the more sweet because the night was designated "senior night." Top, two Mustangs guard the net, above, MMU players and SAU players react as the ball gets past SAU, and below, team members celebrate a match.



Claudia Magana/Times

Four of the senior players and managers honored Nov. 5 enjoy a pre-match ceremony. The Mustangs went on to defeat SAU, advancing in post-season play.

Seniors, coach share thoughts on senior night

On Nov. 5, the MMU volleyball team celebrated senior night. Here are some thoughts shared by several seniors and Coach Deb Marlin:

What will you miss most of MMU Volleyball?

"I will most definitely miss all the friendships I gained within the team."

Deanna Knustrom '15

How do you feel about your senior night and the way the team performed tonight?

"I feel we did an awesome job! Like the coaches said, 'We played to our fullest potential, we never dug ourselves a rut and we just kept going strong.' This was one of our best games, especially against St. Ambrose. The group of girls played well together with little attitudes. When we get criticism we take it positively and work with it on the floor."

Kara Oakley '15

How have these seniors affected you as a coach?

"Seniors always hold a special place in your heart. Baylea and Kara have been great role models and always worked hard and always left everything out on the floor. And that's everything you can ask for."

Head Coach Deb Marlin

Mustangs beat SAU and AIB in opening rounds

By **Claudia Magana**
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, the MMU Mustang volleyball squad traveled to Des Moines to face second-seeded Grand View University, following recent post-season victories over AIB College of Business and Saint Ambrose University.

Last week, the fight for third-seed came to an end when the Mustangs pulled through with a clutch win over St. Ambrose (now fourth-seed), sweeping them in three-sets (25-22, 26-24, 25-19) Nov. 5.

"You want to play your best at the end of the season, and that's exactly what we

did," said Coach Deb Marlin.

Captain Leslie Hoffmann led the team offensively with 13 kills, followed by Cori Peterzalek with 11 and Hannah Whitley with 10. This power trio will lead the team through the postseason with help of Captain Abbie Perez, who led the Mustangs with 38 assists.

The Mustangs hurdled through the sets, firing back at the Bees when challenged, never failing to come out on top.

"This was one of our best games, especially against St. Ambrose," expressed senior player, Kara Oakley.

The Nov. 5 win over SAU bumped the Mustangs to third seed in conference, giv-

ing them the home field advantage for the MCC quarterfinals that took place Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. against AIB, which is ranked sixth in conference.

Disappointment was nowhere to be found as the Mustangs shot down the AIB Eagles in three sets (25-13, 25-17, 25-22), Saturday, Nov. 8. The 2014 Mt. Mercy Volleyball team was honored to be the first team, since 2006, to be hosts of the first postseason match.

The Mustangs showed no mercy as they shot bullets past AIB. Again, Hoffman led the Mustangs with an impressive team-high of 12 kills. Megan Paustian added nine kills and three

blocks, and Peterzalek followed with eight kills to go along with 10 digs.

Mount Mercy then moved onto the semifinals, where they will face second-seeded and NAIA 14th-ranked Grand View on Wednesday in Des Moines. Whoever wins the other semifinal game between fifth-seeded Clarke and 10th-ranked Viterbo will face the victor of MMU and GVVU's game.

The winners from both games will square off in the MCC championship match on Saturday, Nov. 15, for an automatic berth in the NAIA national tournament.

Sports notes

Home opener for men is this weekend

Mount Mercy's men's basketball squad began the season with a pair of victories, defeating host Judson (Illinois) at the Judson tournament 84-63 Nov. 7. On Saturday, MMU beach Trinity International (Illinois) 88-81 at the same tournament.

The Mustangs host the ActionCOACH Shootout on Friday and Saturday in the Hennessey Recreation Center.

Herb hits career high 31 points in win

Abby Herb earned a career-high 31 points as the MMU Mustangs womens basketball team won 118-62 over Central Christian (Kansas) Nov. 8 at the Grand View Classic.

Mosbach, Keith named 'harrier' at conference track meet Nov. 9

Liz Mosbach won the individual title at the Midwest Collegiate Conference Cross Country Championships in LaCrosse, Wis., Nov. 9. Mosbach was also "Harrier of the Year." In the 5K race, her 19:01 time beat the second-place runner by eight seconds. Mosbach, Molly Pruett and Lindsay Bronson will compete at nationals.

Tyler Keith won the 8K race with a time of 26:48, beating second place by 11 seconds. Evan Bowman finished fifth, giving the team a runner-up finish at the conference championships. Keith and Bowman will compete at the NAIA national championships later this month.

Give me a B! What's it spell?

Joining cheer squad helps student belong

I am a transfer student from Kirkwood, and I am now in my third year of college, but my first here at Mount Mercy University. I'm not going to lie; the first week or two was rough. I missed Kirkwood—there I said it, I actually missed it.

I missed knowing where all my classes were right away, I missed my friends I had made there, I missed some of my teachers and I missed Kirkwood. Going into my third year of college, you would think that I would know what's going on—but I didn't. I felt like a freshman all over again. This is the second time I walked into a college and felt like a freshman, the first time

Staff Opinion



Ashley Holub
Staff writer

I actually was one at Kirkwood and the second time here at Mount Mercy.

During my time at Kirkwood, I didn't get involved with the school. I would go to class then come home. Although I did enjoy my time at Kirkwood, I didn't feel like I had gotten a great college experience yet.

At Kirkwood most people are in the same boat as you—they just go to their classes and then leave. Yes, some people do live on campus, but most people don't hang around unless they have a break in between classes.

I was nervous about coming to Mount Mercy. Coming in as a transfer junior, other than the freshman, most people have made some of their good friends. It was like walking into a room where everyone knows each other and you don't know anyone.

Going into Mount Mercy, I

knew I wanted to get involved—I wanted as much of a college experience as I could get, especially since I was going to be living at home. Before school started, I stumbled across the cheer section on the clubs page and decided to take a chance and email the coach.

Joining cheer has been the best decision I have made, along with deciding to go to Mount Mercy.

Through joining cheer, I have met some amazing people. The girls I get to cheer with are amazing and I look forward to our practices, even the ones at 7 a.m. I'm excited about the rest of the season because those girls have become like family.

The people I have met through my classes, cheer, and mutual friends have helped with the transition. I no longer feel like a freshman, I feel at home.

Cafe Pam greets MMU people with a smile

By Taylor Zumbach
News Editor

Pam DeBlois has a face that almost everyone at Mount Mercy recognizes. She is the hostess of the Mount Mercy University Cafeteria, the mother of three grown boys, grandmother of six, and the owner of a black lab named Rudy.

Although she may have many roles, such as mom and grandma, the community of Mount Mercy knows her as the lady who is always smiling. DeBlois greets every student, staff, faculty member, and guest of the café with a huge smile every day. And, she says she loves it.

"I love working at Mount Mercy," said DeBlois. "I feel that the atmosphere is so calming, upbeat, progressive, happy and interesting. I just love it!"

DeBlois enjoys meeting all of the students at MMU. She especially enjoys observing and learning about all the different students' diverse backgrounds.

"The students' different beliefs and cultures come through in all of our conversations," said DeBlois.

She adds that her travels outside the United States only includes Jamaica and Mexico; therefore, she loves absorbing all the diversity the Mount Mercy students have to offer.

Although Pam stated she has only been to Jamaica and Mexico, she has had many adventures throughout her life thus far. DeBlois, who is a triplet, was born and raised in Waterloo, Iowa. She graduated from West Waterloo High School and has this in common with some of the Mount Mercy students that attend school here. According to DeBlois, the highlight of her high school years was earning the honor of runner-up with her partner at the 1967



Taylor Zumbach/Times

Pam DeBlois greets patrons in the Mount Mercy cafeteria with her characteristic smile. The lowan lived for a while in Colorado and then Wisconsin, but came to work at the Hill after moving back home to Iowa.

State Tennis Tournament.

After graduation, DeBlois attended Iowa State University for one year. She then took the adventure of traveling to Colorado for a year, and then returned to Iowa to finish her education. DeBlois completed her education at Hawkeye Community College with a degree in Secretarial Accounting.

DeBlois' love for Colorado was once again calling her name, so DeBlois

moved to Denver where she lived for the next 30 years. DeBlois stated that Colorado was a beautiful place to live, with the sun shining 85 percent of the time, no humidity, nice people, many cultural opportunities and of course the home of the Denver Broncos and the Colorado Avalanche.

While living in Denver, DeBlois was employed at Price Waterhouse, an accounting firm. After her third and final son was born, Pam became a stay at home mom and ran an in-home day care for seven years. When all three of her boys were in school, DeBlois began

working in the Food Services at her children's school district. DeBlois continued to work in her children's district until her youngest son was a sophomore in high school.

After leaving Denver, DeBlois lived in Wisconsin for eight years and then relocated yet again to Iowa. When first arriving, DeBlois was employed at a local HyVee, before God pointed her in the direction of Mount Mercy.

Today, DeBlois is enjoying life and feels very blessed. DeBlois stated, "God has provided me with everything I need and I thank Him every day for that."

SNAPSHOT

Meet the people
on the hill

Pam DeBlois

Vets honored

Anna Bohr/Times

The Marion American Legion lowered the central campus flag with honor during a pre-Veteran's Day ceremony Monday. A blessing was said, "America the Beautiful" was sung. After the ceremony, veterans were invited to enjoy supper for free in the cafeteria.



Dec. 5 date for party

Christmas contests part of event

By Bianca Kesselring
Staff Writer

According to Andy Williams, "it's the most wonderful time of the year." For most, the holiday season is a time to be with family and friends and enjoy each other's company. At Christmas Club Friday, that feeling is expressed.

Campus Ministry and the peer ministers are planning this year's events. Activities will include a gingerbread house contest, singing Christmas carols, unwrapping gifts (prizes) and the much anticipated judging of the "ugly" Christmas sweaters.

Sr. Shari Sutherland, executive director for mission and ministry, says her favorite part of the event is "enjoying the joy of Christmas and having everyone share the gifts of themselves with each other."

Each year, some of the Sisters of Mercy from Sacred Heart Convent attend Christmas Club Friday as well.

In years past, they have helped to judge the gingerbread houses and Christmas sweaters. Sutherland says, "having that opportunity to interact with students is very special."

On Friday, Dec. 5, all are welcome to attend Christmas Club Friday at 3 p.m. in the University Center and celebrate the joy of the holiday season and the joy that we all bring to each other.